



Job Description

Water Operator / Maintenance

Definition/Summary:

Under general supervision, perform all functions involved in delivering irrigation water to growers, monitor and maintain water delivery systems, operate motor vehicles, and perform construction, general maintenance, equipment operation, and other work at the discretion of the District.

Special Knowledge

- Maintenance of canal banks
- Operation of district facilities
- Equipment Operation
- Knowledge of application of various sprays
- Knowledge of loading & operating equipment
- Construction of ditches
- General construction skills – framing and forming
- General knowledge of concrete pouring and finishing
- Weed Abatement
- Communication Skills
- Meter reading capabilities
- Meter repair maintenance capabilities
- Basic computer knowledge

Tools/Equipment Used

- Backhoe, dozer, compactor, paddlewheel, mower, truck, shovels, pole pikes, pry bars, various sizes of wrenches, small power tools, weir hooks, screwdrivers, hammers, punches, handsaws, hatchets, and chainsaws.

Essential Job Functions-to be performed with or without reasonable accommodation

- Operates a variety of power tools and maintenance and construction equipment
- Operate the District's Water Information System-Remote Tracker water delivery computer software
- Operates tractors and equipment
- Reads meters and makes changes to water deliveries
- Assists with installation, testing and repairs of meters
- Assists with the repair of metered services such as gate valves, weir structures, and meter deliveries
- Sprays and mows roads throughout the District

- See attached “Daily Water Operator Duties During Irrigation Season”

Physical Demand Specific Requirements

The following is a list of activities utilized by the Department of Labor to assist in describing the physical demands of a work setting. The definition of each physical activity will be noted according to the following categories:

Never	Does not occur	
Rarely/Seldom	1% or less per day	(5 minutes or less per day)
Infrequent	2% to 5% per day	(6 to 30 minutes per day)
Occasionally	6% to 33% of the day	(.5 to 2.5 hours per day)
Frequently	34% to 66% of the day	(2.5 to 5.25 hours per day)
Continuous	67% to 100 % of the day	(5.25 to 8 hours per day)

Functional Activities:

The frequency of the following activities may vary according to the physical requirements of the specific job tasks that the employee may be required to perform at random intervals.

- 1) **Bending** – forward motion of the upper body from the waist, (Continuously)-Throughout the entire work day a Ditchtender will bend when reading a meter, working on a concrete irrigation box, installing or repairing an irrigation box, changing a tire, inspecting, greasing or maintaining equipment.
- 2) **Carrying** – transporting an object, usually holding it in the hands or arms or on the shoulder. (Frequently) – He will carry parts, tools, meters, billboard, or with assistance of another worker, may lift a bag of cement. The heaviest amount of lifting would be 50 pounds and the greatest distance would be 20 to 30 feet.
- 3) **Stair Climbing** – ascending or descending ladders, stairs, scaffolding, ramps, poles, ropes, and the like, using the feet and legs and/or hands and arms. (Frequently) – A worker will climb in and out of ditch banks, he will climb on and off equipment; on a rare occasion he will climb a ladder for roof maintenance or when painting.
- 4) **Fine Manipulation** – picking, pinching, or otherwise working with the fingers primarily, rather than with the whole hand or arm as a handling. (Frequently)- A worker will use fine manipulation/finger dexterity to tighten nuts, bolts, open valves, input water readings into Water Information System Toughbook computer or fill out paperwork.
- 5) **Squatting** – bending the body downward and forward by bending the legs and spine a the waist. (Frequently) A worker may utilize a squatting motion when working on a meter, installing, repairing, or replacing a gate valve or a meter.
- 6) **Kneeling** – bending the legs at the knees to come to rest on the knee or knees. (Frequently) A worker may kneel when working in a ditch, when working on the brakes of a piece of equipment, or when changing a tire.
- 7) **Lifting** – raising or lowering an object from one level to another. (Frequently) Throughout the entire workday a worker will lift from a few ounces to 50 pounds. Throughout his shift he will lift tools, weir boards, meters, and valves. With the aid of another worker he may lift a gate valve when removing or replacing the gate valve. He will also lift check boards in weir structures during irrigation season.

- 8) **Reaching** – (Continuously) throughout the workday a worker will reach for levers to shift gears and adjust equipment operation. He will reach when making changes to meters to regulate the amount of water delivery. He will reach when he is assisting with the installation, testing, and repair of meters. He will reach when inspecting, cleaning, or lubricating equipment.
- 9) **Pushing** – exerting force upon an object so that the object moves away from the force, including slapping, striking, kicking, and treading actions. (Constantly) Depending upon the job duties of the day a worker will push levers, push weir boards into place, push wrenches and using a pushing motion when replacing a valve. He will use a pushing motion when utilizing a shovel.

Environmental Factors:

- **Exposure to sun:** Most of the workers time is spent outside a building either operating equipment, truck, or tending ditches.
- **High temperatures:** Considerable time is spent performing manual labor in temperatures above 90 degrees.
- **Confined or cramped body conditions:** A worker may work in a confined or cramped area when repairing a gate valve or weir structure.
- **Wetness:** Working for an irrigation district 10% of work time could involve working in wet surroundings.
- **Actives of communication:** Hearing, vision, and speech, corrective to normal required for the job.

Successful Candidate:

Must possess a valid California Driver's License and provide a copy of a current California Driver's Record
Satisfactorily complete a pre-employment physical (at District expense)

Daily Water Operator Duties During Irrigation Season

- Clean off all meters so there is no debris on propeller or shaft
- Flush all gates that are taking maintenance flows before taking reading
- Make sure all pipes are properly baffled and that water level is above pipe
- Read all meters and correctly enter water information into Tough Books
- Take orders from office, growers and complete accurately
- Weed, spray deliveries and structures providing good egress
- Organize and stack all lumber in orderly manner
- Clean and maintain assigned vehicle inside and out
- Properly fuel and record usage on fuel log
- Report any leaks or unsafe issues to supervisor
- Turn in ride sheets properly filled out at end of shift