

JOB DESCRIPTION
Water Quality Technician
Code Number: 30006

GENERAL PURPOSE

Under general supervision, performs a wide variety of duties related to the collection and field analysis of water and wastewater; assists in the operation of the analytical testing laboratory; completes basic laboratory tests; and performs related duties as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Water Quality Technician is a journey level class responsible for independently providing support to the Laboratory Division by collecting water samples and running routine field and laboratory analyses.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The duties listed below are intended only as illustrations of the various types of work that may be performed. The omission of specific statements of duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related or a logical assignment to the class.

Collects raw and potable water samples throughout the District, including but not limited to, bacteriological, organic, and radiological samples; performs routine field analyses on potable and non-potable water samples using a wide range of laboratory equipment to test for chlorine residuals, turbidity, color, dissolved oxygen, pH, and other analyses as directed.

Performs routine calibrations and analyses using field meters and field equipment; reviews and enters field data into the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS); notifies operations staff of unusual field results; works with the public in matters concerning water quality; recognizes customer complaints and collects samples in a professional and tactful manner in order to enhance customer relations.

Calculates and compiles test data using spreadsheet applications; summarizes QC data utilizing District software; maintains a written record of laboratory results for review by senior staff; records data in an accurate manner that conforms with department procedures; enters laboratory and QC test results into LIMS.

Participates in the operation of the District State-certified analytical laboratory by performing basic laboratory analyses, organizing and tracking supplies, calibrating and maintaining equipment, assisting with special projects and receiving samples.

Performs related duties as assigned.

DESIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

Commonly used laboratory equipment and supplies used in the analysis of water and wastewater samples; the use of standard laboratory glassware; operation and calibration of field meters and analytical equipment; federal, state, and local regulations; the District's geographic area including various street locations; safe laboratory techniques, procedures and practices.

Ability to:

Work accurately and precisely, collecting water samples, recording data and maintaining records; identify, troubleshoot, and resolve minor equipment and installation problems in both the field and the laboratory; operate a two-way radio system; work efficiently and independently from oral and written instructions with a minimum of direct supervision; establish and maintain effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work; follow and apply written and oral work instructions; communicate effectively, orally and in writing.

Training and Experience:

A typical way of obtaining the knowledge, skills and abilities outlined above is graduation from high school or G.E.D. equivalent, supplemented by college courses in biology, chemistry and mathematics; and one year of experience working in a laboratory requiring the application of laboratory skills and knowledge; or an equivalent combination of training and experience. Graduation from a recognized college with a bachelor's degree in chemistry, biology, microbiology, environmental science, or a closely related field is desirable.

Licenses; Certificates; Special Requirements:

A valid California driver's license and the ability to maintain insurability under the Water District Vehicle Insurance Policy.

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL DEMANDS

The physical and mental demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this class. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Physical Demands

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to walk; talk or hear by telephone and in person; climb or balance; smell; use hands to finger, handle, feel or operate objects, tools or controls; reach with hands or arms; and lift or move up to 25 pounds. Employees are frequently required to sit and stand for extended periods of time.

Specific vision abilities required by this job include close and distant vision, depth perception, and the ability to distinguish subtle colors and shades and adjust focus.

Mental Demands

While performing the duties of this class, employees are regularly required to use written and oral communication skills; read documents or instructions; analyze and solve problems; observe and interpret data or information; use math and mathematical reasoning; learn and apply new information or skills; perform highly detailed and precise work; and meet time-sensitive deadlines.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee is frequently exposed to while performing the essential functions of this class. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

The employee frequently works outside in a wide range of weather conditions, near moving mechanical parts, and on slippery and uneven surfaces. Employees may, at times, be required to wear appropriate personal protective equipment including respiratory protection while performing work in environments that could have the potential to contain wet or humid conditions, vapors or particulates, hazardous chemicals, and the risk of electric shock. The noise level in the work environment is frequently loud.

The employee may be required to work weekends and holidays.