We are looking for an ambitious environmental economist interested in applied and interdisciplinary research to inform integrated water management approaches within Los Angeles. You will work as part of a team at the UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability to develop and analyze the costs and benefits of various integrated water management approaches within the city of Los Angeles. These approaches will be designed to meet water quality standards and optimize flood control, water supply – including stormwater, groundwater and recycled water, habitat, and recreational open space benefits. The efforts will occur on a watershed by watershed basis – starting with Ballona Creek and Dominguez Channel and ending with the LA River.

You will conduct economic analyses, complete a literature review, and identify current best practices in the economics of integrated water management in order to prioritize the integrated water management approaches identified in the overall project. Benefits that will be included in these analyses are flood control (e.g. avoided costs of FEMA increases), water quality, water supply (e.g. groundwater recharge, enhanced conservation, etc.), comparison of energy costs from local water supplies versus imported water, job creation, recreation, and habitat. Both costs and funding opportunities are also a critical part of the economic analyses, including capital costs, operations and maintenance costs, land purchase costs, current and future funding opportunities, and identification of financial policy barriers to enhanced integrated water management.

You should have a Master's Degree in a relevant branch of economics or public policy (for example: environmental economics, regulatory incentives, engineering economics, ecosystem services, agricultural economics, etc.) or equivalent research experience (at least two years) and relevant water-related research interests. You will be able to apply economic analysis, valuation and/or modeling techniques to understand water and other environmental issues from an interdisciplinary perspective and quantify the costs and benefits of sustainable water practices as well as identify the current state of the field. You should have a broad knowledge of issues surrounding the economics of environment, economic theories and instruments for environmental management, economic valuation techniques, and natural capital and/or green accounting. We particularly welcome candidates with the ability to bridge analysis and policy and / or familiarity with Los Angeles and water management in the Southwest US (e.g. groundwater management, stormwater capture, etc.) is a plus. The position duration is 12 to 18 months, with a salary range between $45,000 and $48,000 depending on experience.

This position offers the opportunity to work with a team of interdisciplinary researchers on cutting-edge research to quantify the costs and benefits of integrated water management policies, and help inform the implementation of these policies in the sustainable cities of the future. In addition, while writing up internal reports from the research is a requirement of the position, there are various opportunities for potential publications that can evolve from this research for a motivated candidate such as journal articles or policy briefs.

Screening of applications begins on September 15, 2014; the position will remain open until it is filled.

Please email a cover letter, resume or CV, and a writing sample to Dr. Mark Gold (gold@ioes.ucla.edu) and Dr. Katie Mika (kmika@ioes.ucla.edu)