

**CLASS SPECIFICATION**  
**SAN DIEGO CITY CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**PLANT OPERATOR TRAINEE - 1673**

**DEFINITION:**

Under immediate supervision, and continual instruction in a planned training program, to perform a variety of increasingly responsible tasks associated with the operation of potable water treatment, wastewater treatment, or pump station equipment; and to perform related work.

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:**

This is the entry-level classification in the Wastewater Plant Operator series and Water Plant Operator series.

**\* EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:**

**At a potable water treatment plant:**

- Learns to operate pumps, chlorinators, valves, filters, mixers, chemical feeders, agitators, and backup emergency generators;
- Performs chemical and biological analyses;
- Learns to adjust and calibrate feed machinery for a variety of chemicals, such as activated carbon, chlorine,  $\text{KMnO}_4$ , and other normal treatment chemicals to maintain treatment at prescribed standards;
- Learns to manipulate plant sources based on water quality and availability to maintain reservoir levels within predetermined limits.

**At a wastewater treatment plant or pump station:**

- Learns to operate pumps, valves, boilers, screens, mixers, digesters, aerators, chemical feed systems, chlorinators, and sludge collectors;
- Removes scum from top of sedimentation tanks;
- Hauls grit in trucks;
- In each instance, monitors the operation of equipment;
- Receives training on identifying and reporting malfunctioning equipment;
- Carries out plant control processes using both computer and manual controls;
- Reads and records reading of meters and gauges;
- May perform minor cleaning or lubricating of equipment;
- Keeps logs and reports of operations;
- Makes simple temperature and operational readings;
- Takes laboratory samples;
- Performs custodial duties in and around buildings;
- Operates more complex machinery on a relief and training basis.

**\* EXAMPLES OF DUTIES** performed by employees in this class. The list may not include all required duties, nor are all listed tasks necessarily performed by everyone in this class.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

Please note: the minimum qualifications stated below are a guide for determining the education, training, experience, special skills, and/or license which may be required for employment in the class. These are re-evaluated each time the position is opened for recruitment. Please refer to the most recent Job Description for updated minimum qualifications: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/sandiego/classspecs>.

18 years of age or older, except for high school graduates (or persons with GED equivalency) who are 17. Graduation from high school, or passage of the California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE) or General Education Development (GED) examination.