



Water Quality Technician

DEFINITION

Under general supervision, performs a variety of tasks in connection with maintaining water quality, and to do related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

An incumbent in the classification of Water Quality Technician performs a wide variety of tasks involved in the collection and testing of water samples. In addition to the testing, an incumbent may investigate water quality complaints, maintain water quality testing equipment, flush water mains, and maintain records and reports relating to water quality. This is a journey level classification with general supervision by the Supervisor of Water Quality Inspection.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

Typical duties may include but are not limited to the following:

- Collects water samples from lakes, tanks, and the distribution system for various laboratory testing;
- performs water quality field work at reservoirs including temperature and oxygen profiles, plankton sampling, secchi disc readings and visuals; applies chemical treatment to reservoirs as directed;
- performs sanitary tank surveys involving visual inspection, water quality sampling, and disinfection;
- disinfects newly installed water mains, collects bacterial samples and may supervise and instruct other personnel in disinfection procedures;
- flushes dead end water mains and other sections of the distribution system to monitor system water quality;
- performs investigations of water quality complaints involving contact with consumers, flushing, sampling and field-testing of water;
- under supervision, assists in laboratory when needed and may perform routine laboratory tests such as alkalinity, hardness, color, conductivity, pH, turbidity, and other tests as necessary;
- maintains water quality testing equipment; maintains equipment and chemicals inventory;
- makes routine checks of stand-alone water treatment equipment;
- organizes and summarizes computer based data, prepares reports, spreadsheets and maintains records relating to water quality and testing;
- enters water quality data information into computer database;
- follows applicable safety rules and regulations;
- operates district 4x4 vehicles and boats, including towing.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT

Knowledge of:

- Operations, maintenance and repair of water treatment equipment;

- chemicals used in the treatment of water;
- standard tests for determining water quality;
- District operations, facilities and applicable regulations;
- procedures for sampling water and testing for water quality parameters;
- construction practices;
- personal computers in a network environment and the various software used in the preparation of reports, spreadsheets, data input and data management.

Ability to:

- Prepare legible, clear and concise reports;
- make independent field decisions in providing advice to the public and employees;
- deal effectively with those contacted in the course of work;
- understand and carry out written and oral instructions;
- operate a personal computer in a network environment to input and retrieve data and manipulate spreadsheets;
- operate and drive a district vehicle, sometimes in 4x4 conditions;
- learn to operate power boats;
- schedule and oversee the work of others on an occasional basis as needed;
- drive a vehicle while towing;
- use and navigate the district's GIS software.

Training and Experience: Any combination equivalent to experience and education that could likely provide the required knowledge and abilities would be qualifying. A typical way to obtain the knowledge and abilities would be:

- Completion of the twelfth grade or its equivalent; and,
- two years experience in water system repair and maintenance or a comparable combination of work experience and educational courses in chemistry or closely aligned field.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Per California Government Code, Title 1, Division 4, Chapter 8, Section 3100 "all public employees are hereby declared to be disaster service workers subject to such disaster service activities as may be assigned to them by their superiors or by law."
- Willingness to wear appropriate uniform;
- Must be available for work in emergencies or when water quality problems are anticipated during "off" hours (including holidays and weekends).

LICENSES AND/OR CERTIFICATIONS

- Possession of an appropriate California driver's license issued by the State Department of Motor Vehicles and satisfactory driving record;
- Must obtain a Distribution Operator certificate (D1) issued by the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) within twelve months from appointment or date of hire.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS AND WORKING CONDITIONS

During the course of performing job duties the employee will need the mobility to work in a standard office setting, operate equipment, which may include office and/or field equipment, or specialized instruments or tools requiring repetitive arm/hand movement and/or the coordinated movement of more than one limb simultaneously; enter and retrieve data from personal computers and terminals via keyboards which is often performed while sitting for extended periods of time. The employee frequently stands, walks, bends at neck and waists, twists at neck and waist, uses simple and power grasping with both hands, uses fine manipulation of both hands and fingers, and may require use of the arms above the shoulder, climb or balance; stoop, kneel or crouch. While working in the field the employee may walk on uneven or un-level ground surfaces such as hills, slopes, ditches or trenches, on or in tanks, and may work at heights up to 30 feet climbing ladders or stairs. The employee is occasionally required to lift and carry short distances objects such as treatment chemicals, tools and equipment and office supplies weighing up to 50 pounds. This position requires that the employee demonstrate adequate hearing and speech to converse in person and over the telephone, and vision to read printed materials and use a computer screen. In order to drive, individuals must be physically capable of operating the vehicles and equipment safely.

The noise level in the work environment is quiet to moderate noise. The employee is exposed to outdoor temperature, humidity, wetness and dust. The position may require the ability to work overtime and weekends as needed.

Employees who drive on District business to carry out job-related duties must possess a California driver's license for the class of vehicle driven and meet automobile insurability requirements of the District including review of a recent DMV history. In order to drive, individuals must be physically capable of operating the vehicles and equipment safely.

ADDITIONAL PHYSICAL DEMANDS

- A self-contained breathing apparatus must be worn when working in confined spaces and employee must be capable of obtaining and maintaining a proper facial seal for District respiratory equipment.
- Exposure to potentially hazardous materials, laboratory chemicals, solvents, microbiological pathogens, odors and fumes.

To be successful in this job, an individual must be able to satisfactorily perform each of the listed duties. These duties are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required for the position. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the duties and functions of the position. Requests for reasonable accommodation should be directed to the Human Resources Manager.

Established: July 1985
Revised: March 2017, April 2025
Approved by: Human Resources Manager