

CITY OF FOLSOM

WATER TREATMENT PLANT CHIEF OPERATOR

DEFINITION

Under direction, lead work crews involved in the daily operations of a water treatment plant, including monitoring plant processes such as filtration and disinfection, making appropriate chemical or flow changes as necessary. Assist in the water distribution system by taking samples, and checking reservoirs and pump stations.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

The Water Treatment Plant Chief Operator is the lead-worker/specialist class in the Water Treatment Plant Operator class series. Incumbents provide ongoing guidance and training to lower level staff including assigning, monitoring, and reviewing work. Positions at this level are distinguished from those in the Water Treatment Plant Operator III class by the independence with which they perform their duties of handling the most difficult and complex work and performing lead-work. This class is further distinguished from the Water Treatment Plant Supervisor in that the latter performs full supervisory duties.

EXAMPLES OF ESSENTIAL DUTIES

The following are duties performed by employees in this classification. Duties listed are not meant to be all-inclusive. Other duties may be required as assigned.

- Prepare work schedules, assign shifts, and review work of water treatment plant operators and maintenance staff.
- Train assigned employees in maintenance methods, procedures, and techniques; identify training opportunities and needs; make recommendations to Supervisor as necessary.
- Operate Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) computer equipment in the water treatment facilities to control and monitor flow of water, chemical feed systems, filters, basins, and distribution pumps of the treatment plant, off site pump stations, and reservoirs.
- Inspect and evaluate the work of assigned employees for accuracy, proper work methods, techniques, and compliance with applicable standards and specifications in accordance with City and State regulations.
- Maintain comprehensive records of repairs and replacement of water supply and water treatment plant equipment; prepare reports for regulatory agencies.
- Direct and assist in the inspection, repair, removal, and installation of pumps, motors, and other equipment.
- Oversee the use of special equipment involved in maintenance and repair work; ensure proper use and care of tools, materials, and safety equipment.
- Check, standardize, and calibrate instruments, analyzers, and chemical feed pumps, and start and stop electric driven pumps and/or motors to control and adjust flow and treatment processes.
- Perform preventive and corrective maintenance on mechanical, hydraulic, electronic, and electrical equipment.
- Research new materials, tools, and equipment for purchase recommendation; prepare cost estimates and justification for budget items; order supplies and materials.
- Perform related duties as assigned.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

Knowledge of:

- Basic principles and practices of planning, scheduling, and monitoring work.
- Principles, practices, and methods of operating a water treatment plant and distribution system.
- Modern plant equipment methods and developments in water treatment.
- Mechanical and electrical theories related to a water treatment plant.
- Physical, chemical, and bacteriological processes involved in the treatment of water.
- General chemical principles and laboratory practices and techniques used in water treatment.
- Understand, operate, and train others on the use of SCADA Systems.
- Computer word processing, spreadsheets, and database software.
- Federal, state, and local regulations pertaining to water treatment and distribution.
- Confined space entry procedures.

Ability to:

- Lead and oversee the work of assigned staff.
- Exercise sound independent judgment within prescribed guidelines.
- Analyze treatment plant processes and act when necessary.
- Perform routine laboratory tests, interpret results, and adjust plant accordingly.
- Effectively operate a personal computer and treatment plant related software.
- Troubleshoot and repair mechanical, electronic, and electrical malfunctions, and calibrate equipment.
- Interpret and apply federal, state, and local regulations pertaining to water production and distribution.
- Perform basic calculations using concepts of basic algebra and geometry.
- Calculate figures and amounts, proportions, percentages, area, circumference, volume, flow, dosage, and feed rates.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.
- Effectively communicate verbally and in writing.
- Maintain safe working practices.
- Enter confined spaces.

Minimum Qualifications:

Education:

Equivalent to completion of the twelfth grade.

Experience:

Five years of full-time experience as an operator in a water treatment plant in which two years must include holding a valid Water Treatment Plant Operator T3 certificate issued by the California Department of Public Health.

AND

License, Certificate, Registration Requirements:

- Possession of a valid Water Treatment Plant Operator T4 certificate issued by the California Department of Public Health.
- Possession of, or the ability to obtain and retain a California Class C driver license by the time of appointment. Individuals who do not meet this requirement due to a disability will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Physical Requirements:

Primary functions require sufficient physical ability and mobility to work in a field environment; to walk, stand, and sit for prolonged periods of time; to frequently stoop, bend, kneel, crouch, crawl, climb, reach, twist, grasp, and make repetitive hand movements in the performance of daily duties; to climb unusual heights on ladders; to lift, carry, push, and/or pull moderate to heavy amounts of weight up to 50 lbs; to operate assigned equipment and vehicles; and to verbally communicate to exchange information.

Vision: See in the normal visual range with or without correction.

Hearing: Hear in the normal audio range with or without correction.

Working Environment:

Work is performed in an outdoor field environment in inclement weather conditions; exposure to noise, unpleasant odors, chemicals, and other environmental substances; work in or around water; travel to and from various job sites; exposure to hazardous traffic conditions.

Other Requirements:

Must be willing to work weekends, holidays, and shifts.

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Barg Unit: Local 39
Probation: 6 months