WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR

DEFINITION

Under direct supervision of the Chief Plant Operator performs a variety of operation, maintenance, and inspection assignments at the District water treatment plant; maintains, repairs, and modifies equipment used in the treatment and disinfection of water; reads, interprets, and responds to trend chart readings, meter readings, laboratory analysis to ensure efficient plant operation and compliance with California State Water Resources Control Board regulations and directives; performs standardized water quality control tests; performs raw water conveyance system checks; and performs related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

This is an intermediate level position. The Water Treatment Plant Operator is regularly required to independently operate the water treatment plant and maintain water quality to comply with the California State Water Resources Control Board regulations as well as District goals.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

The duties listed below are illustrative only and are not meant to be a complete exhaustive listing of all the duties and responsibilities of the Water Treatment Plant Operator classification:

Operator Duties:

- Operates automatic and manually controlled equipment, motors, and pumps used in the treatment, purification, and disinfection of water.
- Oversee automated processes through monitoring of the SCADA system.
- Calculate water treatment chemical dosages to ensure the efficient operation of the water treatment plant and maintain water treatment goals and water quality standards.
- Adjusts, monitors, and maintains chemical feed systems, which maintain water treatment goals and water quality standards.
- Collects water samples; performs standardized water quality control tests and uses the results to determine the appropriate action to maintain water treatment goals and water quality standards.
- Interprets meter and data readings to determine the proper operation of treatment equipment and water conditions.
- Makes regular assessments of water flow, turbidity, pressure, chemical usage, residuals, temperatures, and other pertinent data to maintain proper water treatment plant operating conditions.
- Maintains and reports on chemical inventory and laboratory supplies.
- Requisition of chemicals, equipment, and supplies as directed.
- Receives delivered materials, recording shipments and storing items.
- Maintains logs, records, and data systems for required plant reports.
- Performs a variety of maintenance and repair work on plant facilities and equipment.
- Observes pumping equipment to identify possible problems and operating difficulties.
- Backwashes filters.
- Routinely handles hazardous materials associated with water treatment in accordance with the District's Risk Management Plan, Respiratory Program, Safety Program, Injury, Illness, and Protection Program, and OSHA requirements.

- Operate and maintain offsite water quality stations.
- Perform routine and special water quality sampling and analysis; review results with senior staff.
- Performs related duties as assigned, including supporting other departments.

Typical Physical Activities:
- Operates District vehicles.
- Must be able to carry, push, pull, reach, and lift equipment and parts weighing up to 50 lbs.
- Stoops, kneels, crouches, crawls, and climbs during plant maintenance and repair work.
- Works in an environment with exposure to dust, dirt, chemicals and significant temperature changes between cold and heat.
- Communicates orally with District staff in face-to-face, one-to-one settings.
- Regularly uses a telephone for communication.
- Uses office equipment, such as computer terminals, copiers, and fax machines.
- Stands and walks for extended time periods.
- Hearing and vision within normal ranges.
- Ability to pass a respiratory compliance examination.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

Knowledge of:
- Methods, materials, procedures and equipment used in water treatment plant operations and maintenance work.
- Water treatment methods, principles, and practices.
- Laws, codes, rules and regulations pertaining to water treatment plant operations and water quality standards.
- Methods and precautions for handling and storing hazardous chemicals.
- Standard water quality tests.
- Operation and maintenance of pumping equipment.
- Plant measurement and recording equipment.
- Proper work safety standards.
- General computer skills.

Ability to:
- Perform a variety of operations and maintenance assignments at a water treatment plant.
- Operate automatic plant control systems.
- Read plant measurement and recording equipment, interpreting results to adjust plant operations.
- Use proper safety precautions.
- Perform standard water quality tests.
- Maintain and update plant records and logs.
- Read and interpret plant piping and distribution diagrams.
- Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships.
- Compile, analyze, research and communicate findings both verbally and in writing.
- Meet Respiratory Protection Program requirements.
- Use proper safety precautions in working with laboratory chemicals.

- Ensure that legal requirements are being met with regard to potable water.

QUALIFICATIONS

Any combination of education and experience that would likely provide the necessary knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the knowledge and abilities would be:

Required Certification/Education/Experience/License:

- Certification:
  - Possession of a Grade 3 (T3) Water Treatment Plant Operator Certification issued by the California State Water Resources Control Board and a minimum of two (2) years of experience at a water treatment facility.
  - Possession of a Grade 2 (D2) Distribution Operator Certification issued by the California State Water Resources Control Board.

- Education:
  - Completion of a High School Diploma or equivalent.

- Experience:
  - Five (2) years of increasingly responsible experience in water treatment facility maintenance and operations work.

- License:
  - Possession of a valid California (Class "C") Driver's License may be required at the time of appointment. Failure to obtain or maintain such required license(s) may be cause for disciplinary action. Individuals who do not meet this requirement due to a physical disability will be considered for accommodation on a case-by-case basis.
  - Possession and proof of a driving record free of multiple or serious traffic violations or accidents for two (2) consecutive years.

The specific statements in each section of this job description are not intended to be all-inclusive. They represent typical elements and are necessary to successfully perform the job.