

ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTOR

Closes: The position is open until filled

Status: Full-Time, Non-Exempt

Salary: \$128,980 - \$193,471, Depending on Qualifications

Location: Maricopa Association of Governments, downtown Phoenix, Arizona

[MAG Home Page \(azmag.gov\)](http://azmag.gov)

General Purpose:

The Environmental Director of the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) is responsible for managing the regional planning programs for air quality, water quality management, and solid waste management. For air quality, MAG develops regional air quality plans to meet the requirements of the federal Clean Air Act. Air quality conformity analyses are conducted to ensure that regional transportation plans and programs do not cause violations of the air quality standards. The federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act passed by Congress in 2021 includes new requirements for Metropolitan Planning Organizations that address air quality, electric vehicle infrastructure, carbon reduction, resilience planning, and overall sustainability. In water quality, MAG develops and maintains the 208 Water Quality Management Plan in accordance with the Clean Water Act. MAG also maintains the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan in accordance with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

Key Challenge and Objective:

The core challenge for the Environmental Director is to develop regional plans that are designed to meet the requirements in federal and state statutes to protect public health and the environment, successfully build the transportation and wastewater treatment infrastructure needed for growth and development, promote economic development, and enhance the overall quality of life in the region. The regional plans are developed through a cooperative effort with all levels of government and the private sector in accordance with the overall policy direction of the MAG Regional Council. The MAG Regional Council is the decision-making body for the organization.

Overall Responsibilities:

- Develop the Regional Air Quality Plans. These plans are designed to meet the requirements in the federal Clean Air Act to attain and maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Attainment of the federal air quality standards protects public health and the environment. The plans address carbon monoxide, ozone, and particulate matter standards. These plans are prepared through a coordinated effort among the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Arizona Department of Transportation, Maricopa County Air Quality Department, Pinal County Air Quality Control District, and the Sun Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization.
- Conduct Conformity Analyses on the Transportation Improvement Programs and Regional Transportation Plans. In accordance with the Clean Air Act, MAG conducts the conformity analyses on the MAG and Sun Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Improvement Programs and Regional Transportation Plans to ensure that transportation plans, program, and projects do not contribute to violations of the air quality standards. These conformity analyses are necessary to enable transportation infrastructure to be built for mobility and a viable economy.
- Provide for Implementation of Transportation Control Measures in the Regional Air Quality Plans. The Clean Air Act requires that the Transportation Improvement Program give funding priority for transportation control measures in air quality plans. The Environmental Division

manages the agency contracts to provide funding for the Maricopa County Trip Reduction Program, Regional Public Transportation Authority Regional Rideshare and Telework Program, and Arizona Department of Administration Travel Reduction Program. In addition, MAG evaluates proposed PM-10 street sweeper projects and paving projects for funding. These projects contribute to the conformity analyses that enable transportation infrastructure to be built.

- Conduct Regional Air Quality Modeling. MAG maintains a latest state-of-the-art regional air quality modeling system to evaluate the impacts of control measures for the regional air quality plans; demonstrate attainment and maintenance of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards; conduct research to prevent air quality violations; conduct the conformity analyses for transportation plans, programs, and projects; and assist the Arizona Department of Transportation, Regional Transportation Authority, and member agencies with project level conformity.
- Prepare the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program Performance Plan. As required by the federal regulations, the CMAQ Performance Plan describes the CMAQ Emissions Reduction Performance Measure and the Traffic Congestion Measures. The performance plan is used to guide the development of the Transportation Improvement Program and ensure that the CMAQ projects provide benefits to the region.
- Maintain the MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan. This plan is designed to meet the requirements of Section 208 of the Clean Water Act. This plan describes the preferred wastewater treatment system to meet the wastewater treatment needs of the Maricopa County area over a 20-year time period. The plan also describes regional surface and groundwater quality, and the federal and state activities designed to protect water quality. Wastewater treatment plants are a necessary component of development and are built in local jurisdictions to serve residents.
- Maintain the MAG Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. This plan is designed to meet the requirements of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The plan provides for systems-level regional solid waste management planning to prevent adverse public health and environmental effects resulting from improper solid waste collection, processing or disposal in Maricopa County. The plan identifies critical recycling and solid waste services to manage the waste generated by a growing region.

Essential Job Functions:

- Providing leadership, direction, and supervision for the Environmental Division staff for problem solving, technical and policy issues, teamwork approaches, and maximizing talent and resources.
- Working with the MAG legal counsel on complex legal environmental issues which impact MAG as an organization and the member agencies. Identifying legally sound and technically defensible strategies for handling environmental issues.
- Directing the development of regional air quality plans for three pollutants designed to meet extensive federal and state requirements by mandatory deadlines. Managing the conformity analyses on the Transportation Improvement Program and Regional Transportation Plan. Reviewing air quality modeling data, planning reports, and writing plan documents, reports, and fact sheets.
- Advancing major innovative policy initiatives such as clean burning fuels that were essential in the success of the region in reducing air pollution problems. This involves pioneering national conformity regulations and developing successful approaches for compliance. It also involves employing the most advanced, latest state-of-the-art modeling system in the country.

- Coordinating with the MAG transportation staff on the development of the regional air quality plans and conducting the air quality conformity analyses. This involves coordination with transportation modeling and overall transportation plan and program development. Coordination is needed to ensure that the requirements for Metropolitan Planning Organizations in the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act passed by Congress in 2021 are met. The federal legislation includes new requirements for Metropolitan Planning Organizations that address air quality, electric vehicle infrastructure, carbon reduction, resilience planning, and overall sustainability.
- Overseeing maintenance of the Regional 208 Water Quality Management Plan and Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. This involves developing policies for implementation in cooperation with the state and MAG member agencies.
- Reviewing and interpreting state and federal laws, regulations, policies, and guidelines.
- Staffing the MAG Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee and giving reports and presentations to the MAG Management Committee, MAG Regional Council, and other MAG committees as necessary.
- Coordinating with federal, county and state agencies, councils of governments, Governor's Office, Congressional Delegation, and State Legislature on policy and technical issues as appropriate and consistent with Regional Council policy. This involves presenting expert written and verbal testimony to the Arizona Legislature essential for various air quality control measures and drafting legislation on a wide variety of air quality issues as appropriate.
- Representing MAG in external organizations such as the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Air Quality Coalition and Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations Air Quality Working Group as deemed necessary.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Knowledge of federal laws and regulations in air quality, transportation, water quality, and solid waste. This would include the federal Clean Air Act, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (2021), Clean Water Act, and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.
- Management skills to promote teamwork and positive working relationships.
- Coordination skills for working with member agencies and outside organizations.
- Writing, presentation, and effective communication skills.

Education, Training and Experience:

Master's degree in a planning related field such as environmental planning, urban planning, urban studies, business administration, political science, public administration, or related field. Generally, it would be beneficial to have 10 years of experience. Management experience, familiarity with environmental laws, and prior work in the environmental field would be useful.

To Apply

To view all position vacancies, please visit our Jobs Page at: <http://azmag.gov/Jobs-RFPs-RFQs/Jobs-at-MAG>

You can now apply online by clicking on the job title you are interested in and clicking on the "Apply" button at the top right hand corner of each position. Please read and follow the instructions on the application page. Your application will be considered "in process" until you complete it and hit the "Submit" button.

All applications must be submitted through our online application system. It is important that your

application show all the relevant education and experience you possess. Do not type "see resume" in these fields. Applications may not be considered if incomplete.

Online applications are stored on a secure site. Only authorized employees and hiring authorities have access to the information submitted.

The Maricopa Association of Governments is an Equal Opportunity Employer. During the selection process any applicant requiring accommodation for a disability should advise the Human Resources Department.

About the MAG Region

The Greater Phoenix region is a dynamic, vibrant, growing area that offers businesses and residents prosperity and an enriching quality of life. Great weather, safe neighborhoods and the beauty of the Sonoran desert make the region a great place to live and work. Our schools are among the best in the nation, with three Arizona schools on the top ten list for the entire country. These quality schools contribute to the region's skilled workforce. Greater Phoenix and Arizona are noted as having one of the most business friendly and entrepreneurial environments.

A state-of-the-art freeway system, along with a robust light rail and transit system, means easy commutes. Recently, the WAZE traffic navigation app recognized Phoenix as the best driving experience in the world. This quality transportation system connects residents with employment and opportunities to compete in the global economy. Conveniently located within driving distance of skiing in northern Arizona, the beaches of California, and the culture of Mexico, the MAG region is a perfect place to call home.

For more information about our region and all it offers, please visit <https://maps.azmag.gov/>