

WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR-IN-TRAINING

DEFINITION

Under close supervision, receives training in the operation and maintenance of surface water treatment facilities and equipment.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED/EXERCISED

Receives supervision from a Water Manager or Designee. This classification does not exercise supervision.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is a training class for candidates qualified to learn the duties of a Water Treatment Plant Operator, as defined by the State Water Resources Control Board. Incumbents of this class undergo training in the operation of a water treatment plant under the direct supervision of a certified operator while gaining experience to qualify for a T3 Water Treatment Operator Certificate. Water Treatment Plant Operator-in-Training is distinguished from Water Treatment Plant Operator in that incumbents in the latter are certified T3 or higher by the State, and perform a full range of routine assignments at surface water treatment facilities without close supervision.

EXAMPLES OF IMPORTANT AND ESSENTIAL DUTIES

May include, but are not limited to, the following:

Receives training on monitoring plant performance by conducting analyses on samples from various stages in the treatment process; reads gauges, makes flow adjustments, and controls reservoir levels using SCADA computers.

Receives training to determine chemical dosage and makes adjustments to plant processes as necessary.

Receives training on and operates and maintains mechanical equipment at the water treatment facilities, which includes but is not limited to chemical feed systems, water pumps, and mixers.

Receives training on and performs general, preventative, and repair maintenance on equipment.

Assists in bulk chemical deliveries.

Cleans, paints, and lubricates equipment.

Receives training on and operates disinfection equipment and obtains samples as required.

Receives training on and provides appropriate response to emergencies and spills, including hazardous materials.

Maintains operational logs and records.

Makes visual inspections and monitors surface treatment facilities and grounds.

Receives training on laboratory procedures, plant operations, safety procedures, and emergency response.

Wears and uses applicable Personal Protective Equipment consistent with state mandates as required.

Performs related work as required.

JOB RELATED AND ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

Operation of pumps, motors, and appurtenances of the plant.

Applicable state and federal regulations.

Basic computer operating systems, including MS Word and MS Excel.

Safety principles and practices related to operation of a major water treatment facility.

Principles of customer service.

Skill/Ability to:

Use tools necessary to operate and maintain plant equipment.

Collect samples, which are representative of various plant flows and unit processes.

Operate a motor vehicle safely.

Perform mathematical calculations at a level necessary for the completion of assigned duties.

Read meters and gauges correctly.

Follow oral and written instructions and prepare brief reports on plant operations.

Learn the various operational procedures and safety practices involved in the day-to-day operations of a water plant.

Learn the occupational hazards and safety precautions related to the operation of mechanical/electrical equipment.

Learn water treatment plant operations and the materials, methods (basic chemistry, math and laboratory formulas), tools, and equipment used in water treatment.

Work well with others in a team environment.

Complete work within an assigned time frame.

Utilize a variety of hand tools in accordance with safety principles.

Perform mechanical repairs and manual labor work in outdoor weather conditions.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Education:

Possession of a High school diploma or equivalent GED completion.

Special Requirement(s):

Possession of a valid California Class C Driver's License is required at the time of application and continued maintenance throughout the entire term of employment in this classification.

Possession of a valid Water Treatment Operator Certificate, Grade T1, from the State Water Resources Control Board is required at the time of application and continued maintenance throughout the entire term of employment in this classification.

Possession of a Water Treatment Operator Certificate, Grade T2 is highly desirable.

Incumbents must obtain a minimum of Water Treatment Operator Certificate, Grade T3, from the State Water Resources Control Board within the two (2) years of appointment. Failure to obtain the Water Treatment Operator Certificate, Grade T3, within two (2) years of appointment and maintain throughout the entire term of employment will be cause for termination from this classification.

This classification is in a flexibly-staffed series, which allows incumbents to flex to the Water Treatment Plant Operator after obtaining the Water Treatment Operator Certificate, Grade T3. While in the classification, incumbents will not achieve permanent status within the classified service, as defined in Fresno Municipal Code Section 3-202(p)(5).

Due to the nature of the work environment, the incumbent is required to participate in a medical monitoring program to ensure respiratory fitness for using required respiratory equipment.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The physical demands described here are representative of those that are necessary to safely, effectively, and efficiently perform the essential functions of this job with or without reasonable accommodation.

This classification's physical demands involve medium work exerting up to 50 pounds of force occasionally, and/or up to 30 pounds of force frequently, and/or up to 10 pounds of force constantly to move objects. Additionally, the following physical demands may be required: balancing, climbing, crawling, crouching, feeling, manual dexterity, grasping, handling, hearing, kneeling, lifting, mental acuity, pulling, pushing, reaching, repetitive motion, speaking, standing, stooping, talking, visual acuity, walking.

APPROVED: Signature on File
Director of Personnel Services

DATE: 10/20/2025

NEW: JTC:scm 9/28/2020
Revised: EVG/C&C: 10/20/2025