

## **IRRIGATION SPECIALIST**

### **Definition:**

Under general supervision, installs, repairs and maintains water irrigation systems for parks, trees, sports fields, medians and other landscaped areas; adjusts watering schedules in accordance with water need, facility use, mowing and precipitation/penetration rates and performs related work as required.

### **Essential Duties and Responsibilities:**

The essential duties and responsibilities of the class include the following:

Installs, repairs and maintains irrigation systems for parks, trees, sports fields, medians and other landscaped areas.

Coordinates water cycles with water need, mowing schedules, facility use, weather and soil conditions.

Takes water probes and soil samples to determine precipitation and penetration rates.

Observes root profiles, soil stratification and thatch accumulation for evidence of changes and penetration effectiveness.

Establishes and adjusts sprinkler run lengths and head types for different locations.

Checks valve stations and adjusts automatic controllers/time clocks as needed.

Cleans, adjusts and replaces sprinkler solenoids, diaphragms, springs and bleeder valves.

Repairs broken lines, nipples, valves and heads; raises and clears lines and heads.

Replaces existing water lines or adds pipe extensions.

Inspects, certifies and repairs backflow devices as needed.

Tests for water pressure and distribution.

Lifts and/or moves heavy objects.

Performs manual watering as needed.

Maintains equipment, materials and supply inventories.

Completes work records and maintains inspection checklists and location guidelines.

Operates a personal computer.

Drives a vehicle on City business.

May direct individuals or crews as assigned.

**Other Duties and Responsibilities:**

Performs other projects/tasks as assigned.

Repairs or replaces free standing drinking fountains not attached to buildings.

Performs irrigation plan check for new projects and recommends changes as needed.

**Class Characteristics:**

The Irrigation Specialist is a single incumbent position within the Maintenance Services Department with direct responsibility for all irrigation installation and irrigation maintenance tasks, irrigation water conservation and avoidance of water run off/property damage due to irrigation. The Irrigation Specialist performs assigned duties with a minimum of direction/supervision, is expected to solve work related problems independently and may act as a crew leader/trainer.

**Contacts and Relationships:**

The Irrigation Specialist has the majority of their interaction within the Maintenance Services Department, although contact with other City employees, irrigation product vendors and the public will occur during the course of certain work assignments.

**Qualification Guidelines:**

The knowledge and abilities which are required to perform the duties and responsibilities of this class are as follows:

**Knowledge of:**

Landscape maintenance practices to include computerized irrigation systems.

Principles and operations of backflow devices.

Safety precautions and practices necessary when working with hand, power and specialized equipment applicable to the area assigned.

Materials, tools and methods used in the installation and repair of irrigation systems.

Basic math.

Computer applications as they relate to area assigned.

**Ability to:**

Plan and coordinate irrigation cycles in accordance with maintenance schedules, facility use, weather and soil conditions.

Conduct water precipitation and penetration tests and interpret results.

Install, maintain and repair irrigation systems.

Operate job related equipment to include power threaders, pipe cutters, line location equipment, compression couplers and meter testing equipment.

Lift and move heavy objects safely.

Understand and carry out and written directions independently.

Communicate effectively orally and in writing.

Plan and organize work.

Use good judgment and make sound decisions in accordance with established procedures and policies.

Read and write at the level required for successful job performance.

Use a computer and applicable software.

Establish and maintain effective relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

**A typical way to obtain the knowledge and abilities is as follows:**

**Education:** Graduation from high school. Course work or training in irrigation control, landscape management or backflow prevention preferred but not required.

**AND**

**Experience:** Two years of increasingly responsible experience performing landscape duties to include computerized irrigation system experience.

**Physical Tasks and Working Conditions Include the Following:**

Work is performed indoors and outdoors. Indoor office work requires sitting at a desk or table for periods of time and the use of a computer and screen. When work is performed outdoors there is full exposure to the elements. The Irrigation Specialist drives a vehicle on City business and performs physical labor for extended periods of time requiring physical strength and endurance. The incumbent may work under damp conditions and grasp, crouch, sit, stand, walk on slippery and/or uneven surfaces, bend, crawl, kneel, pull, reach, push, twist, climb sloping surfaces and grasp, drag, lift and carry items weighing 75 pounds or less. The incumbent uses a variety of hand and power tools and may be exposed to chemicals, solvents, dust, grease/oil, fumes, electrical and mechanical hazards, vehicular traffic, vibration and noise. The incumbent must be able to meet the physical requirements of the

class and have mobility, vision, hearing and dexterity levels appropriate to the duties to be performed.

**Special Requirements:**

Valid and appropriate California Driver's License and acceptable driving record at time of appointment and throughout employment in this position.

Possession of or ability to obtain a Backflow Prevention Device Tester Certification as issued by the County of Orange within six months of employment with this position.

Certain assignments may require the possession of or the ability to acquire a specialized motor vehicle operator's license.

Must be able to work a flexible schedule to include call out to accommodate City needs.

**Fair Labor Standards Act Designation:** Non-exempt.

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