Water Department Laborer

Supervisor: Water Supervisor/Public Works Director
Department: Water Department

Purpose of Position

A Water Department Laborer works under the direction of the Water Supervisor and the Public Works Director and is responsible for the installation, maintenance, and repair of the city's water distribution system, including tasks such as locating and repairing leaks, replacing water mains and service lines, flushing hydrants if necessary, and responding to customer complaints related to water service; often requiring the operation of heavy machinery and adherence to safety regulations related to water utility work.

Responsibilities:

Maintenance and Repair:

- Locate and repair water leaks in mains and service lines
- Replace damaged or aging water mains and service lines
- Clean and flush water mains and hydrants to maintain water quality
- Inspect and maintain water valves
- Respond to emergency water leaks and service disruptions
- Responds to complaints regarding water leaks, pressure loss or no water; evaluate situation; explain findings to Supervisor
- Other duties as assigned

Equipment Operation:

- Operate heavy machinery such as backhoes, excavators, and dump trucks to access and repair underground utilities
- Utilize specialized tools for pipe cutting, welding, and leak detection
- Other duties as assigned

Documentation and Reporting:

- Maintaining detailed records of work performed, including location of repairs, replacements, materials used and time spent
- Report any safety concerns or potential hazards to supervisors
- Other duties as assigned

Construction and Installation:

- Assist in the installation of new water mains and service lines during construction projects
- Dig trenches and backfill excavations
- Install and connect new water meters
- Other duties as assigned

Customer Service:

- Investigate and address customer complaints regarding water pressure, leaks, or billing issues
- New service installation and disconnections
- Other duties as assigned

Preferred Skills and Abilities:

- **Technical Skills:** Knowledge of plumbing practices, pipe fitting, and basic construction techniques
- **Mechanical Aptitude:** Ability to operate and maintain heavy machinery and specialized tools
- **Safety Awareness:** Understanding of safety procedures related to working in trenches, near traffic, and with hazardous materials
- **Physical Ability:** Ability to perform physically demanding tasks including lifting heavy objects, working in confined spaces, and standing for extended periods
- **Customer Service:** Excellent communication skills to interact with customers and address concerns
- **Teamwork:** Work effectively as part of a crew to complete tasks efficiently
- **Valid Driver's License:** Possession of a valid driver's license with a clean driving record to operate company vehicles

Physical Demands and Working Conditions

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Physical requirements include occasional lifting/carrying of 50+ pounds; visual acuity, speech and hearing; hand and eye coordination. Subject to sitting, standing, reaching, climbing, walking, twisting and kneeling to perform essential functions. Working conditions are primarily outdoors. Potential exposure to dust, noise, and fumes. May involve working in traffic and around heavy machinery.