

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Why become a Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator at IEUA?**
 - Serve your community
 - Protect public health & the environment
 - High demand for professionals
 - Job security
 - Competitive salaries
 - Excellent benefits
 - Work a 4/10 schedule
 - Opportunities for career growth
 - Work with cutting edge technology
- **Does an Operator in Training (OIT) need supervision?**
 - An OIT cannot operate a wastewater treatment plant alone and must be directly supervised by a certified Operator per State Water Board regulations.
- **What is the work environment like?**
 - Wastewater treatment plant operators work in a collaborative environment to keep operations safe, compliant, and efficient. They coordinate across shifts and departments to share knowledge, solve problems quickly, and maintain environmental standards.
- **What is the salary for a Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator at IEUA?**

Level	Annual Salary
OIT	\$70k - \$85k
Operator I / II	\$80k - \$108k
Operator III	\$98k - \$119k
Operator IV - V	\$108k - \$131

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

California State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB)

- Wastewater Operator Certification Program main page.



Prerequisites to take and hold at each certification level



- A passed exam is valid for four years! Pass the test now, qualify to hold the certificate later.

Wastewater Operator Training Direction

- SWRCB information packet
- Colleges with in-person courses to gain CEUs for certification.



American Water College California Operator Training



- Training providers
- Exam preparation

Cal State Sacramento Wastewater Program

- Correspondence classes
- Online courses coming soon
- Gain CEUs for certification



Guide to Become a Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator



Inland Empire Utilities Agency
A MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

www.ieua.org



WASTEWATER TREATMENT AT IEUA

IEUA is a regional wastewater treatment agency and wholesale distributor of imported water. Today, the Agency is responsible for serving approximately 950,000 people over 242 square miles in western San Bernardino County.

IEUA is focused on providing 3 key services:

1. Treating wastewater and developing recycled water, local water resources, and conservation programs to reduce the region's dependence on imported water supplies, thus enabling the service area to become drought-resilient.
2. Converting biosolids and waste products into a high-quality compost made from recycled materials.
3. Generating electrical energy from renewable sources.

WHAT IS A WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR?

A wastewater treatment plant operator monitors, operates, and maintains the systems and equipment that clean and treat wastewater to protect public health and the environment.

COMMON TASKS PERFORMED BY AN OPERATOR AT IEUA

- Operate and inspect pumps, valves, motors, and related equipment
- Collect and analyze water samples
- Perform lab tests to monitor water quality
- Add chemicals to purify water
- Monitor Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system
- Maintain records of operations and reports
- Inspect operational equipment
- Respond to alarms
- Special project support and other duties as assigned

CERTIFICATION PROCESS

California law requires Operators to be certified through the State Water Boards' Wastewater Operator Certification Program (WWOCP).

There are five certification levels: Grades I-V. The certification process consists of three steps.

- Applicants are required to complete a minimum of 1,800 hours in wastewater operations while serving as an Operator-in-Training (OIT).
- Applicants must pass the State exam for their desired certification level. Exam results remain valid for four years.
- After passing the State exam and meeting the experience requirements, apply for certification. Include your duty statement, educational documents, and fees for review.

Certifications are valid for three years. To renew, operators must submit an application and fee before the certificate expires.

WHAT IS AN OIT?

An Operator-In-Training (OIT) is an individual employed at a wastewater treatment plant who is acquiring the required experience to qualify as a certified operator. OITs are required to complete a minimum of 1,800 hours in wastewater operations to achieve certification.

HOW TO BECOME AN OIT?

1) Meet the basic educational requirements:

- Submit a copy of a high school diploma or equivalent (such as GED) and six educational points to the California State Water Resources Control Board.
 - A three-unit college semester math or science course is equal to eight educational points; ten classroom hours are equal to one educational point).

2) Secure a position (paid or volunteer) at a wastewater treatment plant working in wastewater operations.

3) Apply for the OIT Certificate:

- Submit an application to the California Water Resources Control Board's Office of Operator Certification.
- The application must be signed by the Chief Plant Operator at your facility.
- Pay the application fee.

Once you obtain your certificate, it is valid for two years. During this time, you can gain the required 1,800 hours of experience needed.