Unique Opportunity

The City of Austin is seeking a highly qualified individual to fill an Austin Water (AW) Operations Manager position. This Senior Manager will report to the Assistant Director of Operations and will be responsible for the drinking water treatment operational area. The Operations Manager in this role is intended to direct multiple business units through planning, knowledge management, asset management, operations and maintenance excellence, fiscal responsibility, and organizational change management & leadership within the water utility operational area of focus.

Austin, Texas

This vibrant and dynamic city tops numerous lists for business, entertainment, and quality of life. One of the country’s most popular, high-profile “green” and culturally dynamic cities, Austin was selected as the “Best City for the Next Decade” (Kiplinger, 2010), the “Top Creative Center” in the US (Entrepreneur.com, 2010), #1 on the Best Place to Live in the U.S. and #4 on the Best Places to Retire (U.S. News & World Report, 2019) , and ranked in the top ten on Forbes list of America’s Best Employer for 2017.

Austin is a player on the international scene with such events as SXSW, Austin City Limits, Urban Music Fest, Austin Film Festival, Formula 1 and home to companies such as Apple, Samsung, Dell, and Ascension Seton Health. From the home of state government and the University of Texas, to the Live Music Capital of the World and its growth as a film center, Austin has gained worldwide attention as a hub for education, business, health and sustainability.

The City offers a wide range of events, from music concerts, food festivals and sports competitions to museum displays, exhibits and family fun. Austin is also home to a wonderful ballet, world-class museums, one-of-a-kind shopping, and beautiful outdoor spaces. You can just as easily spend your morning paddling the lake as you can strolling through a celebrated history museum.

Located at the edge of the Texas Hill Country -- rolling terrain of limestone bluffs, springs, rivers and lakes -- Austin’s climate is ideal for year-round jogging, cycling, hiking on the City’s many trails or swimming at Barton Springs or one of the area’s many other swimming holes. There are a number of excellent golf courses in the area as well as excellent opportunities for rowing, kayaking, canoeing, camping, rock climbing, disc golf, mountain biking, fishing and more. Austin has something for everyone.

Austin City Government

The City of Austin is a progressive, full-service municipal organization operating under the Council-Manager form of government. The Austin City Council City has a 10-1 council system with an at-large Mayor and Council Members that represent 10 single-member districts. The Mayor and Council Members serve in their respective seats for four years and cannot be elected to more than two consecutive terms. The City Council appoints the City Manager who is the chief administrative and executive officer of the City. The City Council and City Manager are committed to their mission of delivering the highest quality services in the most cost-effective manner.

To learn more about the dynamic City of Austin go to: www.austintexas.gov.
The Position

AW Operations Manager – Drinking Water Treatment

Under nominal direction of the Assistant Director, this position will provide leadership, management and administration of water treatment operations to ensure adequate source water monitoring, treatment, and delivery of safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water through proper operations, maintenance and regulatory compliance of facilities. This position may serve in an acting capacity as the Assistant Director of Operations.

This position is responsible for the oversight and coordination of the three lime softening water treatment facilities, coordination with AW Operations Manager over Water Distribution, and reviewing & responding to regulatory requirements including the scheduled comprehensive compliance investigations. This Operations Manager is also responsible for new facility startups, operational technology updates and training program, and adhering to cyber security standards. Additionally, the manager maintains high standards for water quality entering the water distribution system as well as integrating satellite water treatment facilities (including future aquifer storage and recovery facilities). This position takes an active role in the asset management process for the facilities to include implementation of reliability-centered maintenance, the CIP planning process, and coordination of construction activities for the water treatment plants. This position will also be the lead in monitoring water quality changes in the source water and collaborating with stakeholders and other city departments to ensure adequate measures are in place to protect public health and safety. During emergency operations, Operations Manager will serve as Operations Chief or Incident Manager under an Incident Command Structure. Additionally, the person in this position will manage water treatment plant solids handling, including transportation and a permitted disposal landfill.
Core Services

The City of Austin currently operates three lime softening water treatment plants, Handcox, Davis and Ullrich, which draw water from the Colorado River (Lake Austin and Lake Travis) and treat it to drinking water quality. After water is pumped from the river to the plants, it goes through the multiple barrier treatment processes - screening, disinfection, coagulation and single-stage lime softening, flocculation, sedimentation, and filtration - to ensure that citizens are provided with clean, safe water.

- Albert R. Davis Water Treatment Plant, 120 MGD
- Albert H. Ullrich Water Treatment Plant, 167 MGD
- Berl L. Handcox Sr. Water Treatment Plant, 50 MGD

Essential duties and functions, pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, may include the following:

1. Determines divisional needs, develops, executes, and evaluates strategic short-range and long-range plans including three to five year forecasting for a variety of projects, programs, and division activities. Reviews, prepares, consolidates and monitors division-wide budgets.

2. Coordinates activities within the division, between Austin Water, City departments, and with outside consultants, engineers, associations, regulatory agencies, neighborhood associations, and general public.

3. Interprets, explains, and ensures compliance with applicable policies, procedures, ordinances and federal/state regulations.

4. Evaluates programs for effectiveness and accomplishment of goals.

5. Develops/reviews, revises and approves procedures and specifications for plant, field or laboratory operations, equipment and technical instrumentation; analytical testing procedures, quality control programs, safety programs, and training programs.

6. Facilitates, conducts, attends meetings and represents the division on behalf of the Assistant Director, department and City.

7. Provides technical advice and assistance to internal and external customers.

8. Applies and interprets principles, practices, and procedures specific to functions such as Civil, Water & Wastewater, and/or Process Control System Engineering, Water Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) controls, Distributed Control System (DCS), and Advanced Smart Water Infrastructure.
THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

The ideal candidate should have knowledge of local, state and federal water and wastewater utility regulations. This individual will have a thorough knowledge of public water and wastewater utility operations, including process optimization, regulatory compliance, budget development and controls, and utilizing performance measures to drive improvements. This leader will have substantial business acumen and a thorough understanding of the critical role played by the program areas in the business model of a public utility. Knowledge and experience in the occupational health and safety for water industry are critical. Advanced written and verbal communication skills are imperative for this position.

This seasoned leader will have skill in developing and maintaining cooperative and constructive relationships with both internal and external customers, as well as have the ability to be a positive and professional representative of the Utility to customers and the general public. The candidate should be willing to question the status quo and traditional approaches, and be a force for constructive and positive change. The candidate will be a leader and manager who views problems from a broad perspective and emphasizes solutions that support strategic objectives and employs recognized best practices. In addition the ideal candidate should demonstrate a sincere interest in the development and success of others, and have the ability to address internal issues directly and forthrightly. Prior supervisory/management experience in a large, robust city/organization is highly desirable.
Education and Experience

Interested candidates must possess a Bachelor’s degree from an accredited four-year college or university with major coursework in a relevant field of study plus seven (7) years of progressively responsible experience related to the activities of the program area, three (3) years of which must be in a supervisory, management, or program management capacity.

Graduation with a Master’s degree from an accredited college may substitute for two (2) years of non-supervisory/management experience.

Class “A” Water license from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) or State of Texas Professional Engineers license (Civil, Environmental or Water Resources Engineering is preferred) is required, as well as a valid Texas Class C Driver license at the time of hire.

Out of state applicants must have equivalent licensure or demonstrate the ability to obtain the appropriate license within six (6) months.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

Salary - The salary range for the AW Operations Manager position is $94,162 to $124,779. Starting salary will be determined based on the qualifications and experience of the candidate selected.

Other Benefits - Austin Water offers limited relocation assistance and an excellent comprehensive benefits package which includes a defined benefit pension plan, health, dental, vacation, holidays, sick leave, parental leave and Healthy Connections, our very vibrant wellness program.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

To be considered for this exceptional opportunity, please complete an online application at the following address: www.austincityjobs.org, Requisition #COA082069

Selection Process: Applications will be screened in relation to the criteria outlined in this brochure. Candidates deemed to have the most relevant qualifications will be invited to interview. Austin Water anticipates making an appointment to the positions following final interviews and the completion of reference and background checks to be coordinated with the successful candidate.

For additional information or questions please contact:

Karen Jones
Human Resources Advisor Senior
City of Austin | Austin Water, HRSD
phone: 512-972-0092 | fax: 512-972-0356