



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

ASSOCIATE BIOLOGIST

Group-Section: Water System Operations Group	FLSA Status: Non-Exempt Bargaining Unit: AFSCME	Salary Grade: 43 Job #: YA08
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JOB SUMMARY

This is the intermediate level position performing Associate Biologist job duties.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Positions at this level are provided established procedures for doing the work and a number of specific guidelines are available. The number and similarity of guidelines and work situations requires the employee to use judgment in locating and selecting the most appropriate guidelines, references, and procedures for application, and in making minor deviations to adapt the guidelines in specific cases. At this level, the employee may also determine which of several established alternatives to use. Situations to which the existing guidelines cannot be applied or significant proposed deviations from the guidelines are referred. The work consists of duties that involve related steps, processes, or methods. The decision regarding what needs to be done involves various choices requiring the employee to recognize the existence of and differences among a few easily recognizable situations. Actions to be taken or responses to be made differ in such things as the source of information, the kind of transactions or entries, or other differences of a factual nature. The work involves the execution of specific rules, regulations, or procedures and typically comprises a complete segment of an assignment or project of broader scope.

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: None

JOB DUTIES

1. Assists with identifying and evaluating the effects of biological processes on water quality in source water aqueducts and reservoirs. Participates in the development of management strategies to address water quality issues.
2. Identifies and studies problematic aquatic organisms to aid in the development of management and treatment strategies.
3. Assists with the investigation and development of 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.
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. Assists with providing technical support and training on field and laboratory procedures, instrumentation, and quality control protocols.
8. Assists with developing, reviewing, and implementing quality assurance and quality control practices and policies.
9. Operates, maintains, troubleshoots, and assists with writing technical specifications for laboratory and field equipment and instrumentation.
10. May assist with experimental design, project planning, and presenting data for applied research projects and monitoring programs.
11. May participate and make presentations at professional meetings, seminars, and workshops.
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 two years of 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; organize; handle boats and trailers; adapt; apply scientific knowledge to resolve technical problems; use culturing, staining, microscopy, and molecular techniques; 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.