CITY OF SANTA CRUZ
SENIOR WATER DISTRIBUTION OPERATOR

Reports to	Water Distribution Crew Leader III
Supervises	Lead direction to Water Distribution Operators
Bargaining Unit	Service

BASIC FUNCTION

Under general supervision, the Senior Water Distribution Operator performs a variety of skilled and semi-skilled assignments, in the construction, maintenance, and repair of City water distribution systems, streets and sidewalks, which require the application of advanced skill or specialized knowledge of techniques, tools, and specialized equipment. This classification works independently or as a member of a crew, and acts as a crew leader, as assigned and performs on-call duty assignment and call-back work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

The Senior Water Distribution Operator is the lead worker and advanced journey service level classification of the Water Distribution Operator series, requiring D3 certification from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and a class A California Driver's License with tanker endorsement. This classification is distinguished from the next lower classification of Water Distribution Operator II in that the latter classification is the intermediate training and first journey level position within the Operator series requiring a D2 certification. This classification is distinguished from the next higher classifications of Water Distribution Crew Leader III/IV, in that the latter are the supervisory classifications responsible for supervising and coordinating the work of field crews.

TYPICAL DUTIES *(May include, but are not limited to, those duties listed below.)*

- Performs all duties associated with the classifications of the Water Distribution Operator series, including installing, connecting, relocating, and replacing new water mains, service lines, valves, pumps, meter boxes and fire hydrants; cutting and fitting pipes and making taps; safely setting placement of traffic control devices; digging, safely widening and backfilling trenches and other excavations; and, performing street and sidewalk repairs.
- May act as the working leader of a small crew, as assigned; may oversee and coordinate the work of a crew, including ensuring safety at the work site; may assist in or coordinate personnel training, as assigned; and, may provide input into the performance evaluations of workers.
- Regularly operates equipment such as backhoes, wheel and track front-end loaders, and large trucks; performs required daily field maintenance on heavy equipment and related vehicles.
- Loads, unloads, and operates pick-ups, trucks, and truck-trailer combinations to transport maintenance supplies, materials, and equipment.

- Performs water quality field tests and collects water quality samples.
- Maintains daily logs and records of work performed and materials used; completes work orders and routine reports as required; utilizes and maintains related computer programs and database.
- Responsible for the safe operation of equipment and tools used.
- Performs the more complex maintenance and repair of tools and equipment.
- Tactfully responds to questions and comments from the public.
- Orders supplies and materials as assigned.
- May, under direction, estimate materials and determine tools, equipment, and labor needed for jobs assigned.
- May: flow test hydrants; locate and mark existing water mains, meters, valves and other facilities for City crews and independent contractors using a sonic and/or magnetic pipe locator; and, perform various water quality field tests.
- May be assigned to perform water related infrastructure locates with electronic locating equipment and complete related work orders.
- May be assigned to conduct leak surveys by operating electronic leak detection equipment and complete logs, orders, and records.
- May perform arc and gas welding in the cutting, repair, or fabrication of equipment, tools, parts, and fixtures.
- May, in the absence of a supervisor, contact City Departments or other agencies when shared jurisdiction over a repair is apparent.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND WORKING CONDITIONS

Position requires sitting, standing, walking on level, uneven and slippery surfaces, reaching, twisting, turning, kneeling, bending, stooping, squatting, crouching, grasping and making repetitive hand movements in the performance of daily duties. The position also requires both near and far vision when operating assigned equipment. Acute hearing is required both in the office and the field. The ability to lift, carry and push tools, equipment and supplies weighing up to 75 pounds is also required. Additionally, the incumbent in this outdoor position works in all weather conditions, including wet, heat, and cold. The incumbent may be exposed to fumes, dust chemicals, and air contaminants. The nature of the work may also require the incumbent to climb ladders, use power and noise producing tools and equipment, drive motorized vehicles and work in heavy vehicle traffic conditions.

Some of these requirements may be accommodated for otherwise qualified individuals requiring and requesting such accommodations.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge:

- Techniques, equipment, and materials used in the installation, maintenance, and repair of water mains, meters, valves, pumps, motors, hydrants, services, and related facilities.

- Current principles, practices, and regulations related to water distribution systems including standard water quality tests.
- Water distribution operation, including piping, sources of supply, water quality, disinfection, water-related electricity, and the operational principles of pumps and motors.
- Water distribution mathematics, including water terms and definitions, water measurements, water pressure, formulas, and units and conversion factors, and basic mathematical principles, including fractions, decimals, proportions, measurements and simple algebraic formulas.
- Proper use and care of common hand tools.
- Basic mechanical and hydraulic principles.
- Techniques, equipment, and materials used in the maintenance and repair of streets and sidewalks.
- Safety principles related to traffic control, trenching, and shoring, confined spaces entry, and the safety procedures for operating equipment and power tools.
- Basic principles and practices of supervision and training.

Abilities:

- Safely and effectively operate construction equipment such as backhoes, wheel and track front-end loaders, trucks, truck-trailer combinations, and forklifts.
- Assist in the coordination of and oversee the work of a small crew; assist in the training and evaluation of crewmembers.
- Safely perform heavy manual labor (which involves frequent bending, pulling, pushing, lifting, and carrying of up to approximately 75 pounds).
- Safely operate power tools and equipment related to the construction maintenance trades; perform maintenance and repairs on tools and equipment.
- Safely handle hazardous materials such as sodium hypochlorite and compressed and flammable gas.
- Follow oral and written instructions.
- Read, interpret, and record data.
- Prepare complete, accurate, and comprehensible written reports
- Learn to use a computer for word processing and database maintenance.
- Interpret and apply the principles, practices, techniques, and regulations pertaining to water distribution operations.
- Read and interpret basic sketches, drawings, specifications, technical manuals, and regulations.
- Perform mathematical calculations.
- Practice safety principles and work in a safe manner.
- Recognize unusual or dangerous operating conditions and make sound judgments within established guidelines.
- Work effectively independently and as a member of a crew.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships and act in a courteous and diplomatic manner with those contacted in the course of work.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Must reside within a 30 minute response time by the end of probationary period.
- Successful completion of training as a forklift operator and training in trenching and shoring techniques within one year of appointment.
- Willingness to perform on-call duty assignment and call-back work as required.
- Successful completion of training as a forklift operator within one year of appointment.
- Willingness to wear a uniform.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

Any combination of education and experience that provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities may be qualifying. A typical way to obtain the required qualifications is to possess the equivalent of the following:

- High school degree or G.E.D.
- Three years of experience related to the operation, maintenance, and repair of water distribution systems.

Substitutions for one year of the above experience:

A.A. or certificate in water or wastewater technology or distribution that includes at least 15 units of physical, chemical, or biological science.

Or

B.A., B.S. or Masters Degree in biology, chemical engineering, chemistry, civil engineering, environmental engineering, microbiology, public health, or sanitary engineering.

Or

One year as a certified operator working with lead responsibility for water quality or quantity related projects or research (such as wastewater treatment).

LICENSES/CERTIFICATES

- Possession and continued maintenance of a valid California unrestricted class A driver's license with tanker endorsement and a safe driving record.[1]
- Possession and continued maintenance of a Grade 3 Distribution Operator certificate issued by the California Department of Public Health.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

- Certification in First Aid and C.P.R.

Classification No.: 243

[1] The salary for this classification includes compensation for the CA class A driver's license with tanker endorsement; therefore, no separate, additional pay applies.

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Career Ladder

Deputy Director/Operations Manager
Superintendent of Distribution
Water Distribution Supervisor V-Chief Distribution Officer
Water Distribution Supervisor IV
Water Distribution Crew Leader IV
Water Distribution Crew Leader III
Senior Water Distribution Operator
Water Distribution Operator III
Water Distribution Operator II
Water Distribution Operator I-Operator-in-Training