# JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

# BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE TECHNICIAN (Temporary) job opening-one or two positions.

# USDA-Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Invasive Species and Pollinator Health Research Unit, in Albany, CA

**Job Title, Series, and Grade:** Biological Science Technician, GS-0404-05

**Salary and Benefits:** $20.61 per hour (GS-05 Step 1). The employee will earn annual leave and sick leave proportionate to the weekly hours worked (maximum 4 hours of each leave type per biweekly pay period).

**Location:** USDA, ARS, Western Regional Research Center, Invasive Species and Pollinator Health Research Unit, 800 Buchanan Street, Albany, CA  94710

**Position Opening:** Open immediately until filled. One position will be filled no later than 12/20/21. A second position may be filled early in 2022.

**Duration of Position:** This is a temporary (“LA-180”), part-time position with the USDA-ARS. These position(s) are funded until 9/30/22. USDA LA-180 positions are offered for the period specified, up to a maximum of 180 days of work in the first calendar year since hire. Once one full calendar year has passed since hire date, the position can be renewed for up to one additional full calendar year (another 180 days maximum of work), contingent upon funding and performance.

**Typical Job Duties:** The Biological Science Technician will assist with research on invasive plants and insects, with a specific focus on biological control of Cape-ivy, ice plant, arundo, yellow starthistle and French broom, using non-native, beneficial insects. Typical duties include, but are not limited to: 1) Assist with rearing and maintenance of insect and plant colonies that will be used for various research projects. 2) Perform a variety of tasks in the laboratory, field, or greenhouse environment, including setting up experiments, data collection, processing of field samples, and data entry. 3) Perform routine and recurring work to maintain productivity of the research including sanitizing dishes and plant material, and maintaining organization and cleanliness of laboratory and greenhouse areas.

**Work Schedule:** Part-time (3 to 4 days per week), between 8 am to 5 pm. Full days of work are preferred, but work schedule is negotiable, up to 32 hours per week. Field work may involve days longer than 8 hours. LA-180 employees can earn credit time for excess hours over 8 per work day worked voluntarily but with supervisory approval; or overtime or compensatory time for extra hours of work directed by the supervisor.

**Basic Eligibility Requirements**: 1) Bachelors-level degree in the biological sciences, or equivalent training and experience. An advanced (3rd or 4th year) undergraduate student will also be considered, but pay would be lower ($16-$18/hour). 2) Must be a U.S. citizen.

**Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:** 1) General laboratory skills expected of advanced undergraduate students or recent B.S.-level graduates in the biological sciences, including the ability to measure out specified quantities, record biological data, and safely operate general laboratory scientific equipment after being provided instructions. 2) Ability to follow precise procedures for lab, greenhouse and field experiments. 3) Ability to legibly collect experimental data and enter into Excel spreadsheet software. 4) Ability to maintain clean work environment. 5) Ability to adhere to a defined work schedule, 6) Skill to communicate effectively with supervisor, 6) Ability to work efficiently and effectively, both independently and in a team setting,

**Desired Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:** 2) General knowledge of plant and insect biology and ecology (crops, invasive weeds, or other plants; insect pests, native insects, or biological control agents). Knowledge and abilities gained from working with and rearing plants and/or living plant-feeding insects is desired. Experience in biological weed control is not necessary or expected.

**Work Environment and Physical Demands:** Work is performed in laboratories, greenhouses, and at field sites. Work is occasionally performed in hot, cold or damp conditions in the field or in greenhouses. Work may require long periods of standing or walking. The employee will be required to wear long pants and close-toed shoes at all times, and in some situations is required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves and a lab coat.

**Application Instructions:** Interested persons should contact the USDA-ARS scientific contact below for full instructions. Applicants must submit a resume and contact information for three references. The resume must provide specific information (format will be provided to interested applicants). The Federal Form OF-306, Declaration for Federal Employment, must be submitted. After a tentative offer is made, fingerprints and a background investigation are required to determine employment eligibility. The background check can take up to 30 days to complete after a tentative offer, and a final job offer is contingent upon satisfactory completion of the background check.

**Contact:** **Dr. Patrick Moran, Research Entomologist:** **Patrick.Moran@usda.gov** **or 510-323-5962 (m) (preferred); 510 559 6393 (o)**

**Equal Opportunity Employment Statement**: The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C.

20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is

an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Reasonable Accommodation Statement:** Federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities where appropriate. Applicants requiring reasonable accommodation for any part of the application process should follow the instructions in the job opportunity announcement. For any part of the remaining hiring process, applicants should contact the hiring agency directly. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis. A reasonable accommodation is any change to a job, the work environment, or the way things are usually done that enables an individual with a disability to apply for a job, perform job duties or receive equal access to job benefits. Under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodations when: An applicant with a disability needs an accommodation to have an equal opportunity to apply for a job; An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to perform the essential job duties or to gain access to the workplace; An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to receive equal access to benefits, such as details, training, and office-sponsored events.You can request a reasonable accommodation at any time during the application or hiring process or while on the job. Requests are considered on a case-by-case basis.