

WATER SYSTEMS OPERATOR IDEFINITION

Under direct supervision, receives training, operates, and maintains the water chlorination equipment and the water production facilities such as wells, reservoirs, and pumping stations on a progressively more responsible basis.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO

Monitors the operations control center to determine system needs; starts and stops selected equipment in response to required and anticipated water demands. Operates and maintains water chlorination equipment and water production facilities such as wells, reservoirs and pumping stations. Performs preventive and corrective maintenance on water chlorination and production system facilities and equipment. Lifts and moves very heavy metal covers to provide access to enclosed structures; climbs on, under and inside equipment or facilities as needed to effectively perform repair and maintenance work. Performs work in confined spaces and meets all working requirements with safety equipment. Equipment and facilities may include vaults, reservoirs, pumping stations, elevated tank and other enclosures; access may be via vertical ladders. Monitors a two-way radio and uses same to communicate with other Public Works Agency personnel. Sometimes required to work alone for long periods of time, without the assistance of other employees. Reads meters, gauges, and related equipment. Uses current office software applications to perform data logging and records maintenance functions. Cleans the pumphouse facilities, floors, equipment, motors, cabinets and performs other related housekeeping duties. Lifts and carries a minimum of 50 lbs. in order to move heavy items. Differentiates between normal operating motor and engine sounds, and recognizes changes in these sounds that may indicate current or impending problems with that piece of equipment. Performs other functions as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS

This is the entry-level classification in the Water Systems Operator series. After appropriate training and experience in the operation and maintenance of water chlorination equipment and water production facilities, incumbents are expected to perform their assigned duties with progressively increased independence and responsibility. This class is distinguished from the next higher-level classification of Water Systems Operator II by the level and complexity of duties assigned.

RECOMMENDED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

One year of experience operating control facilities; maintaining and repairing pumps, motors, valves, engines, or other water production equipment; or any other combination of training and experience which provides the following knowledge and abilities:

DESIRABLE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of: basic mathematics; operation and maintenance of electrical or engine-driven

pumps; basic mechanical and electrical principles; basic computer operating principles.

Ability to: anticipate and effectively perform periodic preventive maintenance and repair of water chlorination and water production equipment; keep neat and accurate records; perform timely corrective action in the event of equipment failures; maintain correct pressures in the water system; accurately read meters, valves, gauges and related equipment; differentiate engine sounds and whines; lift and carry a minimum of 50 lbs; climb vertical (perpendicular to the surface) ladders; climb on, under and inside equipment or facilities; successfully operate and monitor two-way radio equipment; follow written and oral directions; communicate effectively with fellow employees and the general public.

Skill in: the operation of electrical or engine-driven pumps, two-way radio equipment and current personal computer equipment.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Must possess and retain a valid California Class C driver's license at time of appointment. Must obtain a valid permanent State of California Department of Health Services Grade I Water Treatment Operator regular certification and a valid permanent Grade I Water Distribution Operator regular certification issued by the State of California as a condition of successful completion of the probationary work test period.

SPECIAL WORKING CONDITIONS:

Must be willing and able to work outside in a variety of weather conditions. Must be willing and able to work irregular hours, including evenings, holidays and weekends, as needed. May be required to work rotating shifts and perform standby and after-hours call-out duties.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL PERFORMERS

The successful performer must be able to effectively work alone for relatively long periods of time, sometimes in confined spaces, while remaining alert to the need for immediate response to sudden equipment failures. This individual remains calm and efficient in emergency operational conditions. The successful incumbent will learn the water chlorination and production system operations and maintenance procedures, and performs the duties of this class either independently or as part of a team of water system operators.

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