

Wastewater Operator I/II

DEFINITION

The purpose of this classification is to perform a variety of skilled technical tasks, including routine laboratory tests, in the operation of a wastewater treatment plant.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

General supervision is provided by a Senior Wastewater Plant Operator or the Public Works Superintendent. This classification has no supervisory responsibilities.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

Essential Duties

The following duties are considered essential for this job classification:

Monitor and operate wastewater treatment plant or wastewater disposal equipment such as pumps, valves, motors, blowers, and/or sludge dewatering equipment; adjust and make minor repairs to wastewater treatment plant or disposal system equipment; collect samples of sewage, sludge, and/or reclaimed and receiving water; and keep records.

Adjust or alter chemical treatment of plant processes as required; respond to and control accidental releases of hazardous liquids and gases; perform confined space entries as required; and haul material on plant premises.

Additional Duties

In addition to the duties listed in the Essential Duties section, each employee in this classification may perform the following duties.

Perform daily and weekly field analyses; oil, grease, and clean equipment; perform physical materials inventories; perform heavy manual labor and grounds maintenance work; haul material; deliver or collect samples from remote areas; read and interpret maps, blueprints; perform related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of: Operation and preventive maintenance of equipment commonly found in a wastewater treatment plant or in a wastewater disposal system; safe work practices. Knowledge of operation of activated sludge, and sludge dewatering processes; proper sewage and sludge sampling techniques; chemical treatment processes used in wastewater treatment plants; and emergency chemical spill response procedures.

Ability to: Operate the full range of equipment used in a wastewater treatment plant or a wastewater disposal system; communicate clearly and concisely, orally and in writing; conduct field analyses; learn through oral instruction in an on-the-job setting; comprehend and make inferences from written

material and instructions; understand and comply with provisions of NPDES discharge permit; monitor and interpret gauges, digital displays, and recording devices to ensure compliance with prescribed safety or operational guidelines; respond to deviations from operational objectives according to prescribed guidelines.

Experience and Education: 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: Experience – (Wastewater Operator II: One year of experience performing duties comparable to those of a Wastewater Operator I for the City of Jackson – Wastewater Operator I: Three years of experience as a Maintenance Worker with the City of Jackson Public Works Department); Education - Equivalent to completion of the 12th grade.

LICENSE OR CERTIFICATION

This classification requires the use of a City vehicle while conducting City business. In order to drive, individuals must be physically capable of operating the vehicles safely and must possess an appropriate valid California motor vehicle operator's license.

Wastewater Operator II: Possession of a current State of California Grade II Wastewater Treatment Certificate is required and employees in this classification will be encouraged to obtain a Grade III certificate.

Wastewater Operator I: Ability to be certified as an Operator in Training (OIT) upon hire and possession of a Grade I Certificate as a Wastewater Plant Operator from the California State Water Quality Control Board within one year of employment.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Incumbents in this classification may be required to work on a shift schedule, including evenings (swing shift), nights (graveyard shift), weekends and/or holidays, and outdoors in a variety of extreme weather conditions. Observation of pump and motor operation and other routine monitoring of equipment requires climbing of steps and stairs, repeated bending and stooping, and observation of dials and digital displays. Regular daily sampling involves carrying full sample bottles weighing up to 42 pounds. Occasionally, in response to emergency situations, operators will carry portable pumps and hoses weighing more than 50 pounds for long distances and across rough terrain. Personal safety and chemical spill response procedures require that operators be able to hear sirens, gas detector alarms, and other auditory devices. Daily record-keeping entails writing concise and proper entries into a logbook.

Response to an emergency chemical spill requires the use of a self-contained breathing apparatus. While operating the sludge dewatering facility, an incumbent must operate a tractor-trailer rig on the plant premises. Operators may climb ladders to inspect equipment on roof-tops or to operate overhead valves. Operating computer controls of plant equipment requires an operator to make fine adjustments to dial, button, and stick controllers.

Operators use mowers, tractors, shovels and other hand tools while performing a broad range of maintenance duties such as fence mending and weed control.