

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR TRAINEE

Definition:

Under direct supervision, to assist in the operation of a wastewater treatment plant and work as a member of the sewer maintenance crew.

Distinguishing Characteristics

In the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator flexible series, the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Trainee is distinguished from the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator I by the level of responsibility, complexity of duties assigned, and wastewater treatment plant operation certification required. Plant operation duties performed by the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Trainee must be under the immediate supervision of a state-certified Grade II, or higher, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator. Promotion is considered on a merit basis subject to recommendation by the department head and approval of the Director of Personnel.

Essential Functions:

- Assists Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator in evaluating treatment process operations; reports discrepancies and assists in adjusting wastewater treatment plant equipment.
- Reads meters, gauges, records results, and performs calculations.
- Climbs ladders either stand alone or affixed to side of walls up to 30 feet; performs heavy work; occasionally lifts and carries 50 pounds, occasionally lifts 100 pounds; and occasionally removes and replaces street manhole covers weighing up to 205 pounds with the assistance of a pry bar.
- Assists in performing repairs and maintenance on wastewater treatment plant and sewer maintenance equipment, and receives training on preparing operations records.
- Cleans treatment plant structures and assists in making major repairs.
- Works as a member of the Confined Space Entry crew, in non-permitted required spaces.
- Performs facility maintenance.
- Performs facility safety practices; attends safety trainings and meetings.
- Assists in collecting sewage samples.
- Records data on computers; manipulates related software, and uses electronic equipment.
- Operates tractors, forklifts, and utility carts as necessary.
- Performs minor laboratory analyses required by regulatory agencies.
- Responds to emergency call-outs.
- Works as a member of the sewer maintenance crew.
- Performs other job-related duties as assigned.

Employment Standards:

High School Diploma, G.E.D. or equivalent.

Licenses Required:

Must acquire and maintain a State certification as a Grade I Wastewater Plant Operator, or higher, within two (2) years of appointment or be terminated.

Must possess and maintain a valid California Class "C" driver's license.

Some Positions May Require:

Possession of a valid California Class "B" driver's license.

Attainment of California Water Environment Association certification in appropriate sewer maintenance, mechanical or electrical categories.

Additional Requirements:

As a condition of employment, must reside within 45 minutes normal driving time of the Kern Sanitation Authority's wastewater treatment plant located at 4101 Kimber Avenue, Bakersfield, California.

Knowledge of: basic mathematics; reading meters and gauges; facility safety practices; the use of hand tools and small power tools; facility repairs and maintenance; plumbing methods, equipment and materials; using computers and related software.

Ability to: maintain records; follow oral and written directions; apply mechanical aptitude; perform the physical requirements of lifting and maneuvering heavy objects; climb ladders; read and understand equipment maintenance manuals and low-level technical manuals; make basic mathematic calculations; perform basic laboratory analyses; operate office equipment, including computers and related software; work cooperatively as part of a team.

All Kern County employees are designated "Disaster Service Workers" through state and local laws (CA Government Code Sec. 3100-3109 and Ordinance Code Title 2-Administration, Ch. 2.66 Emergency Services.) As Disaster Service Workers, all County employees are expected to remain at work, or to report for work as soon as practicable following a significant emergency or disaster.