

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER/ DISTRICT ENGINEER

San Benito County Water District

(Hollister, CA)





THE WATER DISTRICT

San Benito County Water District (SBCWD) supplies imported water from the Central Valley Project (CVP) to the Hollister Urban area and agricultural lands under contract with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). Approximately three-fourths of SBCWD's allocation of 42,000 acre-feet of imported water is used for agricultural irrigation. The remaining quarter is available for municipal and industrial uses. Water collected from the Central Valley Project is treated at two District-owned surface water treatment plants and delivered to the City of Hollister and the Sunnyslope County Water District (SSCWD). The drinking water that the District delivers to these agencies ultimately goes to the City of Hollister's Reclamation Plant and becomes recycled water. Local farmers then use this reclaimed water for irrigation.

Additional water resources are available via water rights from the Hernandez Dam and Reservoir, the San Benito River System and Dos Picachos Creek. These sources are diverted, percolated into the groundwater basin, and later recovered through wells. To meet demands, the District periodically participates in transfers or water purchases from other agencies.

The water that SBCWD supplies the community is collected, stored, treated and delivered through a complex array of systems and facilities including 8 pressure reducing turnouts, 4 pumping facilities, 11 percolation sites and the 10,000 acre-foot San Justo Reservoir. A computerized telemetry system aids in delivering water through over 170 miles of buried pipe. SBCWD also shares the Pacheco Tunnel, Pacheco Pumping Plant and Pacheco Conduit with the Santa Clara Valley Water District via agreements with USBR.

The District has been in a long transition from a predominantly agricultural provider as recently as the 1990s to an increasingly suburban provider. Both agricultural and urban customer communities are sizable and important. SBCWD is governed by an elected five-member Board of Directors, and administered by the General Manager.

THE POSITION

The Assistant General Manager (AGM)/District Engineering position at SBCWD is a fantastic opportunity for someone who wants to make a mark in the dynamic and vitally important water profession. The incumbent will have:

- An opportunity to be a key player in California water policy as a South of Delta Contractor
- The ability to participate in a variety of interesting and challenging regional programs
- A pivotal role in developing future water supplies for San Benito County

This newly created position will report to the General Manager and be responsible for planning, organizing, managing, directing and supervising the engineering and operations and maintenance functions of the District. Primary responsibilities include:

- Overseeing and managing the Engineering and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Departments of the District
- Preparing and administering the annual engineering and O&M budget
- Assisting the General Manager with the development of a Capitol Improvement Budget, major construction projects, and development of District facilities and future agricultural and municipal water supply projects
- Providing consultation for District management regarding engineering issues and problems

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- Resolving problems of facility location, construction, maintenance, and related functions
- Providing general guidance on the development of bids, contracts, and other matters related to engineering functions
- Overseeing the development of engineering plans and specifications, including the establishment of general District engineering standards
- Coordinating District projects with professional engineering consultants, including the approval of plans and specifications developed by consultants
- Directing the preparation and reviews a variety of engineering reports and technical analyses
- Representing the District in coordination with other utilities, regulatory agencies, governmental bodies, planning agencies, trade and professional associations, technical groups, and developers
- Coordinating the progress, inspection, and proper completion of major construction projects
- Establishes and coordinates overall O&M program priorities
- Preparing a variety of correspondence and reports related to engineering and O&M functions
- Establishing and maintaining cooperative working relationships with co-workers, outside agencies, and the public
- Overseeing and managing the District's contract water treatment plant operator

In addition, the AGM/District Engineer will assist the General Manager in the importation of Central Valley Project Water; plan and oversee the District water operations including groundwater management, river/reservoir operations, and imported water supply; represent the General Manager at meetings and conferences as delegated; support the General Manager in making presentation to the Board of Directors; and regularly update the General Manager regarding personnel operations, problems, policies, and administrative work.

Challenges and Opportunities

Major current and ongoing initiatives include upwards of \$100 million in urban and agricultural water supply projects and a variety of complex management and planning efforts, including:

- Hollister Urban Area Water and Wastewater Master Plan Implementation: Development of new Aquifer Storage and Recovery facilities and associated water treatment facilities to provide additional urban water supply
- Zebra Mussel Management and Eradication Plan: USBR and California Department of Fish and Game have been working to develop an eradication plan to eliminate mussels from San Justo Reservoir. The District continues to operate San Justo Reservoir (as it has for the past 10 years) by seasonally raising and lowering water levels to minimize Zebra Mussel populations.
- Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project: The District has the option to participate up to 10% in SCVWD's \$2.3 billion Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project. Operations agreement and project benefits will be evaluated against other District water supply options.
- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation: The District has actively and successfully managed its groundwater basin. With the recent completion of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan, the District will move into the implementation.
- Managing CVP Water Supply and USBR contracts
- Active Participation in San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA): California Delta Water issue, B.F. Sisk Dam Raise, San Luis Transmission Project, Delta Mendota canal repair.

Additional information can be found in the District's **Comprehensive Annual Financial Report**

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

The ideal candidate for this highly responsible position is an inquisitive, out-of-the-box thinker who brings creative solutions to address water supply challenges. They are a self-starter with strong project management and communication skills. They are adept at managing staff and consultants and prioritizing work. They understand and appreciate the financial impacts of their choices and maintain tight cost controls.

The best qualified candidate is highly professional, completely reliable, and has a business-like demeanor. They are results-oriented yet flexible. They are open and honest with management, skilled at building alliances within other agencies, and committed to living in the community they serve.

Qualifying Education and Experience:

Any combination of education and experience that would provide the necessary knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the knowledge and abilities is completion of a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in Civil Engineering, with an emphasis on hydrology or four years of equivalent work experience in this field PLUS seven years of increasingly responsible professional engineering experience in design and construction of irrigation, groundwater management, water treatment and distribution, and water treatment facilities, including at least five years in a management or supervisory capacity. A valid and current certificate of registration as a Civil Engineer issued by the State of California is required.

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

The salary range for this position is \$180,000 - \$200,000 per year, DOQ. The District also provides its employees a variety of benefits, including:

- Paid vacation, sick, personal and bereavement leave
- Management Leave
- 11.5 paid holidays per year
- CalPERS defined benefit (pension) retirement program
- Health, dental and vision coverage
- Life insurance
- Flexible spending programs
- Retirement Health Savings Account
- Professional development opportunities
- Employee Assistance Program

HOW TO APPLY

Apply on-line at www.alliancerc.com by **January 24, 2022**. For questions and inquiries, please contact Cindy Krebs at ckrebs@alliancerc.com or 562-901-0769 x 336.

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THE COMMUNITY

Hollister is the largest city in San Benito County with a population of about 37,000. While still small, it was one of the fastest growing communities in the state over the past decade. The growing suburban population intermingles with long established farms and orchards.

The weather is moderate due to the ocean breezes that make their way inland to Hollister. Many people say one of the best things about living in Hollister is that it is close to popular beach cities like Santa Cruz and Monterey Bay and also major urban centers like the South Bay and San Francisco while maintaining that hometown feel.

San Benito County (pop. 65,000) is home to Pinnacles National Park and a section of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. Because of its strong agricultural roots, there is an active Farmer's Market in the summer months and a thriving annual County Fair. The gross value of agricultural production in the county is \$338 million.