


JOB DESCRIPTION	
City of Patterson  Human Resources	WASTEWATER OPERATOR III

JOB SUMMARY

*Class specifications are intended to present a descriptive list of the range of duties performed by employees in the class. Specifications are **not** intended to reflect all duties performed within the job.*

Under limited supervision from the Chief Plant Operator, the Wastewater Operator III performs the most technical and complex work related to the operation and maintenance of all equipment in a wastewater treatment plant on an assigned shift; operates the wastewater treatment facilities to control flow and processing of wastewater, sludge and effluent; inputs plant operation data to a computer system and plots operational trends; collects samples and performs routine laboratory tests and analysis; maintains a variety of records, reports and logs; exercises functional and technical supervision over less-experienced operators in a lead capacity; may serve as Chief Wastewater Operator; and performs related work as required.

The Wastewater Operator III is the advanced-journey/lead classification in the Wastewater Operator series. This position performs the most technical and complex work related to the operation, monitoring, adjustment, maintenance and repair of the City’s wastewater treatment facility, systems and equipment; provides functional and technical supervision and training to less-experienced Wastewater Operators in a lead capacity; and may serve as Chief Wastewater Operator as needed.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Receives limited supervision from the Chief Plant Operator and oversight from the Wastewater Manager.

Exercises functional and technical supervision over plant personnel in a lead capacity.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES

Typical essential duties may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Operates wastewater treatment facilities to control flow and processing of wastewater, sludge and effluent; monitors gauges, meters and control panels, observes variation in operation conditions, interprets meter and gauge readings and test results to determine processing requirements.

Operates valves and gates; starts, stops and primes pumps, engines and electric motors to control and adjust flow and treatment processes; and operates and maintains boilers.

Monitors facility equipment and systems including valves, pumps, motors, tanks and gauges; adjusts equipment as necessary; performs skilled maintenance and minor repairs as appropriate; and refers major repair requirements to appropriate personnel.

Records and monitors daily flow to the plant; reads and adjusts pressures and flows for seal water; and raises and

lowers influent gates.

Operates centrifuge to remove solids from waste water; maintains a proper balance of solids by “wasting.”

Collects samples at appropriate sampling points in system; performs daily routine laboratory tests and analyses to monitor plant operating efficiency; runs nitrogen tests twice per week; reports results of analyses and advises Chief Wastewater Operator when changes and/or corrections are indicated.

Assists in the supervision and training of less experienced operators as assigned.

Performs a variety of preventive maintenance tasks; cleans and monitors the operations of automatic samplers; checks and maintains proper oil levels in equipment; reads and adjusts pressures and flows for seal water; changes charts; and bleeds off compressed air reservoirs.

Checks and maintains proper status of chlorination/de-chlorination equipment; and fills oil reservoirs to maintain proper levels.

Checks flow patterns of water and sludge; ensures proper operation of stand-by-generators; measures sludge depths and trouble shoots the sludge pumping system; and checks sludge temperature before and after circulation through heat exchangers.

Tests proper operations of residual analyzers and chlorination/de-chlorination levels; checks gas traps and drains accumulated liquids.

Monitors and services manhole Telog units, which record sewer water levels in the City’s collection system.

Maintains a variety of records and reports related to wastewater system operations; effectively operates computers for process control; monitors and adjusts SCADA systems; and maintains operational logbook.

Safely and efficiently operates treatment plant vehicles and stationary machinery as required.

Performs related duties as required and/or assigned.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of: Principles and practices related to the safe and efficient operation of a wastewater treatment plant and the operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment facilities and systems; principles and methods of preventive maintenance programs; wastewater treatment plant instrumentation; wastewater sampling and testing techniques; practices, tools, equipment and materials used in wastewater treatment system operation, maintenance and repair work; effective training and supervisory practices; laws, rules, regulations and environmental requirements applicable to the operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment facilities and systems; effective operation of a personal computer and applicable software applications; standard record keeping and reporting procedures; characteristics of hazardous gases associated with treatment of sewage; effective customer service techniques.

Ability to: Provide training and oversight for less experienced operators; perform a wide scope of assignments, including the more complex work involved in the operation, maintenance, adjustment and repair of the City’s wastewater treatment system; inspect wastewater treatment facilities and systems for proper and safe operating conditions; collect samples and perform basic laboratory tests on all weekend compliance and holiday laboratory assignments; skillfully use a variety of hand and power tools required in the maintenance, testing, monitoring, adjustment and repair of wastewater treatment facilities and systems; read and interpret meters and gauges correctly and respond quickly and competently; access and interpret data from SCADA computer system and related software applications; prepare and maintain accurate records and reports; communicate clearly and

concisely, both orally and in writing; interact tactfully and courteously with the public and establish and maintain effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Must be 18 years of age or older.

Must successfully pass a pre-employment medical examination, including a drug screen, fingerprint, background check and reference check.

Must be able to provide proof of U.S. citizenship or legal right to work in the United States.

EXPERIENCE and CERTIFICATIONS

Any combination of education, training and experience that would likely provide the required knowledge, skills, and abilities: Normally this would include:

Education: Must have a High School Diploma or GED equivalent supplemented by specialized training in wastewater treatment processes.

Experience: Three (3) years of experience in the operation, monitoring, testing, maintenance and repair of wastewater treatment facilities and systems at a level comparable to a Wastewater Plant Operator II with the City of Patterson.

License or Certificate: Possession of a valid California Class C driver's license is required at the time of appointment and must be maintained as a condition of employment.

Possession of, or the ability to obtain and maintain a valid California Class B driver's license within one (1) year of appointment.

Possession of a Grade III Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Certificate issued by the State Water Resources Control Board is required.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Physical Requirements: On a daily basis, the essential duties of the job require the ability to walk, bend, stoop, crouch, climb ladders up to 40 feet, and stand for extended periods of time; to use hand strength and finger dexterity to operate hand and power tools and equipment and to use a computer; to use hands and arms to reach; to see well enough to read, write and make observations; to hear well enough to converse on the radio, telephone and in person; to use hands and feet to operate assigned vehicles and heavy equipment; to use body strength to perform heavy manual labor for extended periods and to lift, carry, push and pull equipment and parts that occasionally weigh up to 150 pounds; and to tolerate extreme fluctuations in temperature while performing essential functions of the job.

Environmental Conditions: Essential duties of the job are performed in both inside in an office environment and outside under varying weather conditions with daily exposure to continuous noise, dust, allergens, chemicals, solvents, fumes, smoke, gases, grease, oil and electrical energy; essential duties require working with hands in water, on uneven and slippery surfaces, around moving vehicles and vibrating equipment and on equipment with moving parts, on ladders and/or scaffolding; and occasionally in confined spaces.

This classification is assigned to the miscellaneous bargaining unit for labor relations purposes and are subject to overtime, standby and callback assignments.

FLSA Status: Non-Exempt
Revised: August 2022