

WATER TREATMENT CHIEF OPERATOR

Definition

Under general direction of the Operations Superintendent, the Chief Water Treatment Plant Operator plans, organizes, and is responsible for the daily operation and maintenance activities associated with the District's one surface water treatment facility and two groundwater treatment facilities; and to do related work as required.

Distinguishing Characteristics

This is an experienced working level job for performing the full range of water treatment, and surface and groundwater management assignments. Personnel have responsibility for daily operation of the District's surface water and groundwater treatment plants, and ensuring compliance with water resource monitoring and regulatory requirements. Individual works with minimal supervision and training. Provides supervision to other personnel working in the water treatment department.

Supervision Received and Exercised

- Receives general supervision from the Operations Superintendent.
- Exercises supervision of workers performing functions of water treatment facility inspection, operation and maintenance.

Examples of Duties

- Monitors the operations of District surface water and ground water treatment facilities for proper and safe functioning.
- Monitors the surface and groundwater management operations for proper functioning to meet regulatory guidelines.
- Makes necessary system adjustments to maintain proper operating conditions.
- Assigns and performs a variety of maintenance assignments at District water treatment plants and water management facilities.
- Operates automatic and manually controlled equipment, motors, and pumps used in water treatment plants.
- Inspects pumps, motors, valves, filters, meters, and related plant equipment, performing preventive maintenance and repairs.
- Regulates and controls the amount of chemicals used to maintain specified water treatment requirements.
- Collects samples at specified times, performing standardized quality control tests, and adjust chemical feeders and other plant equipment according to results.

- Makes meter and chart readings, interpreting information to determine the proper operation of treatment equipment and influent and effluent conditions.
- Make regular assessments of water flow, turbidity, pressure, chemical use, residuals, temperatures, and other pertinent data to maintain proper plant operating conditions.
- Observes pumping equipment to identify possible problems and operating difficulties.
- Changes chlorine cylinders, using proper safety conditions.
- Backwashes filters.
- Changes recording charts as needed.
- Operates a vehicle to travel to treatment plants and water management facilities for inspection and maintenance work.
- Maintains logs, records, and data systems for required plant reports.
- Input data into computer system and generate plant operations reports.
- Receives delivered materials, recording shipments and storing items.
- Provides training to department crew members.
- Provide supervision to personnel involved in water treatment inspection, operation, and maintenance duties.
- Prepare written reports for submittal to regulatory agencies.
- Develop and budget and control costs.
- Respond to emergency call-outs; assist other departments during time of emergency.
- Be available evenings, weekends, and holidays on a rotational basis.

Typical Physical Activities

- Operates District vehicles in traveling between District plants and facilities.
- Operates District snowmobile and snowcat in traveling between District plants and facilities.
- 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, snow, chemicals, and significant temperature changes between cold and heat. Daily work environment involves indoor and outdoor activities.
- Must be capable of reading, writing, and understand material that is highly technical in nature.
- Communicates orally with District staff in face-to-face, one-to-one settings.
- Regularly uses two-way radios for communications.
- Uses office equipment such as computer terminals, copiers, and FAX machines.
- Stands and walks for extended time periods.
- Work involves exposure to cleaning solutions and chemicals used in treatment processes.
- Hearing and vision within normal ranges.

Special Requirements

- Possession and proof of a good driving record as evidenced by freedom from multiple or serious traffic violations or accidents for at least two (2) years duration. The driving record will not contribute to an increase in the District's automobile rates.
- Possession of a Grade IV Water Treatment Operator certification from the State Department of Health Services.

Employment Standards

Knowledge of:

- Methods, materials, procedures, and equipment used in water treatment plant operations and maintenance work.
- Water treatment methods, principles, and practices.
- Methods and precautions for handling and storing potentially hazardous chemicals.
- Standard water and wastewater quality tests.
- Operation and maintenance of pumping equipment.
- Plant measurement and recording equipment.
- District policies and procedures related to customer services and customer relations.
- Basic principles of employee training and supervision.
- Principles of budget development and expenditure control.
- Proper work safety standards.

Ability to:

- Perform a wide variety of maintenance work at water treatment plants, and associated facilities.
- Operate automatic plant control systems.
- Diagnose and correct a variety of operating problems.
- Read plant measurement and recording equipment, interpreting results to make adjustments to plant operations.
- Use proper safety precautions in working with plant chemicals.
- Perform sample collection and standard water quality tests.
- Maintain and update plant records and logs.
- Drive a vehicle and other equipment safely.
- Follow oral and written instructions.
- Deal tactfully and courteously with the public.
- Read and interpret plant piping and distribution diagrams.

- Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships.
- Provide supervision to crew members.
- Provide training of department crew members.
- Develop and control budgets.
- Maintain a basic knowledge of District facilities in order to properly respond to emergency call-outs.

Desirable Education and Experience

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:

Experience: Any combination of qualifying experience and certifications to meet the eligibility criteria for a T4 Water Treatment Plant Operator certification by the California Department of Health Services.