



STUDENTS AND
YOUNG
PROFESSIONALS
COMMITTEE



JOIN THE
WATER INDUSTRY
AND BECOME A

Wastewater Treatment Operator

CAREER INFO

**SALARY: Up to \$150K
(Entry Level)**

Career paths, training, and
job openings are available at

CAWaterJobs.org

For more information about
CWEA's Students and
Young Professionals Committee
please visit:

syp.cwea.org

TAKE A WRRF TOUR

Here's a tip: find water resource
recovery facilities in your area and
contact the agency to request a
tour. Then, ask the tour guide and
operators how to get a job as an

Photo by Adobe stock

JOB DESCRIPTION

Under general supervision, operates, maintains, and repairs a wide variety of complex machinery and equipment in a water treatment plant and/or pumping station or related facility and oversee the process of water treatment from start to finish by following local, state, and federal regulations.

STEPS TO BECOMING AN OPERATOR

1. Enroll in an Occupational Program for Wastewater Operators or Operator Certification Program at a college near you. These programs are vital to you becoming an operator and provide the fundamentals for this career. Here's a list of [community college water programs](#).
2. Complete the course credit requirements and submit an examination application to the [State Water Board](#).
3. Take the California Water Board Wastewater Operator Certification Program (WWOCP) Grade 1 Exam.
4. Look for volunteer/internship opportunities at local wastewater treatment plants. [Join CWEA events](#) to network with fellow wastewater pros and ask questions.
5. Complete your **1800 hours** within **4 years** of obtaining certification and **become an operator!**

EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

- High School Diploma or GED Equivalent
- 1800 OIT service hours
- Grade I Wastewater Operator Certificate

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

- Medical benefits
- CalPERS retirement pension
- Vacation and Sick Leave
- Paid training & tuition reimbursement