



July 2021
FLSA: Exempt

PRINCIPAL ENGINEER

DEFINITION

Under general direction, manages, plans, schedules, assigns, and reviews the work of professional engineering staff within the Engineering Division of the Public Works Department; serves as the primary engineer for development-related needs including civil, storm water, grading, reviews, facilitates reviews of other engineering applications such as mergers and lot line adjustments, serves as project manager for complex professional engineering activities including environmental program planning and compliance, design, construction, land development engineering, traffic engineering, and other programs; ensures that functions meet all applicable laws, regulations, and Town policies related to the Town's Capital Improvement Program (CIP), land development, and traffic and transportation; provides complex staff assistance to the Public Works Director/Town Engineer in areas of expertise; and performs related work as required.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Receives general direction from the Public Works Director/Town Engineer. Exercises direct or general supervision over professional staff.

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS

This is the full supervisory-level class in the professional engineering series. Incumbents are responsible for planning, organizing, supervising, reviewing, and evaluating the work of professional engineering staff as well as providing professional-level support to assigned management staff in a variety of areas of expertise. Performance of the work requires the use of considerable independence, initiative, and discretion within established guidelines. This class is distinguished from the Public Works Director/Town Engineer in that the latter is a professional engineering class overseeing all engineering and public works operations and maintenance programs and projects of the Public Works Department.

EXAMPLES OF TYPICAL JOB FUNCTIONS (Illustrative Only)

Management reserves the right to add, modify, change, or rescind the work assignments of different positions and to make reasonable accommodations so that qualified employees can perform the essential functions of the job.

- Plans, organizes, assigns, supervises, and reviews the work of professional engineering staff in the Public Works Department; trains staff in work procedures; evaluates employee performance, counsels employees, and effectively recommends initial disciplinary action; assists in selection and promotion.
- Monitors activities of the work unit; recommends improvements and modifications and prepares various reports on activities and projects; recommends and assists in the implementation of goals and objectives; implements policies and procedures.
- Determines and recommends staffing needs for assigned activities and projects; participates in the annual budget preparation; prepares detailed cost estimates with appropriate justifications, as required; maintains a variety of records and prepares routine reports of work performance.
- Develops consultant requests for proposal for professional and/or construction services and participates in the bid process; evaluates proposals and recommends project award; negotiates and administers contracts after award; ensures contractor compliance with Town standards and specifications, time and

budget estimates; analyzes and resolves complex problems that may arise; recommends and approves field changes as required.

- Conducts Capital Improvement Program (CIP) planning activities; provides oversight and input into conceptual designs of engineering projects; investigates and resolves problems with scope of work or cost issues of major facility upgrade and replacement projects; ensures that projects are completed on time and within budget.
- Analyzes civil engineering plan design, specifications, and consultant and staff comments in accordance with design requirements and municipal and intergovernmental standards and regulations; recommends approval or additional engineering conditions and changes.
- Meets and confers with contractors, engineers, developers, architects, a variety of outside agencies, and the general public in acquiring information and coordinating engineering matters; provides information regarding Town development requirements.
- Responds to and resolves various issues with residents, other department representatives, and outside agencies in a professional manner; identifies and reports findings and takes necessary corrective action.
- Serves as a liaison for an assigned functional area with other Town departments, divisions, and outside agencies; attends meetings, as necessary; participates on a variety of boards, commissions, committees, and task forces; attends and participates in professional groups; stays abreast of new trends and innovations.
- Conducts a variety of organizational studies, investigations, and operational studies; assists in developing policies and procedures such as procedure guidelines, design standards, and standard plans and specifications while ensuring that operation and maintenance, financial, regulatory, and legal requirements are met.
- Develops and reviews staff reports related to engineering activities and services; may present information to the Town Council and various commissions, committees, and boards; performs a variety of public relations and outreach work related to assigned activities.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Principles and practices of employee supervision, including work planning, assignment, review and evaluation, discipline, and the training of staff in work procedures.
- Principles and practices of leadership.
- Basic principles and practices of budget development, administration, and accountability.
- Principles and practices of civil engineering as applied to the planning, design, cost estimating, construction, installation, and inspection of a wide variety of municipal facilities, miscellaneous buildings and structures, and traffic and transportation systems.
- Civil and transportation engineering principles, concepts, standards, and practices associated with public works programs.
- Principles and practices of environmental impact assessment and related regulatory processes.
- Methods, materials, and techniques used in the construction of public works projects.
- Contract management practices in a public agency setting.
- Applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulatory codes, ordinances, and procedures relevant to assigned area of responsibility.
- Practices of researching engineering and design issues, evaluating alternatives, making sound recommendations, and preparing and presenting effective staff reports.
- Recent and on-going developments, current literature, and sources of information related to the operations of the assigned functional area.
- Safety principles and practices.
- Record keeping principles and procedures.

- Techniques for providing a high level of customer service by effectively dealing with the public, vendors, contractors, and Town staff.
- The structure and content of the English language, including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar.
- Modern equipment and communication tools used for business functions and program, project, and task coordination.
- Computers and software programs (e.g., Microsoft software packages) to conduct, compile, and/or generate documentation.

Ability to:

- Assist in selecting staff, supervise staff, provide training and development opportunities, ensure work is performed effectively, and evaluate performance in an objective and positive manner.
- Assist in developing and implementing goals, objectives, practices, policies, procedures, and work standards.
- Conduct complex civil engineering research projects, evaluate alternatives, make sound recommendations, and prepare effective technical reports.
- Analyze and interpret engineering plans and specifications in accordance with design requirements and applicable standards and regulations.
- Research, analyze, and evaluate new service delivery methods, procedures, and techniques.
- Prepare and present clear, concise, and logical written and oral reports, correspondence, policies, procedures, legal descriptions, and other written materials.
- Analyze, interpret, summarize and present administrative and technical information and data in an effective manner.
- Establish and maintain a variety of filing, record-keeping, and tracking systems.
- Understand, interpret, and apply all pertinent laws, codes, regulations, policies and procedures, and standards relevant to work performed.
- Effectively represent the department and the Town in meetings with governmental agencies; community groups; various business, professional, and regulatory organizations; and in meetings with individuals.
- Learn and understand the organization and operation of the Town and of outside agencies as necessary to assume assigned responsibilities.
- Independently organize work, set priorities, meet critical deadlines, and follow-up on assignments.
- Effectively use computer systems, software applications, and modern business equipment to perform a variety of work tasks.
- Communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing, using appropriate English grammar and syntax.
- Use tact, initiative, prudence, and independent judgment within general policy, procedural, and legal guidelines.
- Establish, maintain, and foster positive and effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

Education and Experience:

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

Equivalent to graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with major coursework in civil engineering or a related engineering field and six (6) years of project management experience in civil engineering with emphasis in public works capital improvements.

Licenses and Certifications:

- Possession of, or ability to obtain, a valid California Driver's License by time of appointment and a satisfactory driving record.
- Possession and maintenance of a Registered Professional Civil Engineer license in the State of California.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

Must possess mobility to work in a standard office setting and use standard office equipment, including a computer, to inspect Town development sites, including traversing uneven terrain, climbing ladders, stairs, and other temporary or construction access points, to operate a motor vehicle, and to visit various Town and meeting sites; vision to read printed materials and a computer screen; and hearing and speech to communicate in person, before groups, and over the telephone. This is primarily a sedentary office classification although standing and walking between work areas may be required. Finger dexterity is needed to access, enter, and retrieve data using a computer keyboard or calculator and to operate standard office equipment. Positions in this classification occasionally bend, stoop, kneel, reach, push, and pull drawers open and closed to retrieve and file information. Employees must possess the ability to lift, carry, push, and pull materials and objects weighing up to 25 pounds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Employees work in an office environment with moderate noise levels, controlled temperature conditions, and no direct exposure to hazardous physical substances. Employees may work in the field and occasionally be exposed to loud noise levels, cold and hot temperatures, inclement weather conditions, road hazards, vibration, mechanical and/or electrical hazards, and hazardous physical substances and fumes. Employees may interact with upset staff and/or public and private representatives in interpreting and enforcing departmental policies and procedures.