

MERCED IRRIGATION DISTRICT
SENIOR DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OPERATOR (SDSO)

FLSA STATUS – Non-Exempt
Bargaining Unit – IBEW, Local 1245
Classification Level – Per IBEW Wage Schedule

DEFINITION

Under general supervision, perform a variety of semi-skilled and skilled duties, manual, clerical and administrative in the distribution of irrigation water to farmers and other operations personnel. Act as lead in area of responsibility and provide guidance to DSO's and ADSO's in area of responsibility.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE POSITION:

- Regulate water flows and levels throughout the distribution system by operating the District's SCADA system, locally controlled automatic gates and weirs, manually operated gates and weirs, board drops and other control devices.
- Maintain detailed water usage records in the District computer system and/or on paper forms for each irrigator and distribution facility.
- Perform varied duties in the construction, repair, cleaning and maintenance of irrigation canals, pipelines and structures.
- During the irrigation season, work a variety of scheduled shifts and work overtime as required.
- During the non-irrigation season, be assigned to a forty hour work week on various duties throughout the District.
- Operate District pumps and document operational data on paper forms and/or in the District's computer system.
- Perform operational inspection and maintenance of distribution facilities, including open channels, pipelines, pumps, gates, weirs and other distribution system appurtenances.
- Note failures in the distribution system and make oral and written reports of same to supervisor.
- Makes best effort to ensure efficient distribution of irrigation water with minimal losses.
- Provide assistance to farmers with irrigation problems.
- Respond to emergency calls during assigned shift.
- Answer and use best efforts to mitigate complaints and respond to inquiries. Assist in processing of water records, water applications, crop reports and other water related material.
- Perform a variety of maintenance and construction duties during the non-irrigation season.
- Inspects pipelines, canals and structures to insure that they are in working order and are clear of debris and provides proper notification when problems arise.
- Supervise, train and assist Distribution System Operators (DSO's), Apprentice Distribution System Operators (ADSO's), and Seasonal Apprentice Distribution System Operations (SADSO's) in the distribution of irrigation water in their respective areas.
- Use current velocity meters, flow meters, water records, and make water flow measurement and pump tests as needed.
- Relieve DSO's, ADSO's, and SADSO's who are unable to work or on their days off.
- Requisition needed supplies and materials for his/her area.
- Write reports, prepare and maintain records.
- Assess jobs and prioritize work schedules.
- Perform related work as requested or required.

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KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of:

- Methods, materials, equipment, and tools used in the delivery and conveyance of irrigation water, including current velocity meters, flow meters and water level recorders.
- The operational and mechanical principals of the District's irrigation distribution system.
- District policies and procedures.
- Recordkeeping and reporting procedures.
- Safe work practices.
- Basic methods, tools, techniques and materials used in the construction, maintenance, repair and cleaning of irrigation or public works facilities.

Ability to:

- Work without direct supervision.
- Work with various computer software, including Microsoft Suite and the District's SCADA system.
- Make accurate water flow measurements.
- Note and diagnose the causes of failure in the irrigation system.
- Keep water records and prepare reports.
- Meet and maintain good relations with the public and fellow employees.
- Maintain neat personal appearance.
- Understand and carry out oral and written directions.
- Set up and maintain record keeping systems.
- Plan and schedule work.
- Communicate clearly and concisely, orally and in writing.
- Learn the geographical location and physical operation of assigned D.S.O. areas.
- Take over and run any distribution area within their Division, including the night shift on short notice.
- Establish and maintain cooperative relationships with those in the course of work.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Possession of an appropriate valid California Driver's License.
- A Department of Motor Vehicles "Driver Record Information" print-out will be required at time of hire. Must be enrolled in District's DMV pull-notice program.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

Any combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from high school.

EXPERIENCE

- Five (5) years' experience as a Distribution System Operator.
- Supervisory experience is highly desirable.

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TYPICAL PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

The physical and mental demands of the position are described below. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions:

- Travels regularly by vehicle in inspecting District facilities and conducting field operations.
- Works in an outdoor environment.
- Stoops, kneels, crouches, crawls and climbs as required during performance of duties.
- Communicates orally with District management, co-workers and the public in face-to-face, one-on-one and group settings.
- Regularly uses a telephone and radio for communication.
- Uses office equipment such as computer terminals, copiers and FAX machines.
- Walks on uneven terrain, outdoors in all weather conditions.
- Hearing and vision within normal ranges.

Sitting:	Remains in a seated position for up to twelve (12) hours per day
Hands/Arms:	Operates vehicles and delivery gates for up to twelve (12) hours per day
Lifting:	Raises and lowers supplies and equipment up to fifty (50) pounds.
Stooping:	Bends body downward and forward by bending at the knees or waist
Talking:	Expresses ideas and shares information by means of spoken work in person and by telephone.
Hearing:	Hears well enough to receive communications in person and by telephone.
Vision:	Operates vehicles and office equipment.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:

- Exposure to the sun: 90% or less work time spent outside a building and exposed to the sun.
- Irregular or extended work hours: Per the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- Work performed in an outside environment with exposure to dust, dirt and significant temperature changes between heat and cold.

ESSENTIAL MENTAL ABILITIES:

- Exercise independent judgment.
- Self-directing and organized.
- Reason objectively.
- Assess, project and plan work activities on a daily and weekly basis.
- Document concisely, accurately and timely.