



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATE SCIENTISTS TO PROTEST SALARY INEQUITY

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California state scientists will rally at the headquarters of the California Department of Human Relations (CalHR) this Thursday, November 19 to demand that Governor Brown’s Administration address unfair pay disparities.

The event coincides with the resumption of contract negotiations between the state scientists and CalHR. The two sides reached a tentative agreement in September, however CAPS members overwhelmingly rejected the Administration’s meager pay proposal which did little to address a growing salary inequity between state scientists and state engineers, their supervisors and managers, and scientists at other government agencies and in the private sector. The bottom line: California’s state scientists are unfairly underpaid!

Who: California’s Underpaid State Scientists
Where: CalHR Headquarters (1515 S Street, Sacramento)
When: November 19, 2015 from Noon – 1 p.m.

This will be a very VISUAL event with at least one hundred state scientists expected in lab coats and hazmat suits marching around the building.

Representatives will be available to comment on the record. Please contact Ryan Endean at (916) 202-5588 to coordinate on-site interviews.

Background

The California Association of Professional Scientists (CAPS) represents nearly 3,000 highly educated, specially trained state-employed scientists working in over 30 state departments in 81 scientific classifications. A baccalaureate degree is the minimum requirement for state scientists with many holding Master’s degrees and Ph.Ds. The vast majority have undergone extensive professional training.

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State scientists are devoted to protecting public safety, preserving our environment and defending California's natural treasures. California's science-based environmental protection and public health and safety programs are widely recognized as among the most sophisticated and advanced in the world. The one constant and most important element in these programs are the state scientists who monitor and reduce greenhouse gases, safeguard California's natural resources, protect our air and water from pollution, protect the public from life-threatening diseases, and perform countless other essential functions.

CalHR's own salary survey has found that state-employed scientists are paid 16 to 40 percent less than their counterparts working for the federal government and local governments in California. Most rank and file state scientists are female and a large majority makes at least 30 percent less than their direct supervisor. This salary lag causes many scientists to leave state service to take local government jobs with less responsibility but much higher pay. This "brain drain" threatens California's ability to protect public health, the environment, our natural resources, and perform other essential government functions.

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CAPS represents nearly 3,000 state employed scientists working in over 30 state departments. CAPS members protect the public from life threatening diseases, safe guard our wildlife and abundant natural and cultural resources, and protect our air and water from toxic waste and pollution.