



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

BIOLOGIST

Group-Section: Water System Operations Group	FLSA Status: Non-Exempt Bargaining Unit: AFSCME	Salary Grade: 48 Job #: YA09
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JOB SUMMARY

This is the journey level position performing Biologist job duties.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Positions at this level are fully competent and use judgment in interpreting and adapting guidelines such as policies, regulations, precedents, and work directions for application to specific cases or problems. The decision regarding what needs to be done depends upon the analysis of the subject, phase, or issues involved in each assignment, and the chosen course of action may have to be selected from many alternatives. The work involves treating a variety of conventional problems, questions, or situations in conformance with established criteria.

OVERSIGHT

Supervision Received: The supervisor makes assignments by defining objectives, priorities, and deadlines; and assists employee with unusual situations that do not have clear precedents. The employee plans and carries out the successive steps and handles problems and deviations in the work assignment in accordance with instructions, policies, previous training, or accepted practices in the occupation. Completed work is usually evaluated for technical soundness, appropriateness, and conformity to policy and requirements. The methods used in arriving at the end results are not usually reviewed in detail.

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. Identifies and evaluates the effects of biological processes on water quality in source water aqueducts and reservoirs. Develops management strategies to address water quality issues, and makes recommendations for implementation.
2. Identifies and studies problematic aquatic organisms to aid in the development of management and treatment strategies.
3. Investigates and develops new or improved field and laboratory methods and procedures for biological activities on water quality.
4. Collects, analyzes, and interprets data related to water quality issues. Prepares technical reports and provides professional recommendations for management and external agencies.
5. Performs biological and chemical tests, evaluates data, validates results, and may provide recommendations.

6. Performs a variety of sample collection activities and techniques in source water aqueducts and reservoirs. May perform SCUBA diving for monitoring water quality issues in lakes and reservoirs.
7. Provides technical support and training on field and laboratory procedures, instrumentation, and quality control protocols.
8. Develops, reviews, and implements quality assurance and quality control practices and policies.
9. Operates, maintains, troubleshoots, and writes technical specifications for laboratory and/or field equipment and instrumentation.
10. May perform and oversee experimental design, project planning, budgeting, and presenting data for applied research projects and monitoring programs.
11. Participates at professional meetings, seminars, and workshops, including writing scientific papers, making presentations and conducting training.
12. May participate on a project team.
13. Performs other related Biologist job duties as required.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Education and Experience: Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in a related field and four years relevant experience; or a Master's degree from an accredited college or university in a related field and two years relevant experience.

Required Knowledge of: Biological and laboratory methods and principles; principles of statistics; laboratory information management systems; laboratory techniques and instrumentation; standard laboratory quality assurance and control requirements; laboratory and field safety protocols; water sampling techniques; aquatic organisms; and current office technology and equipment.

Required Skills and Abilities to: Analyze, interpret, and manage data; operate and maintain field and laboratory instruments and equipment; conduct sampling and monitoring; public speak; organize; handle boats and trailers; adapt; apply scientific knowledge to resolve technical problems; use culturing, staining, microscopy, and molecular techniques; project management; use independent judgment and exercise discretion; problem solve; prioritize and multi-task; communicate clearly and concisely, both verbally and in writing; establish and maintain effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work; work independently and in a team environment; and operate current office equipment including computers and supporting applications.

CERTIFICATIONS, LICENSES, AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

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

Certificates

- Rescue Diver Certification
- Oxygen Provider Certification
- CPR/First Aid/AED

Licenses

- Valid California Class C Driver License that allows you to drive in the course of your employment
- May be required to be a licensed/certified SCUBA Diver

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.

Physical Demands: The work requires some physical exertion such as long periods of standing; walking over rough, uneven, or rocky surfaces; recurring bending, crouching, stooping, stretching, reaching, or similar activities; recurring lifting of moderately heavy items such as personal computers and record boxes. The work may require specific, but common, physical characteristics and abilities such as above-average agility and dexterity.

Work Environment: The work involves moderate risks or discomforts that require special safety precautions, e.g., working around moving parts, carts, or machines, or irritant chemicals; etc. Employees may be required to use protective clothing or gear such as masks, gowns, coats, boots, goggles, gloves, or shields.

Vision Requirements: No special vision requirements.