

**COMPETENCY MODEL FOR
WATER SERVICES MANAGER (2023)
CLASS CODE 9602**

The following competencies have been identified as those that best separate superior from satisfactory job performance in the class of **WATER SERVICES MANAGER**. (Numbers refers to the order of the competencies in the Competency Bank.)

- 3. Judgment and Decision Making
- 8. Safety Focus
- 20. Job Knowledge
- 30. Fiscal Management
- 33. Interpersonal Skills
- 53. Leadership
- 54. Champions Change
- 59. Strategic Planning

On the following pages are descriptions of each competency, including a definition, the level of the competency required for the class (*italicized*, **bolded**, and underlined), examples of behavioral indicators, and satisfactory and superior performance levels.

3. JUDGMENT AND DECISION MAKING – Accurately assesses situations, seeks new information if necessary, and applies all available information to reach sound conclusions/formulate effective response.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Training and guidelines needed to respond to immediate situations within very specific function are provided (or supervisor available to assist).
- Level 2: General information and guidance to assist in responding to a variety of situations across a range of circumstances are provided.**
- Level 3: Little guidance available for responding to a wide range of complex situations with far-reaching and/or enduring consequences.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Effectively responds to atypical situations.
- Asks questions or otherwise obtains additional relevant information to make a decision.
- Formulates a decision and necessary actions based on available facts.
- Correctly infers appropriate response based on information provided and existing policies, personal experience, and/or consultation with others.
- Discusses conclusions/possible responses with others before taking action as necessary.
- Considers impact of decisions on all affected parties.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Correctly assesses routine and unusual situations and reaches appropriate conclusions for actions needed. Obtains additional information and/or consults with others as necessary.

Superior

Evaluates new situations accurately to establish an appropriate response or plan of action. Recognizes the impact on all affected parties, as well as the possible ramifications and/or repercussions of setting a precedent.

8. SAFETY FOCUS – Performs work in a way that minimizes risk of injury to self or others.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: **Maintain awareness of unsafe conditions and actions to avoid injury.**

Level 2: Follow safety rules/procedures; avoid known hazards in the work environment.

Level 3: Carefully follow safety rules and procedures and consistently use all necessary safety equipment.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Wears seat belt.
- Ensures safe physical work environment by taking actions such as eliminating unstable stacks of materials, closing drawers so filing cabinets will not tip over, and keeping pathways clear of tripping hazards.
- Reviews safety procedures before beginning each job with known hazards.
- Follows safety procedures while performing work even when it takes more time.
- Uses safety equipment such as goggles, gloves, and earplugs as required or warranted.
- Frequently checks safety equipment for proper condition and operation.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Maintains awareness of personal safety to avoid injury or property damage during all work activities.

Superior

“Safety first.” Places avoidance of injury or property damage above all other job requirements. Mentions the need to follow safe work practices to co-workers. Actively seeks ways to avoid injury.

20. JOB KNOWLEDGE – Knows information required to perform a specific job. Includes both widely available courses of study (for example, chemistry, human resources management, graphic arts) and City-specific information (parking regulation and ticketing practices; purchasing procedures; provisions of the City Charter).

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Knowledge is concrete, factual, and/or procedural and may be defined by the organization. Situations in which it is applied are quite consistent.
- Level 2: **Knowledge is substantive and may be defined by an external trade, field, or profession. Situations in which it is applied vary and, as such, require breadth and depth of understanding.**
- Level 3: Knowledge is abstract, conceptual, and/or complex and may be supported by a well-defined academic discipline or authoritative sources (e.g., laws, ordinances, government guidelines/regulations/codes). Situations in which it is applied may vary greatly or be novel.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Performs work correctly/avoids technical (job content related) errors.
- Answers technical questions about work accurately.
- Asks few technical questions about the performance of routine work activities.
- Offers advice (“coaching”) to new employees regarding their work.
- Develops training programs for other employees.
- Sought out as a source of information by others.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Sufficient job knowledge to perform work correctly independently. Answers technical questions about work correctly.

Superior

Expertise in technical job information sufficient to serve as a resource to others. May develop training manuals/ programs and/or give internal and/or external presentations related to work.

Job Knowledge Areas

1. Knowledge of procedures, problems, and terminology related to administering the activities of a large division engaged in major Water System facility construction, installation, maintenance, operation, and repair sufficient to conduct field inspections, develop training programs, oversee budgets, and manage subordinate employees performing the work involved.
2. Knowledge of the organization of the LADWP Water System, including the functions and interrelationships of its divisions sufficient to manage, plan, direct, and coordinate the activities of subordinate employees and fulfill the overall goals and mission of the Water System.
3. Knowledge of the fundamental principles and practices of supervision, including: planning, directing, assigning, delegating, motivating, training, counseling, disciplining, and evaluating and controlling the work of subordinates.
4. Knowledge of the general principles of City Charter provisions, rules, practices, and policies; and City and Personnel Department rules, policies and procedures affecting the Water system sufficient to ensure compliance.
5. Knowledge of the general principles of domestic water supply as applied to the flow of water through transmission and distribution systems sufficient to manage, through subordinate managers and supervisors, the planning, design, construction, maintenance, and operation of waterworks facilities and structures.
6. Knowledge of Federal, state, and local regulations pertaining to the safe delivery of water through a water distribution system sufficient to ensure compliance.
7. Knowledge of State Distribution Operator regulations sufficient to safely and efficiently operate, or supervise the operation of water distribution systems.
8. Knowledge of safety practices needed to ensure a safe working environment during the planning, construction, maintenance and operation of Water System facilities.
9. Knowledge of the current issues related to water policies, regulations, infrastructure, and water supply sufficient to assist Executive Management in policy and direction setting for the Water System.
10. Knowledge of National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) and Incident Command Systems (ICS) sufficient to ensure the safe, coordinated, and efficient operation of the Water System.
11. Knowledge of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) as they relate to agreements with other agencies and organizations; and appropriately managing subordinate employees sufficient to meet the legal obligations of the Water System.

12. Knowledge of Intra-agency relations as they apply to collective bargaining and labor organizations sufficient to work constructively with employees and labor organizations.
13. Knowledge of work order hierarchies sufficient to ensure that project costs are appropriately captured and allocated.
14. Knowledge of the Department of Water and Power's Water System Budget and basic organizational budgeting processes sufficient to allocate funding, provide adequate resources for waterworks projects, and justify expenditures in a correct and timely manner.

30. FISCAL MANAGEMENT – Develops and justifies budget proposals in a way that garners support; monitors expenditures for compliance; systematically adjusts expenditures when warranted.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Identify equipment and services with demonstrable cost-effectiveness for improving operations and prepare detailed budget requests that provide ample justification for purchase. Ensure money is spent for intended purpose.
- Level 2: Identify staffing needs, needs for equipment and services, and other expenditures that are necessary to fulfill the mission of a function or segment of the organization. Provide ample, compelling justification. Ensures that money is spent for intended or highly related purpose.
- Level 3: Consider the mission of the entire organization and current priorities in determining which budget proposals to submit. Provide compelling arguments for the proposals submitted that include reference to proposals omitted. Use money for intended purpose unless priorities or other circumstances change.**

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Identifies expenditures that will be cost-effective in their contribution to accomplishing work.
- Conducts research to determine the best available option for purchase.
- Tailors justification for budget request to the specific need and current circumstances.
- Uses money for its intended purpose.
- Makes adjustments to expenditures in accordance with price increases, changing priorities, and City policy.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Recognizes the critical role of the budget process in City functioning. Knows the budget cycle and makes timely submissions for all desired expenditures.

Superior

Provides convincing justifications that reflect essential organizational functions, demonstration of cost-effectiveness, and consideration of political/economic/social climate.

33. INTERPERSONAL SKILLS – Interacts effectively and courteously with others.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Interact with members of the workgroup, supervision, and/or the public in a cordial, service-oriented manner.
- Level 2: Interact across department lines and with appointed City officials, and/or members of the public, at times under adversarial circumstances, in a cordial, respectful manner.**
- Level 3: Interact with appointed and elected City officials, department heads, representatives of external organizations, and/or the media in a cordial, effective manner.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Works well with others toward mutual objectives.
- Does not arouse hostility in others.
- “Disagrees without being disagreeable.”
- Elicits acceptance/cooperation from others.
- Affords all individuals respect, regardless of their role or status.
- Effectively addresses concerns of politicians or others who may have their “own agenda.”

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Behaves in a courteous, respectful, cooperative manner toward co-workers, other City employees, and members of the public.

Superior

Facilitates positive interpersonal relations within/among workgroups and toward members of the public. Adept at finding similarities and grounds for cooperation/mutual benefit.

53. LEADERSHIP – Influences others toward goal accomplishment.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Assume responsibility for operations or a situation when necessary. Direct the actions of others or otherwise ensure required actions are taken. Remain responsible until relieved or situation is resolved.
- Level 2: Motivate others to continual activity focused on goal accomplishment. Provide clear objectives and articulate individual activities necessary to achieve them; ensure resources necessary to do so are available. Monitor work progress and provide feedback; assess results.
- Level 3: Articulate a vision, convey it to others, and assign responsibilities (or assure they are assigned) for achieving it. Monitor progress, make adjustments as necessary, and evaluate results.**

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Evaluates circumstances, determining what needs to be done, and ensuring individual responsibility for performing specific actions is assigned.
- Follows-up to ensure that specific actions have been taken and overall objective has been accomplished.
- Clearly communicates objectives and responsibility/individual actions necessary to achieve them.
- Monitors work in progress, provides feedback to those involved, and makes adjustments to work plans/processes to ensure goal attainment.
- Evaluates completed work for quality, thoroughness, and effectiveness to determine whether re-work or additional work is required to meet intended objectives and to provide learning for future assignments

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Assumes responsibility for work of others when required or necessary. Ensures actions taken to achieve objectives, and evaluates results to determine any follow-up needed.

Superior

Articulates vision/states clear objectives and assigns responsibility/motivates others toward achievement. Monitors progress; gives feedback; evaluates results; ensures follow-up.

54. CHAMPIONS CHANGE – Encourages others to identify means of improving existing processes and provides support for required changes.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Listen to and consider suggestions of co-workers for improving efficiency; accepts and uses suggestions when appropriate. Support imposed changes, and encourages others to do so.

Level 2: Solicit ideas for improvement, evaluate them, and implement those with merit. Gain support for changes by describing their benefits to all involved parties.

Level 3: Establish continuous improvement as a job requirement of staff. Assist in securing necessary resources to make changes. Foster an environment of calculated risk taking without fear of failure to encourage radical change.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Acknowledges and carefully considers all suggestions for improvement.
- For changes that appear promising, determines how to implement (or approves implementation).
- Encourages others to suggest changes/accept changes.
- Secures resources necessary to implement change; conducts cost-benefit analysis when possible to demonstrate return on investment.
- Presents plans for change with enthusiasm and detailed explanation as a means of promoting staff acceptance.
- Rewards staff for suggesting/implementing change that proves effective.
- Ensures there are no punitive consequences for failure of proposed changes that appeared promising and were approved.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Recognizes that vigilance with respect to identifying possible opportunities for improvement is expected of self and others. Freely makes suggestions and accepts imposed changes, and encourages others to do so.

Superior

Challenges self and others to think creatively and to identify novel approaches that have improvement potential. Persuades others to accept suggestions and enthusiastically embrace their implementation. Does not fear failure of an improvement effort made in good faith.

59. STRATEGIC PLANNING – Establishes plans in a way that will achieve vision for the future.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Recognizes that no work organization is static, so identifies how an improved organization would function and develops plans to create such an organization.
- Level 2: Considers factors in the external environment, best practices, and internal organizational factors to develop a vision for the future; identifies feasible changes/innovations in support of the vision.
- Level 3: **Considers social, economic, legal, and political trends and the “big picture” of the organization to establish a vision for its effective operation in the world of the future.**

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Establishes and keeps up-to-date a “strategic plan.”
- Articulates how current trends and anticipated future events are expected to impact the organization.
- Identifies actions the organization can take to accommodate or leverage trends and future events.
- Recognizes that evolution/change will occur, and without an attempt to manage it, that it is unlikely to be in the best interest of the organization.
- Accepts that even when many factors are unknown or their certainty is questionable, that which is known with any degree of certainty can be effectively used to formulate plans.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Considers the future when establishing current day-to-day operational practices. Envisions an improved organization and identifies specific actions to help create it.

Superior

Understands that the larger environment in which the organization exists is influenced by and influences the organization. Notwithstanding uncertainties, formulates a vision and plans to achieve it.