### WATER QUALITY TECHNICIAN

## **DEFINTION**

The Water Quality Technician assures that valid results are obtained from laboratory analyses so that applicable regulations are met by the City of Arcata water and wastewater systems. The Laboratory Technician works under general supervision of the Water/Wastewater Superintendent.

## **EXAMPLES OF ESSENTIAL DUTIES**

- Collect wastewater treatment plant process water/sludge samples, potable water samples, collection system wastewater samples, domestic and industrial wastewater samples, and other various samples of soil, sludge, water/wastewater, gases.
- Perform routine laboratory analyses to determine the composition and disposition of water/wastewater/sludge/gas samples.
- Prepare a variety of records and reports, including Quality Assurance/Quality Control records required for Department of Health Services Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP).
- Interpret laboratory test results and report results quickly for necessary changes in treatment operations with plant personnel.
- Maintain and clean test equipment, laboratory facilities, and sampling equipment.
- Calibrate laboratory equipment when required.
- Order supplies and minor testing equipment.
- Input data into computerized spreadsheets, report templates, and laboratory information management system (LIMS) database.
- Interact with the public during tours and off-site inspections and testing.
- Assist other departments with testing when requested.
- Perform related assignments as necessary

#### **REQUIREMENTS**

<u>Knowledge of</u>: The principles and methods used in complex chemical, bacteriological and physical analyses; basic principles of analytical, organic, and inorganic chemistry; safe laboratory practices and quality control procedures, standard methods used in the collection and analysis of water and wastewater samples; operational characteristics of modern laboratory instruments and equipment; and basic industrial pretreatment regulations.

<u>Skill in:</u> Maintaining a variety of complex technical records and reports; utilizing complex laboratory analysis equipment; developing, reading, analyzing and interpreting the results of laboratory tests of water and wastewater; conducting chemical and biological analyses; maintaining accurate records and preparing appropriate reports; operating and maintaining laboratory equipment; performing assigned work in accordance with appropriate safety practices

and regulations; working safely with a variety of hazardous and toxic laboratory and disinfection materials; maintaining effective relationships with those contacted in the course of work; and communicating clearly and concisely, orally and in writing.

# **OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

Possession of a valid California Drivers License; must posses a Grade 1 Laboratory Analyst Certification issued by the California Water Environment Association, or obtain this license within 18 months.

# DESIRABLE EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING

Applicants must have experience and training that demonstrates possession of the required knowledge and skills outlined above. A Bachelors Degree in Chemistry, Biology or related science and a minimum of two (2) years of progressive relevant experience in a laboratory setting or in the testing/operations of water and wastewater facilities.