

# WE'RE BUILDING THE PEOPLE PIPELINE

Make a difference every day.  
Train for a career in water.

LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR CAREER IN WATER.



There's never been a better time for women to train for a career in the water industry.

Women who train for jobs or transfer skills and expertise to jobs in the water and wastewater industries enjoy diverse career opportunities, competitive salary and benefits packages, and typically excellent career stability. The work is critical to the future of everyone in California ... now that's real job security.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester
- Backflow Program Manager
- \*Biologist
- \*Chemist
- Construction Inspector
- Construction Laborer
- Cross Connection Control Specialist
- Electronic Technician
- \*Civil Engineer
- \*Electrical Engineer
- Engineering Technician
- Equipment Maintenance Technician
- Field Operations Supervisor
- GIS/Mapping Specialist
- Inspector
- Instrumentation and Control Technician
- Instrumentation and Control Supervisor
- Irrigation System Designer
- Irrigation Technician
- Laboratory Analyst
- Landscape Water Auditor
- Leak Detection Technician
- Machinist
- \*Marine Biologist
- Mechanical Systems Technician
- Meter Maintenance Technician
- Meter Reader
- Plant Process Control Electrician
- Plant Process Control Supervisor
- Recycled Water Inspector
- Reservoir Keeper
- \*Safety and Risk Manager
- Survey Technician
- Utility Worker
- Underground Utilities Locator
- Wastewater Plant Operator
- \*Wastewater Treatment Superintendent
- Wastewater Collection Systems Operator
- Water Conservation Specialist
- Water Distribution Operator
- Water Plant Operator
- Water Treatment Superintendent
- Water Usage Auditor
- Water Systems Technician

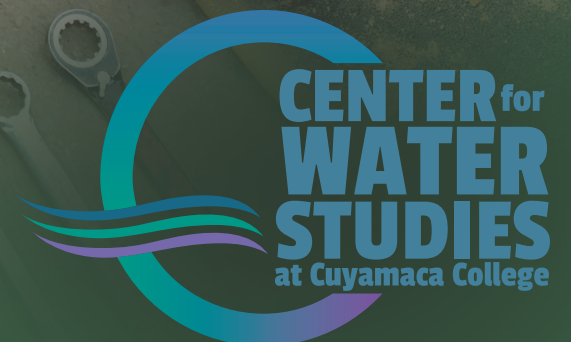
*\*Bachelor Degree recommended*



Contact us today to learn when you can start training!

**CWS.CAREERS**  
CUYAMACA COLLEGE

900 RANCHO SAN DIEGO PARKWAY  
EL CAJON, CA 92019 (619) 660-4789





# Water jobs aren't just for guys.

**Short-term training. Long-term reward.** Local agencies employ approximately 4,500 men and women in water and wastewater jobs. Experts predict the need to fill an estimated 450 positions per year for at least the next five years as incumbent employees retire and demand for clean, potable water increases. More women can and should train for expanding job opportunities within the water and wastewater industries.

Let's talk about your future in water. **We think you'll be more than surprised — you'll be motivated!**

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What are the specific jobs, occupations or careers in the water industry and wastewater fields?

From entry-level clerical and manual labor positions to engineering, accounting, finance, customer service and management positions, there are a wide range of jobs and careers in water. Most entry-level positions start in the \$40K-\$45K range and mid-level technical jobs peak at about \$70K - \$75K within a few years. Supervisorial and managerial positions often pay \$100K+, but typically require industry certifications and/or a bachelor's degree.

### What kinds of skills and jobs are great matches for transitioning into a water industry career?

Skills like customer service, meter reading, engineering, CADD, computer application and database management, and complex problem solving help you migrate to higher paying field operations positions. Jobs that involve the operation, maintenance, and/or repair of construction, propulsion, power plants, power equipment, hydraulics, or pneumatic systems; running water treatment, wastewater purification, or reverse osmosis equipment often match well with water industry jobs. Experience working with piping, plumbing, or electrical or mechanical systems is good experience as is work in welding, damage-control, some types of electronics and computer applications.

### What portable (transferable) industry skills will you acquire through community college training?

Attending water and wastewater technology courses allows you to gain useful insights into how these critical systems work in your local area. There are also more technical classes on hydraulics, treatment plant operations, etc. Our classes provide college units of credit and/or contact hours that meet the State Water Resources Control Board Operator Certification Program requirements for taking the required tests in the various certification programs; i.e. Water Distribution System Operator (Grade D 1-5) or Water Treatment Plant Operator (Grade T 1-5). Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator certifications (Grade 1-5). These California State certifications are among the most respected in the nation, so you may be able to obtain reciprocal certification in other state.

### How long will the average training program be, and will it include multiple course titles?

Here's a typical scenario: classes meet two nights per week for eight weeks at a time. Core courses are held at least once each semester, so new students can pick up the most essential classes right away. In preparation for passing the State certification tests, students are encouraged to pass at least three to four classes before taking an exam.



### Where are the jobs?

There are far more entry level job and career opportunities in the field operations areas such as water distribution and wastewater collections than there are in water and wastewater treatment plant operations. This is because it only takes six to eight people to run a 100 million gallon per day water treatment plant, but it may take ten times that many to operate and repair the water storage and distribution system that delivers the water from the plant to the customers. Entry level jobs in the treatment plants usually require more technical and mechanical experience/ aptitudes and better math and science skills. Entry level jobs in water distribution and wastewater collection fields are generally much more physically demanding often requiring more upper body strength for performing tasks involving heavier lifting, digging, operating power equipment etc.

### What are the characteristics and general aptitude water industry recruiters hope students already possess?

Recruiters are looking for folks who have demonstrated good work habits, reliability, maturity, leadership, and ability to work within a structured organization (chain of command), making decisions under pressure and adverse conditions, and the ability to take and pass tests for advancement to go along with their transferrable mechanical and technical skills.



# WATER careers pay. You can earn more and make a difference.

**By diversifying a well-trained water industry workforce, we improve our ability to provide safe, clean water. CWS is partnering with water agencies to recruit and train more women to fill critically important jobs. Top-notch training and long-term career opportunities are just the beginning of the benefits that come with preparing yourself for a water industry career.**

### Learning by Doing

The Center for Water Studies (CWS) at Cuyamaca includes classroom and specialized work spaces designed exclusively for our expanded program of studies. Facilities include a state-of-the-art Field Operations Skills Yard, referred to as "the FOSY" that functions as a teaching space that integrates science, technology, engineering and math into a hands-on career preparation program. Students will be better prepared to manage, improve and maintain water and wastewater systems throughout the state.



**The Center for Water Studies at Cuyamaca College offers the oldest continuously operating educational Water and Wastewater Technology Program in the California Community College system. With more than 28 different courses leading to Certificates of Achievement and/or Associate of Science degrees in six majors, it is also the most comprehensive and progressive program of its type in California.**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CUYAMACA COLLEGE AND CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES