

IRRIGATION TECHNICIAN

DEFINITION

Under general supervision, perform technical specialized duties maintaining and optimizing the watering efficiency of the water irrigation systems used in the City's parks, sports fields, and landscaped areas; performs related duties as required.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Receives general supervision from assigned management or supervisory staff.

Exercises direct supervision over assigned lower level parks maintenance staff.

EXAMPLES OF ESSENTIAL DUTIES - Duties may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Enter water usage data into the central computerized irrigation maintenance management system; set up programs to connect remote sites to the system; install software updates; download water usage information from weather stations to a personal computer; upload program schedules to remote sites for tracking and scheduling water usage at City parks and landscaped areas.

Assist in the installation, repair and maintenance of City irrigation and sprinkler systems; advise park and contract personnel on the operation of specialized controllers, flow meters, master control valves, related irrigation components and operational characteristics of the computerized irrigation maintenance management system; make recommendations to the Parks Superintendent for improvements to the system.

Identify and troubleshoot problem areas with irrigation systems, including check valves, backflow devices, clocks and timers, electrical irrigation devices, and flow meters; make repairs when necessary.

Plan and lay out irrigation systems for parks, sport fields, and landscaped areas including location of sprinklers, type and number of sprinkler heads, and watering schedule to provide adequate irrigation necessary to maintain plant growth; review landscape architectural plans and provide feedback/recommendations for potable and recycled water use.

Plan and assist in rehabilitation and retrofits on turf conversion projects with water-wide irrigation systems and/or life cycle renewal projects within existing parks, facilities, landscapes and streetscapes/medians.

Perform water audits and request independent water audits of City landscaped areas; calculate evapotranspiration (ET) rates to determine if an area is being over or under watered; determine

optimum watering times and coverage; review the audit results and makes adjustments to water scheduling and irrigation programming of specific sites.

Manage the various irrigation related assets, make watering schedule adjustments to meet required water usage allotments in compliance with federal, state and local mandates for water usage savings.

Analyze City water bills for possible billing errors; assist with forecasting water usage for budget purposes. Meet with vendors to obtain new product information, discuss service contracts, and to understand changes in computerized systems operations based upon software updates; purchase components for irrigation maintenance management system.

Provide recommendation and feedback on department standards and specifications for irrigation equipment; maintain inventory records and issue parts to maintenance and contractor personnel; track purchases of supplies and materials used in the irrigation management system utilizing the enterprise asset management system.

Read and interpret diagrams, blueprints, specifications, and operating manuals to understand the mechanical and electrical systems to assist in the installation, maintenance, and repair of irrigation systems.

Install and make repairs to irrigation systems by operating hand tools such as shovels and handsaws; power tools such as drills and power saws; and equipment such as trenchers and electrical testing equipment.

Coordinate and adjust watering schedules for major facilities and special events.

Drive City truck to and from work sites to service customers and assist personnel; keep tools and equipment in good working order.

May supervise, plan, prioritize, assign, and review the work of lower level parks maintenance staff; participate in the recommendation of the appointment of personnel; provide or coordinate staff training; and work with employees to improve performance.

May represent the Department at meetings relating to water usage, water conservation, landscaping, and irrigation.

Build and maintain positive working relationships with co-workers and contractors, other City employees and the public using principles of good customer service.

Perform related duties as assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

Modern office equipment, methods, procedures, and computer hardware and software.

Techniques and principles of effective interpersonal communication.

Methods and materials used in sprinkler and irrigation system installation, maintenance and repair.

Components and operational characteristics of a computerized irrigation maintenance management system;

Rules, regulations, policies and operating procedures for the City.

Principles and practices of supervision

Methods, materials and standards used to install, test, maintain and repair commercial irrigation water meters, valves, and electronic control devices.

Operational characteristics and methods used to inspect, test and repair backflow assemblies.

Ability to:

Ability to read and understand landscape architectural/engineering drawings, residential development plans and street maps

Ability to plan, organize and direct the work of assigned staff, prepare and maintain written and verbal reports of work activities.

Use sound judgment and initiative within standards provided; understand and follow verbal and written instructions.

Communicate effectively verbally and in writing

Skill in the use of hand and power tools.

On a continuous basis, know and understand plant water needs, large and small irrigation systems including commercial irrigation practices and low-flow drip/water-wise irrigation systems; observe safety rules; intermittently, analyze problem equipment; identify safety hazards; locate equipment; interpret work orders; remember how to operate equipment; and explain jobs to others.

Intermittently, sit while studying or preparing reports; bend, squat, climb, kneel and twist when performing parks/recreation gardening and facilities maintenance duties; perform

simple and power grasping; pushing, pulling, and fine manipulation; and lift or carry weight of 50 pounds or more.

Operate park/landscaping maintenance equipment such as dump trucks, backhoes, front loader, trencher, and power tools such as mowers, edgers, and blowing; maintain hand tools and assigned equipment.

Operate and monitor centrally controlled irrigation systems, create and implement irrigation budgets based on environmental factors.

Prepare and develop cost estimates related to work orders and various projects.

Work on-call on evenings, weekends, or holidays; work in a variety of weather conditions.

Keep records and prepare reports; use a personal computer to enter and retrieve data, track work order status, and communicate electronically.

Read, interpret, and apply information from construction drawings related to construction documents.

Communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing.

Establish and maintain effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

Experience and Training

Experience:

Two years of increasingly responsible experience performing irrigation installation, maintenance and repair as the primary work function. One year of lead experience and experience utilizing a computerized irrigation maintenance management system is desirable.

Training:

Equivalent to completion of the twelfth grade; additional course work or training in landscape maintenance, irrigation or agriculture is highly desirable.

License or Certificate

Possession of a valid California driver's license by date of appointment.

An Irrigation Association Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditor designation must be obtained within six months of date of appointment.

08-08-15 Irrigation Technician