

TAHOE-TRUCKEE SANITATION AGENCY
Class Specification

Job Title: Laboratory Director

Department: Operations

FLSA Status: EXEMPT

Revised as of: 12/2021

DEFINITION

Plans, organizes, directs and supervises Laboratory operations within the Operations Department, including maintaining accreditation and completing and submitting a variety of regulatory reports; and provides highly responsible and complex administrative support to the Operations Department Manager.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

The Laboratory Director performs full supervisory responsibilities including planning, assigning and evaluating the work of subordinates. In addition, this position is responsible for overseeing the performance, recording and quality assurance of laboratory testing.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Reports directly to, and receives general direction from the Operations Department Manager. Exercises direct supervision over assigned personnel.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES: *the duties specified below are representative of the range of duties assigned to this class and are not intended to be an inclusive list.*

- Develops and implements goals and objectives related to assigned section; establishes schedules and methods for performance of laboratory testing; implements policies and procedures.
- Plans, prioritizes, assigns, supervises and reviews the work of laboratory staff; assumes the role of assigned staff, as needed.
- Evaluates operations and activities of assigned section; recommends improvements and modifications; prepares various reports on operations and activities.
- Assists the Operations Department Manager in developing and administering section budget; prepares cost estimates for budget recommendations; submits justifications for staffing and equipment, materials and supplies; monitors and controls expenditures.
- Recommends to the Operations Department Manager the selection of staff; provides or coordinates staff training; works with employees to correct deficiencies; implements discipline procedures; evaluates employee performance; drafts and conducts performance evaluations.

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- Develops, revises and updates standard operating procedures (SOPs) and quality assurance program (including manual) per Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) standards; ensures all requirements are met; reviews and approves data for use in regulatory reporting; enters data and maintains detailed records; posts analytical results, ensures all local and state requirements are met for accreditation purposes.
- Develops, revises and updates Agency Chemical Hygiene Plan.
- Develop, revise and update The National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAC) Institute (TNI) standards in preparation of future implementation.
- Coordinates, schedules, and performs sampling for routine and special project sampling for in-house testing, off-site sampling, and testing performed by contracted outside laboratories; provides drinking water testing services to other local agencies and clients; monitors and reviews test results; investigates and resolves inconsistent data or concerns.
- Coordinates and provides training for Operators, Operations Department Manager, Chief Plant Operator, Operations Supervisor and Operations Shift Supervisors as needed, to demonstrate capability per ELAP requirements.
- Tracks and purchases laboratory chemicals, supplies, equipment and parts; ensures equipment maintenance protocols are followed; determines need for, requests, and coordinates maintenance and repair of laboratory equipment; works with staff and technical support to troubleshoot and repair laboratory analyzers and equipment as needed.
- Assists operations staff with developing and revising strategies to optimize plant performance. Immediately reports any test result abnormalities to the Chief Plant Operator and Operations Department Manager.
- Ensures safety program is implemented; trains laboratory staff and general plant staff on safety requirements; maintains Safety Data Sheets and coordinates for hazardous waste handling and other safety requirements and protocols.
- Conducts research and prepares technical and administrative reports and studies; prepares written correspondence as necessary.
- May collect field and composite samples and data and transport according to prescribed protocols; may perform field sampling at off-site locations.
- Represents the Agency with dignity, integrity, and the spirit of cooperation in all relations with staff and the public.
- Builds and maintains positive working relationships with co-workers, other Agency employees and the public using principles of good customer service.
- Supervises the Operations staff when they are performing analyst work in the laboratory involving sampling, testing, recording, and quality assurance of required tests under the laboratory's ELAP certification.
- Performs related duties as assigned.

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QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Principles, practices and procedures for biological, chemical, bacteriological and physical testing and analyses of water and wastewater including proper sampling procedures and EPA approved methods as dictated in Standard Methods.
- Principles and practices of research, analysis and laboratory functions as they relate to water and wastewater.
- Methods and procedures for the operation of laboratory instrumentation used in water and wastewater analysis.
- Principles and practices of supervision, training and evaluating performance.
- Principles and practices of budget monitoring.
- Principles and practices of safety management.
- Pertinent local, State and Federal laws, ordinances and rules.
- Modern office practices, methods, and computer equipment including relevant software programs.
- Operation of office equipment including personal computers, fax machines, copiers, printers, telephones, voicemail and e-mail systems, etc.
- Oral and written communication skills; business English including vocabulary, spelling, and correct grammatical usage and punctuation.
- Safe work practices.
- Principles and practices of customer service.

Ability to:

- Organize, implement and direct Laboratory operations/activities.
- On an ongoing basis, know and understand all requirements and essential aspects of the job including laws, regulations, rules and codes related to area of assignment; know and observe safety rules and identify hazards; intermittently locate, analyze, detect and diagnose problem equipment and determine solutions; train and explain processes to others; when so assigned, observe performance and input into review and evaluation of the work of others; problem solve issues related to area of assignment; remember various processes and requirements and how to operate equipment; intermittently access, review, and interpret and adjust or enter data on work orders, reports and other documents; identify, interpret and communicate technical and numerical information.
- Interpret and explain pertinent Agency and department policies and procedures.
- Assist in the development and monitoring of an assigned program budget.
- Develop and recommend policies and procedures related to assigned operations.
- Perform analysis of standard laboratory tests including using instrumentation, running calibrations, weighing, measuring, making standards, analyzing and interpreting reports and results.
- Perform mathematical, statistical, geometric and algebraic calculations common to water quality control laboratory analysis.

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- Understand and carry out oral and written instructions, and prioritize workload to meet deadlines.
- Read, write and comprehend the English language at a level necessary for effective job performance, exercising correct English usage, vocabulary, spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- Communicate effectively, tactfully and positively in both oral and written form.
- Operate and use modern office equipment and technology, including computers and applicable software.
- Collect field and composite samples and data and transports according to prescribed protocols.
- Safely operate a snowmobile, ATV, or vehicle with chains installed, in inclement weather conditions.
- Maintain regular attendance and adhere to prescribed work schedule to conduct job responsibilities.
- Utilize appropriate safety procedures and practices for assigned duties.
- Supervise, train and evaluate performance of assigned staff.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.
- Contribute effectively to the accomplishment of Agency goals, objectives and activities.

Experience and/or Education:

Any combination of experience and training that would provide the required knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the required knowledge and abilities would be:

Experience:

Six years of increasingly responsible experience in the analysis of water, wastewater, solid waste, hazardous waste or other environmental samples; including three years providing technical and functional supervision over assigned personnel.

Education:

Equivalent to a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major course work in chemistry, biochemistry, biology, microbiology, environmental, sanitary or public health engineering, natural or physical science.

In lieu of the minimum educational requirements, which are highly desirable, the candidate must possess a CWEA Grade III Laboratory Analyst Certificate.

SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS

License and Certificate:

Possession of a valid California or Nevada Class C Driver License is required at time of appointment.

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Possession of a CWEA Grade IV Laboratory Analyst Certificate within four qualifying test cycles (approximately 12 months) upon meeting testing eligibility requirements.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

On a continuous basis, remain stationary at desk and in meetings for long periods of time; intermittently move, traverse and position self while performing duties in the field, laboratory or office; access equipment surrounding desk and in laboratory; activate, use and operate a computer and other office equipment and laboratory equipment; discern color-based test results and organisms through a microscope; use telephone; communicate through written means; and move or transport weight of 25 pounds or less.

WORKING/ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Work is performed in a typical temperature controlled office environment subject to typical office noise. Some duties expose the incumbent to outdoor conditions and to all weather conditions. Possible exposure to chemicals (dust, gases, liquids, solids, fumes), odors and noise. Position may require work outside of regular business hours, as well as occasional weekend work.