

**MERCED IRRIGATION DISTRICT
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OPERATOR**

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

DEFINITION

Under the general supervision of a Senior Distribution System Operator (SDSO), perform a variety of semi-skilled and skilled duties, both manual and clerical, in the distribution of irrigation water to farmers.

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 on distribution facilities, including open channels, pipelines, pumps, gates, weirs and other distribution system appurtenances.
- Note failures in the distribution system and makes oral and written reports of same to supervisor.
- Make best effort to ensure efficient distribution of irrigation water with minimal losses.
- Provide limited 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. Assists 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.
- Perform related work as requested or required.

KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of:

- 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.
- The operational and mechanical principles of the District's irrigation distribution system.
- District policies and procedures.

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OPERATOR (DSO)

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 public and fellow employees.
- Maintain neat personal appearance.
- Complete a variety of construction duties.
- Understand and carry out oral and written directions.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Possession of an appropriate 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.

TYPICAL PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES:

- Operate District vehicles.
- Must be able to carry, push, pull, reach and lift equipment and parts weighing up to fifty (50) pounds.
- Stoops, kneels, crouches, crawls and climbs as required during performance of duties.
- Work in an environment with exposure to dust, dirt and significant temperature changes between heat and cold.
- Communicate orally with District staff and the public in face-to-face, one-on-one settings.
- Regularly use a telephone and radio for communication.
- Use office equipment such as computer systems, copiers and FAX machines.
- Stands and walks for extended periods of time.
- Walks on uneven terrain, outdoors in all weather conditions.
- Hearing and vision within normal ranges.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

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

EXPERIENCE

- A minimum of five (5) years as an Apprentice Distribution System Operator (ADSO) or equivalent. If equivalent experience is provided, the Applicant must pass the Apprentice Distribution Operator test.

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OPERATOR (DSO)

TYPICAL PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

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

- 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.