

WESTSIDE WATER AUTHORITY

Job Description: Water Operator

Job Summary

Under general supervision, operates the Authority's systems of pumps, reservoirs, canals and laterals to ensure the delivery of water as ordered by Districts' Water Users. Responds to SCADA system alarms on 24-hour basis and takes appropriate actions in response thereto.

Essential Functions

- Turns on/off pumps at District pumping stations to ensure acceptable canal flows to sustain current and near-term future water orders.
- Sets canal control structures to maintain desired water levels and flows to sustain water deliveries.
- Collects and analyses water orders as disseminated by O&M Superintendent or Dispatcher to determine required changes in pump and canal control structure settings.
- Opens/closes canal gates and lateral valves to meet water orders.
- Reads meters and logs data for daily water use.
- Compares actual flows with ordered flows and interfaces with Water Users as to necessary modifications.
- Operates computer-controlled SCADA system to turn pumps on/off and monitor water delivery system status.
- Responds to SCADA alarms of system malfunction during on and off-duty hours.
- Effectuates emergency system shut-down during on or off-duty hours based on notification by SCADA alarms or by Water Users of on-farm irrigation system problems.
- Conducts regular debris removal from canals and maintenance and repairs of canal gate structures, flow meters, and travelling screens.
- Assists in start-up, shut-down, and routine maintenance of pumps/motors at District pumping stations.
- Carries out construction, maintenance, and repair of other system facilities as prescribed by O&M Superintendent.
- Assists in maintenance and repairs to District vehicles and equipment as necessary.
- Reports any delivery system or equipment issues to O&M Superintendent.
- Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with co-workers, District Landowners, outside agencies, and the public

Other Duties

- Performs special projects as delegated by the O&M Superintendent.
- Keeps O&M Superintendent informed of problems or issues related to the delivery of water.
- Performs related duties as assigned.

Job Standards/Specifications

Knowledge of:

- Basic hydraulics and water flow.
- Basic arithmetic.
- Mechanical principles.
- Various types of water gates, diversions, and turnouts.
- Methods used in balancing water flow.
- Tools and equipment used in repairing canal gates, valves, meters, screens and other delivery system equipment.
- Proper work safety standards.

Ability to:

- Respond and resolve complaints from Water Users.
- Ensure that water is delivered in a timely manner.
- Make accurate arithmetical calculations.
- Deal tactfully and courteously with Water Users and the public.
- Follow oral and written directions.
- Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with co-workers, outside agencies, and the public.

Typical Physical Activities

- Operate District vehicles and equipment.
- Must be able to carry, push, pull, reach, and lift equipment and parts weighing up to 50 pounds.
- Stoops, kneels, crouches, crawls, and climbs during field operations, maintenance and repair work.
- Works in an environment with exposure to dust, dirt, cold swift flowing water, and significant temperature changes between cold and heat.
- Communicates effectively with District staff and landowner representatives.
- Regularly uses a telephone for communication.
- Uses office equipment such as computer terminals, copiers, and FAX machines.
- Uses SCADA and Latis system for daily operations.
- Stands and walks for extended time periods.
- Hearing and vision within normal ranges with or without correction.

Environmental Factors

1. Exposure to the sun: 50% to 100% work time spent outside a building and exposed to the sun.
2. Work above floor level: Some work done on ladders or other surfaces from 4 to 12 feet above the ground.
3. High and low temp: Considerable work time in hard manual labor in temperatures between 30-110 degrees.
4. Humidity: Work in areas with unusually high humidity.

5. Wetness: More than 10% of the work time getting part or all of the body and/or clothing wet.
6. Noise: Occasionally there are unusually loud sounds.
7. Slippery surfaces: Occasional work on unusually slippery surfaces.
8. Oil: Some parts of the body in contact with oil or grease occasionally.
9. Dust: Works in or around areas with minor amounts of dust.
10. Irregular or extended work hours: Required to change working hours or work overtime.

Desirable Qualifications

Any combination of education and experience that would likely provide the necessary knowledge and abilities is qualifying.

A typical way to obtain the knowledge and abilities would be:

Education: Equivalent to graduation from high school.

Experience: Five years of water district or farming experience, or related activity, where canal and pipeline irrigation methods were used.

License Certificate Registration Requirement:

Driver's License: Possession of a valid California Class C Driver License may be required at the time of appointment. Failure to obtain or maintain such required license(s) may be cause for disciplinary action. Individuals who do not meet this requirement due to a physical disability will be considered for accommodation on a case-by-case basis.

Possession and proof of a driving record free of multiple or serious traffic violations or accidents for two (2) consecutive years.
