

JOB OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

*Kern County Fair & Event Center
15th District Agricultural Association*

Secretary-Manager V
starting salary of \$10,750/month
Final Filing Date: April 15, 2026



LEAD ONE OF KERN COUNTY'S MOST RECOGNIZED COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS.

The Kern County Fair & Event Center is seeking an experienced, visionary, and community-minded leader to serve as its next Chief Executive Officer

KERN COUNTY FAIR

Bakersfield, California

The 15th District Agricultural Association, known as the Kern County Fair & Event Center, is a state-operated fairgrounds facility serving Kern County through agriculture, education, entertainment, and community events.

Governed by a nine-member Board of Directors appointed by the Governor of California, the Association operates under the oversight of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Fairs and Expositions Branch.

Home to the annual Kern County Fair, the Fairgrounds hosts a wide range of year-round events, rentals, competitions, community gatherings, educational activities, and agricultural programming. The organization plays an important role in celebrating local traditions, supporting youth, and providing a central gathering place for the community.

The next CEO will have the opportunity to lead a high-profile public organization with deep roots, strong visibility, and lasting community impact.

ANNUAL FAIR ATTENDANCE:
350,000+

YEAR-ROUND EVENTS:
130

FACILITY SIZE:
168 Acres

JUNIOR LIVESTOCK AUCTION:
\$1.4+ MILLION

LOCAL ECONOMIC IMPACT:
\$95.3 Million



A UNIQUE LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

- CELEBRATE AGRICULTURE
- SUPPORT YOUTH
- STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
- LEAD A YEAR-ROUND PUBLIC VENUE
- SHAPE THE FUTURE OF THE FAIRGROUNDS

This is more than an executive position; it is an opportunity to help shape the future of one of Kern County's most visible and valued public organizations.

The CEO leads an organization that brings together agriculture, youth development, family traditions, public events, live entertainment, education, and community connection. The position requires strategic leadership, sound operational judgment, and a strong ability to build relationships with staff, exhibitors, sponsors, public agencies, community partners, and the public.

The Kern County Fair & Event Center serves as both a long-standing regional tradition and a year-round event destination. The next CEO will be expected to build on that legacy while guiding the organization forward through thoughtful leadership, fiscal stewardship, strong community engagement, and a clear vision for the future.



THE POSITION

The Chief Executive Officer serves as the chief administrative officer of the 15th District Agricultural Association and reports directly to the Board of Directors. The CEO provides strategic leadership for the Event Center, overseeing the annual Kern County Fair, year-round events and facility use, organizational operations, financial stewardship, and long-range planning.

This role calls for a dynamic and collaborative leader who can guide a high-profile public venue with a strong agricultural heritage and deep community impact. The CEO serves as the official spokesperson for the District and works closely with the Board, staff, public agencies, industry partners, sponsors, exhibitors, media, and the community to advance the organization's mission and long-term success.

KEY AREAS OF LEADERSHIP

- Lead the planning and successful execution of the annual Fair and all interim and year-round events conducted on the Fairgrounds
- Provide strategic and operational leadership for the organization, including financial oversight, staff leadership, and day-to-day administration
- Oversee facility operations, capital improvements, and long-range development of the Fairgrounds
- Ensure compliance with applicable State laws, regulations, contracting requirements, and fiscal controls
- Represent the District through public relations, government relations, and community engagement
- Serve as executive lead when the Fairgrounds are activated for emergency response, evacuation, disaster recovery, or other community support operations



THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

The Board of Directors seeks a collaborative, experienced, and forward-thinking leader with strong administrative, financial, operational, and relationship-building skills. The position requires flexibility for evenings, weekends, holidays, Fair operations, and emergency response needs.

KEY QUALITIES

- Strategic and visionary leadership
- Strong budgeting and fiscal management experience
- Excellent communication and public relations skills
- Ability to work effectively with a governing board
- Sound judgment, professionalism, and integrity
- Experience leading teams and building organizational culture
- Ability to balance day-to-day operations with long-term priorities
- Independent judgment, accountability, and commitment to public service

DESIRED EXPERIENCE

- Executive, senior management, or comparable leadership experience
- Experience in fairs, event venues, public agencies, agricultural-related organizations, or similarly complex operations
- Marketing, sponsorship, and business development knowledge
- Facility operations, maintenance, and capital improvement planning
- Staff supervision and personnel management
- Experience working with public stakeholders, agencies, and community partners

A combination of education, training, and relevant professional experience that demonstrates the ability to successfully perform the duties of the position will be considered. A bachelor's degree in business administration, public administration, agriculture, marketing, communications, finance, or a related field is desirable.

COMPENSATION AND APPLICATION

APPLICATION PROCESS

INTERESTED CANDIDATES SHOULD SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING BY APRIL 15, 2026:

1. Completed [State of California Employment Application \(STD 678\)](#)
2. Resume
3. Cover letter or statement of interest
4. Five professional references

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Applications should be submitted to: ceosearch@kerncountyfair.com

Or mailed/delivered in a sealed envelope to:

CEO Recruitment Committee
Kern County Fair and Event Center
1142 South P Street
Bakersfield, CA 93307

This position is subject to the State of California's conflict-of-interest requirements, including Form 700 filing and required ethics training.

The 15th District Agricultural Association is an equal opportunity employer.

COMPENSATION + BENEFITS

STATE CLASSIFICATION: Secretary-Manager V

**THE COMPENSATION PACKAGE WILL BE OFFERED
BASED ON EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS,
INCLUDING:**

- Salary Exempt State Classification of Secretary Manager V
- Starting Salary of \$10,750 per month, with advancement up to \$13,165.00
- CalPERS retirement
- Health, dental, and vision insurance (employee and family)
- Annual leave, holidays, and sick leave
- Life Insurance and deferred compensation plan