



Community Outreach Specialist

The **Tijuana River Pollution Project** at **San Diego State University** is a research initiative focused on understanding and improving the health of communities in the South Bay. This region faces significant environmental and public health risks due to pollution from the Tijuana River and nearby ocean areas. The project has two main goals:

1. **To understand the science of the pollution.** Researchers are working to characterize how harmful chemicals and microbes from polluted water and sediment in the river are transmitted into the surrounding air.
2. **To evaluate the health impact on local communities.** The team uses a comprehensive approach by collecting both quantitative and qualitative data to assess how the pollution affects the health and well-being of residents who live and work in these areas.

By combining this scientific and community-focused research, the project aims to promote environmental health and justice for the communities most affected by this ongoing crisis. Learn more about the work of the Tijuana River Pollution Project and the Healthy Water, Healthy Air survey here: <https://tjriver.sdsu.edu/>.

PURPOSE OF THE POSITION

The Tijuana River is a vital part of our community, but pollution poses a significant health risk to residents in the South Bay. We are looking for a **Community Outreach Specialist** to join our team and help us build a healthier future for our neighborhoods. This position is under the direction of the principal investigator and the project manager.

You will be a key player in our project, connecting directly with South Bay residents to raise awareness and increase participation in our Healthy Water, Healthy Air survey. The ideal candidate will be deeply familiar with the community, skilled in social media, and passionate about public health and environmental justice.

The ideal candidate will:

- Be able to work a flexible schedule of 16 hours per week, which may include attending community events during evenings or weekends
- Be familiar with the communities of the South Bay (e.g., Imperial Beach, National City, Coronado, Chula Vista, San Ysidro)
- Have proven experience in community recruitment or grassroots outreach.
- Have demonstrated experience in developing and posting content on social media platforms (e.g., Instagram, TikTok)
- Have a valid driver's license and access to reliable transportation to conduct outreach in South Bay communities

- Possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills (oral and written), with the ability to interact effectively with diverse community members, colleagues, and project leadership
- Have a strong ability to work independently and manage multiple tasks to meet project timelines.
- Have a strong ability in all Microsoft Office programs
- Be detail-oriented with good organizational skills

Responsibilities

The Research Assistant-Outreach will be responsible for the following duties:

Community Engagement and Outreach (70%)

- Lead on-the-ground outreach efforts, including distributing fliers, door hangers, and yard signs to promote the survey in the South Bay communities
- Identify and attend local community events (e.g., farmers' markets, festivals, community meetings) to recruit new survey participants through survey promotions
- Develop and implement creative outreach strategies to increase survey participation and raise awareness about our work

Social Media & Communications (25%)

- Craft engaging content and manager posts on key social media platforms, including Instagram and TikTok
- Use social media to amplify our project's mission and connect with new audiences

Other Duties as Assigned (5%)

- Attend project meetings as appropriate

Qualifications

Minimum Education

- Completion of sufficient upper division coursework

Minimum Experience

- OR -Equivalent of two years full time professionally responsible related experience in lieu of coursework

Preferred Qualifications

- Bilingual proficiency in English and Spanish
- Experience working on projects related to environmental justice or public health
- Existing connections or relationship with community leaders or organizations in the South Bay

Hours per week: 16 hours

Starting salary: \$22.00 per hour depending upon qualifications.

Job #: 2025-19547

To apply: <https://careers-sdsurf.icims.com/jobs/19547/research-assistant-iii/job?mode=view>

Questions? Contact Jamie Moody at jmoody@sdsu.edu.