



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

SYSTEM OPERATOR

Group-Section: Water System Operations/Operations and Planning	FLSA Status: Non-Exempt Bargaining Unit: AFSCME	Salary Grade: 45 Job Code #: TA16
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JOB SUMMARY

This is the journey level performing System Operator job duties.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Positions at the journey level are fully competent and assist the Shift Operator in the operation of the conveyance and distribution system. This position under the functional direction of the Senior System Operator and is responsible for the efficient operation of the water system while maximizing hydroelectric production. This position performs all functions of the Assistant System Operators, while performing duties of System Operator. The work product or service may affect activities or the operation of other organizations.

OVERSIGHT

Supervision Received: The supervisor provides continuing or individual assignments by indicating generally what is to be done, limitations, quality and quantity expected, deadlines, and priority of assignments. The supervisor provides additional, specific instructions for new, difficult, or unusual assignments including suggested work methods or advice on source material available. The employee uses initiative in carrying out recurring assignments independently without specific instruction, but refers deviations, problems, and unfamiliar situations not covered by instructions to the supervisor for decision or help. The supervisor assures that finished work and methods used are technically accurate and in compliance with instructions or established procedures. Review of the work increases with more difficult assignments if the employee has not previously performed similar assignments.

Supervision Given: May act as a lead. May coordinate and review work assignments of employees performing the same general work as the lead on a day-to-day basis. Responsibilities may involve solving problems and providing instructions on work procedures.

JOB DUTIES

1. May serve as the Shift Operator in direct charge of the operation of the water conveyance and distribution system for a specified period of the day.
2. Under functional direction of the Senior System Operator is responsible for the efficient operation of the water system while maximizing hydroelectric production.
3. Uses short and long term operational parameters, plans, and strategies to ensure proper water flows, storage, blends, and hydraulic grades are maintained for optimum system operations and power production. Operates and monitors Metropolitan's water conveyance and distribution system using a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System to ensure deliveries to member agencies. Dispatches appropriate personnel for routine and emergency operations.
4. Directs onsite inspections to troubleshoot and operate the water conveyance and distribution system. Notifies Shift Operator and appropriate personnel of operational problems and Supervisory Controls and Data Acquisition generated alarms.

5. Prepares and confirms water schedules and ensures deliveries to and from agencies and other entities.
6. Assists with real-time scheduling and performs operation of Metropolitan's hydroelectric power plants to optimize power production and meet generation schedules.
7. Responds to system emergencies in compliance with the Metropolitan's Emergency Response Plan.
8. May prepare and review detailed operational procedures.
9. Creates, oversees, and maintains records, reports, and logs associated with a water conveyance and distribution system.
10. Performs other related System Operator job duties as required.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Education and Experience:

High school diploma or general education development test (GED) and two years experience as a Metropolitan Assistant System Operator, three years experience as a Water Treatment Plant Operator III, or at journey level in a Metropolitan Conveyance and Distribution system.

Required Knowledge of: Metropolitan's Emergency Response Plan; water conveyance and distribution systems; water system hydraulic principles; regulations related to water treatment and distribution; principles of power production; Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system; System Operating Orders Manual; water system mathematics; safe work practices; and current office technology and equipment.

Required Skills and Abilities to: Operate a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system; analyze operational conditions and take appropriate actions; communicate both orally and in writing; multi-task; prioritize; work independently and as part of a team; work in a high volume and fast paced environment; exercise independent judgment and discretion; and operate current office equipment including computers and supporting applications.

CERTIFICATIONS, LICENSES, AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Employees in this position will be required to obtain and maintain the following certifications, licensing, and registrations:

Certificates:

- A State of California D3 Water Distribution Operator Certification (Serve as Shift Operator – D3) or
- A State of California T3 Water Treatment Operator Certification

Licenses:

- Valid California Class C Driver License that allows you to drive in the course of your employment

Registrations:

- None

PHYSICAL DEMANDS, WORK ENVIRONMENT AND VISION REQUIREMENTS

The physical demands and work environment characteristics described here are representative of those that must be met or may be encountered by an employee to successfully perform the job duties of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the job duties.

Expectations of Hours of Service, Emergency and Stand-by Service: Employees in this position may be required to work rotating shifts and/or stand-by service to address operational needs and emergencies as required. May be required to work extended periods away from the normal reporting location.

Physical Demands: The work at times is sedentary. Typically, the employee may sit comfortably to do the work. However, the work may require some physical exertion such as periods of standing; walking; recurring bending, crouching, stooping, stretching, reaching, or similar activities. The work may require specific, but common, physical characteristics and abilities such as above-average agility and dexterity.

Work Environment: The work environment may require some field operations for training and observation purposes, and may involve exposure to potentially dangerous situations or unusual environmental stress that require a range of safety and other precautions, e.g., irritant chemicals, electrically energized equipment including high voltage systems, or similar situations where conditions cannot be controlled.

Vision Requirements: Color vision (ability to identify and distinguish colors)