



## Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator I & II

*Class specifications are intended to present a descriptive list of the range of duties performed by employees in the class. Specifications are not intended to reflect all duties performed within the job.*

### **SUMMARY DESCRIPTION**

Under supervision (Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator I) or general supervision (Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator II) of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor, performs skilled, technical plant wastewater treatment activities in the operation and maintenance of a wastewater treatment plant, including monitoring for proper and safe functioning; performs a variety of laboratory tests in the operation of a wastewater treatment plant; performs routine maintenance such as lubricating equipment and changing belts; and maintains a variety of records related to area of assignment.

### **IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS**

#### **Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator I**

This is the entry-level class in the wastewater treatment plant operator series. This class is distinguished from the Wastewater Plant Treatment Operator II by the performance of the more routine tasks and duties assigned to positions within the series including less complex operation and maintenance duties of a wastewater treatment plant, being exposed to situations requiring exercising fewer independent decisions, and working under closer supervision. Since this class is typically used as a training class, employees may have only limited or no directly related work experience. Employees are expected to perform a variety of duties and learn the full scope of duties assigned to Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators. Advancement to the “II” level is based on demonstrated proficiency in performing the assigned functions, possession of required licenses, certifications, and/or proficiencies, and is at the discretion of higher level supervisory or management staff.

#### **Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator II**

This is the full journey level class within the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator series. Employees within this class are distinguished from the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator I by the performance of the full range of duties as assigned including the performance of the more complex operation and maintenance duties of a wastewater treatment plant, operating the full range of equipment, greater independence with which the incumbent is expected to work, the increased exercise of judgment and initiative expected in the performance of duties, and providing training to less experienced Wastewater Plant Operators. Employees at this level receive only occasional instruction or assistance as new or unusual situations arise, and are fully aware of the operating procedures and policies of the work unit. Positions in this class are flexibly staffed and are normally filled by advancement from the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator I level when experience and required licenses, certifications, and/or proficiencies are obtained, or when filled from the outside, require prior experience. The Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator II is distinguished from the Senior Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator in that the latter has day-to-day supervision of an assigned shift.

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**REPRESENTATIVE DUTIES**

*The following duties are typical for this classification. Incumbents may not perform all of the listed duties and/or may be required to perform additional or different duties from those set forth below to address business needs and changing business practices.*

1. Performs assigned treatment plant rounds inspecting, monitoring and documenting plant operations by reading plant equipment gauges, dials, graphs and other instrumentation; adjusts wastewater system operating controls as necessary.
2. Operates, cleans, and maintains the sludge belt press.
3. Operates valves and controls to feed chlorine and other chemicals into the wastewater treatment system.
4. Operates, checks and maintains equipment such as pumps, valves, screens, blowers, regulators, motors, filters, meters, grit, and rag collectors; ensures equipment is in proper working condition.
5. Performs a variety of laboratory tests as required, to determine compliance with state and federal regulations and to maintain process control parameters.
6. Performs major and minor repair work on wastewater treatment equipment, lift stations, pumps, motors, engines, valves, and other associated wastewater plant equipment.
7. Inspects plant equipment and reports any failures or operating difficulties.
8. Performs routine chlorine and sulfur dioxide cylinder changes; checks for chlorine leaks.
9. Performs routine maintenance duties such as lubricating equipment and changing belts; carries out operating orders in the plant; performs minor building maintenance, grounds maintenance and cleaning duties.
10. Operates a variety of equipment and tools necessary to maintain the wastewater treatment plant system and equipment.
11. Logs and maintains records of completed work.
12. Provides twenty-four hour standby.
13. Performs related duties as required.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

*The following generally describes the knowledge and ability required to enter the job and/or be learned within a short period of time in order to successfully perform the assigned duties.*

**Knowledge of:**

1. Operations, services, and activities of a municipal wastewater treatment program. Wastewater treatment plant operations and processes.
2. Principles, practices, methods, and procedures for operation of a wastewater treatment plant.
3. Principles of activated sludge, chlorine cylinder changes, and chlorine leak response.
4. Methods and techniques of reading and interpreting gauges, recording devices, and related system monitors.
5. Operating principles of plant equipment such as pumps and motors.
6. Tools, equipment, and procedures used in the operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment plant facilities.

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7. Emergency maintenance and repair procedures related to wastewater treatment facilities.
8. Laboratory methods including sampling techniques.
9. Chemical and biological tests used in monitoring wastewater treatment plant processes.
10. Maintenance and operation of equipment commonly found in a wastewater treatment plant.
11. Principles and practices of record keeping and reporting.
12. Basic office procedures, methods, and equipment including computers and applicable software applications.
13. Occupational hazards and standard safety practices.
14. Pertinent federal, state, and local laws, codes, and regulations.

**Ability to:**

1. Operate and maintain a variety of wastewater treatment plant equipment and facilities.
2. Monitor and maintain plant processes at an optimal and cost effective level.
3. Adjust controls and treatment processes located in a wastewater treatment facility.
4. Read and interpret gauges and recording devices monitoring plant operations.
5. Operate assigned equipment and tools in a safe and effective manner.
6. Perform routine maintenance.
7. Operate office equipment including computers and supporting software applications.
8. Maintain records and files.
9. Work independently in the absence of supervision.
10. Understand and follow oral and written instructions.
11. Exercise good judgment in response to operational problems.
12. Communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing.
13. Establish and maintain effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

**Education and Experience Guidelines** - Any combination of education and experience that would likely provide the required knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the knowledge and abilities would be:

**Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator I**

**Education/Training:**

Equivalent to the completion of the twelfth grade. Specialized training in wastewater treatment plant operations and/or maintenance is desirable.

**Experience:**

One year of responsible experience relative to the operation and maintenance of a wastewater treatment facility is desirable.

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**License or Certificate:**

Possession of, or ability to obtain, an appropriate, valid driver's license.

Possession of a California Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Grade I certificate issued by the State Water Resources Control Board is to be acquired within eighteen (18) months of initial employment.

**Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator II**

**Education/Training:**

Equivalent to the completion of the twelfth grade supplemented by specialized training in wastewater treatment plant operations and/or maintenance.

**Experience:**

Two years of responsible experience relative to the operation and maintenance of a wastewater treatment facility.

**License or Certificate:**

Possession of, or ability to obtain by date of appointment, an appropriate driver's license.

Possession of a California Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Grade II certificate issued by the State Water Resource Control Board.

**PHYSICAL DEMANDS AND WORKING ENVIRONMENT**

*The conditions herein are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential job functions.*

**Environment:**

Wastewater treatment plant and field environment; exposure to noise, dust, grease, fumes, gases, potentially hazardous chemicals, electrical energy, and inclement weather conditions including wet and/or humid conditions; work around water or wastewater; work on slippery surfaces; regularly work near moving mechanical parts; and work around moderately loud noise levels; incumbents may be required to work evenings, nights, and weekends.

**Physical:**

Primary functions require sufficient physical ability and mobility to work in a wastewater treatment plant and field environment; walk, stand, and sit for prolonged periods of time; frequently stoop, bend, kneel, crouch, crawl, climb, reach, and twist; push, pull, lift, and/or carry moderate to heavy amounts of weights; operate assigned equipment and vehicles; ability to verbally communicate to exchange information.

**Vision:**

See in the normal visual range with or without correction.

**Hearing:**

Hear in the normal audio range with or without correction.

Date Established: Date  
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Johnson & Associates