



WATER QUALITY SPECIALIST 2

Department: Planning and Public Works
Job Class #: 931400
Pay Range: Engineering/Technical 03

FLSA: Non-Exempt
Represented: Yes

Classification descriptions are intended to present a descriptive list of the range of duties performed by employees in this class and are not intended to reflect all duties performed within the job.

GENERAL FUNCTION: This is technical assistance, inspection, investigative, and compliance work related to environmental issues involving stormwater and water quality with an emphasis on stormwater monitoring and management for Pierce County Planning and Public Works

SERIES CONCEPT: The Water Quality Specialist 2 is the second level of the classification series. It is distinguished from the Water Quality Specialist 3 by having responsibility for performing routine office and field work activities requiring lesser technical knowledge.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

- Measure stream flow discharge following the USGS guidelines.
- Perform water-level measurements from surface/ground water monitoring wells.
- Perform field measurements such as water temperature, specific conductance, pH, turbidity and dissolved oxygen from both surface and ground water sources.
- Perform calibration and maintenance procedures on field sampling and monitoring equipment.
- Perform data quality assurance and control and chain of custody processing.
- Perform routine water quality sampling, prepare labels, and complete chain-of-custody reports; conduct sampling and field investigations for Surface Water Management staff, other County departments, governmental agencies and members of the public.
- Refer and direct citizens, engineers, contractors, and other agencies in matters of spill prevention, water quality protection, and stormwater management; respond to routine questions and information requests
- Conduct routine and assists with complex on-site inspections of stormwater management facilities associated with industrial, commercial, and multi-family land use; determine or verify the proper operation and maintenance of stormwater management facilities and implementation of stormwater Best Management Practices.
- Conduct field investigations, interview witnesses, research property information, review applicable codes, photograph site, take water quality samples and gather additional evidence as necessary to confirm or identify violations.
- Assist with resolving sensitive, and at times volatile, complaints through enforcement of codes and mediation between parties.
- Review maintenance agreements for new and existing developments to ensure completeness and compliance with applicable regulations.
- Provide assistance when responding to spills or illegal discharges into the municipal separate storm sewer system or to surface water, and assist with appropriate action.
- Review permit applications, engineering reports, plans and specifications, and discharge monitoring reports to ensure compliance with applicable regulations; assist with enforcement actions against violating sites; assist with follow-up inspections to ensure violations are corrected.
- Respond to citizen complaints as they pertain to illicit discharges, water quality and stormwater management concerns.
- Attend meetings, seminars, and classes in order to keep current with stormwater best management practices and new technologies.

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- Record data and information utilizing various job-related software applications and convert into a usable and understandable format.
- Configure, install, and maintain a variety of water quality/quantity equipment and instrumentation, and weather monitoring equipment.
- Conduct annual collection of Macro Benthic Invertebrates BIBI.
- Maintain record books, charts, logs, spreadsheets and chain of custody records; prepare written reports, summarize findings, and write a variety of memos and letters.
- Provide technical assistance to County departments, governmental agencies, consulting firms and members of the public; respond to citizen concerns, questions, and complaints about water quality issues.
- Sample and treat county-owned stormwater ponds for mosquito larvae.
- Respond to spills or illicit discharges into the municipal separate storm sewer system or to surface water and take appropriate corrective action.
- Order monitoring and sampling equipment and supplies needed to accomplish projects.
- Maintain regular, predictable and punctual attendance during regularly scheduled work hours at assigned worksite.
- Meet travel requirements of the position.
- Perform the physical requirements of the position; work within the established working conditions of the position.
- Work a flexible schedule, which may include evenings, weekends, holidays and overtime.

OTHER JOB FUNCTIONS:

- Perform other job functions as assigned.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED: This position work under the direction of the Water Quality Specialist 3. Work is reviewed by an administrative superior through techniques applied, proper water quality effect, and results achieved. This position is not responsible for supervision of staff.

WORK ENVIRONMENT: The work environment characteristics described herein are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of the position. The Water Quality Specialist 2 works in an office and in the field on a routine basis. Travel to various work sites and/or meeting locations may be required. Work is generally completed on a regularly scheduled basis, however, attendance at meetings or completion of work outside of normal scheduled hours may be required. Must be willing to work on-call as needed to conduct stormwater monitoring activities for compliance with NPDES requirements. Extended periods of concentration and sedentary work are required. Field inspection work is performed outdoors, around rivers, streams, lakes, water runoff sites, in flooded areas, and related environmentally sensitive areas that are subject to cold weather, rough or unstable terrain, and wet conditions. Work is subject to frequent interruptions and normal office noise.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS: The physical demands described herein are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions. Hand and finger dexterity to operate equipment used in the position, talking, seeing, and hearing. Walking, sitting, bending/stooping, pushing/pulling, reaching and lifting associated with water samples and sampling equipment weighing up to 40 pounds. Ability to travel to attend work sites and meetings away from regular work site may be required.

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KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of:

- Planning and permitting processes, particularly in the areas of environmental and stormwater management.
- Stream gauging using pygmy meter, gauging rod, and AquaCalc.
- Principles and practices of stormwater management, and collecting, documenting, recording and preserving environmental data and samples.
- Effects of development and proposed developments on watersheds.
- Federal, state, and local regulations protecting water quality and regulating stormwater.

Skill in:

- Computer software programs and instrumentation currently utilized for the work performed.

Ability to:

- Understand, interpret, and apply applicable federal and local laws, rules, regulations, and policies governing management of stormwater and the protection of water quality.
- Conduct field research, collect, and analyze biological and physical data using standard research methodology.
- Evaluate industrial discharges, assemble appropriate limitations, monitor and reporting requirements into industrial permits, and conduct activities to assure permit compliance.
- Handle pressure and interruptions due to changing priorities and workloads.
- Interpret laboratory analyses pertaining to illicit stormwater discharges.
- Maintain records, produce documents and interpret results.
- Prepare reports, permit applications, and related materials.
- Provide advice and recommend solutions to problems.
- Read a variety of maps, plans, blueprints, and charts.
- Read, understand, and interpret technical reports and data, environmental documents, and related materials.
- Analyze biological and physical data using standard quality assurance methodology.
- Understand and follow written and verbal instructions.
- Work effectively and productively with others.
- Communicate effectively verbally and in writing to audiences of various social, cultural, ethnic, educational and economic backgrounds.
- Effectively coordinate, perform and complete multiple duties and assignments concurrently and in a timely manner.
- Meet the travel requirements of the position, if any.
- Physically perform the essential job functions of the classification.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY: Two years of college or post-high school technical training and one or more years of progressively responsible related experience. Additional education or experience may substitute for the recruiting requirements. Satisfactory physical condition, as evidenced by a County-approved physical examination, may be required prior to appointment to the position.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS AND/OR QUALIFICATIONS: A valid Washington State driver's license may be required when travel is required of the position.