

CITY OF BELLINGHAM

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE: Public Works Assistant Director - Natural Resources

E-PLAN
SG:E2-15

DEPARTMENT: Public Works - Natural Resources

CS:N
FLSA:N

EEO4/SCOCODE:OA/11-9121

JOB SUMMARY:

Responsible for planning, organizing, staffing and directing the Natural Resources Division of the Public Works Department. Assists the Director of Public Works in developing and implementing programs and policies that supports the City's goals, enhance organizational effectiveness, foster a positive work environment and contributes to the City's long-term success and financial sustainability. Engages and collaborates with local, state, federal agencies, tribal nations and community partners to advance the mission and goals of assigned areas and the City. Assures compliance with department and city policies and procedures, collective bargaining agreements and legal requirements. Promotes the Public Service competencies of service orientation, results orientation and teamwork and cooperation. Ensures that business practices and standards of performance are accomplished in an effective and cost-efficient manner. Actively engages in public involvement and engagement working with elected officials, policy makers, and citizens. Develops and maintains relationships with staff, other departments, individuals and entities outside City government to foster collaboration, inclusion, and effective use of resources.

SUPERVISORY RELATIONSHIP:

Reports to the Director of Public Works. Work is performed under general guidance and direction and in accordance with applicable local, state and federal regulations, policies and procedures, and contract agreements. Serves as a senior member of the Public Works management team. Provides supervision, guidance and direction to the Natural Resources Division Staff. May act in responsible charge in the Director and Deputy Director's absence as assigned.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE JOB:

1. **Leadership:** Serves as a senior member of the Public Works Management team. Coordinates the Natural Resources Division activities with other departments and offices to ensure alignment with the City's critical objectives, vision and values. Provides program and project support to other departments to help the City deliver great government.
2. **Strategic Planning:** Assists the Public Works Director in providing leadership and direction in the development and implementation of strategic short and long-range plans, programs, goals, performance measures and objectives for the Natural Resources Division. Identifies trends and challenges affecting progress and collaborates with appropriate management and staff to develop and implement solutions. Oversees or conducts research to obtain required data to establish or review policies, procedures or programs. Reviews, interprets and analyze data, prepares reports, and makes recommendations about which programs and/or major project proposals should be initiated, modified or discontinued.
3. **Policy Development:** Assists the Mayor, City Council, and City departments in the establishment and implementation of various city policies, procedures, and regulations relating to the Natural Resources Division. Keeps current in new developments in the field

through professional membership, attendance at conferences, networking with other professionals, research and reading. Uses this contemporary knowledge for program, work system, and service delivery improvements.

4. Fiscal and Business Management: Provides technical, administrative and fiscal direction to the Natural Resources Division of the Public Works Department. This includes program planning and management, budget preparation, interdepartmental and interagency coordination on environmental initiatives, and personnel administration. Manages assigned services and activities including environmental policy, environmental education, stream and habitat restoration, watershed planning/management, and storm and surface water utility planning. Facilitates and coordinates cooperative planning efforts with other divisions, departments, outside governmental agencies, community resources and entities as required.
5. Personnel Management: Develops and maintains a workforce committed to, and with highly developed competencies in, customer service, results orientation and teamwork. Serves as a primary point of contact for personnel matters for the Division. Manages employee relations by promoting open communication, collaboration and accountability. Establishes systems for staff engagement and ensures timely completion of performance appraisals. Consults with supervisors on personnel actions and addresses labor relations matters in compliance with labor agreements and personnel policies. Actively supports strategies and programs to foster an inclusive workplace and create a culture of respect and belonging.
6. Public Involvement and Communications: Presents reports, recommendations, budgets and issues for resolution to department heads, Mayor, City Council, boards and commissions, including summarizing data and statistics and analyzing findings. May represent the department director at public meetings or special interest groups and other public settings; interacts regularly and directly with community members and groups. Serves on boards and committees.
7. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Actively contributes to and implements strategies and programs to foster an inclusive workplace, ensure equitable practices and reduces biases. Collaborates with staff across the City to create a culture of respect and belonging.

ADDITIONAL WORK PERFORMED:

1. Performs other related work of a similar nature and level.

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS (Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities):

Knowledge of:

- Working knowledge of Public Works Department operations and procedures and the operations of other City departments with related responsibilities.
- Working knowledge of relevant government and/or community institutions, organizations, procedures and processes, and pertinent federal, state and local regulations. Familiarity with area neighborhood issues and environmental concerns.
- Fiscal management including budget preparation, grant and contract administration, service and intergovernmental contract administration, cost and budget analysis, expenditure control and records management.
- The Lake Whatcom Reservoir Management Program's purpose, policies and procedures, functions and practices, including a working knowledge of freshwater ecology and water supply issues.
- Environmental sciences, including biology, ecology and hydrology.

- Government processes, including legislative, regulatory, agency mandates and local authority.
- Current principles, practices, strategies and techniques of preserving, protecting and enhancing water resources.
- Applicable local, state and federal laws, rules, regulations, policies and procedures related to the areas of assignment.
- Computer operation and a variety of software including word processing, spreadsheet, database and other applications specific to the area of assignment.
- Safety and security hazards, precautions, standards, policies and procedures pertinent to the area of assignment.
- Best practices for fostering equitable practices and an inclusive workplace.

Skill in:

- Highly effective team building and leadership skills including consensus-building to resolve conflict, negotiate agreements and gain cooperation among competing interest groups.
- Strong business and fiscal management skills.
- Strategic planning and development of short and long-term plans and programs.
- Estimating and analyzing costs and effectiveness of programs, monitoring information, working accurately with numbers, and interpreting statistical information.
- Listening attentively and communicating effectively, both orally and in writing, with individuals and groups in clear, concise language appropriate for the purpose and parties addressed, including preparing and making public presentations which can be understood by non-technical listeners and preparing and directing preparation of comprehensive written reports, materials and correspondence.

Ability to:

- Apply good judgment and problem-solving techniques to make reasoned, timely and consistent decisions on administrative matters and resolve technical problems.
- Use tact, discretion, respect, persuasion, diplomacy and courtesy to gain the cooperation of others and establish and maintain effective teams and a professional relationship and rapport with public officials, representatives of other agencies or entities, department heads, co-workers, employees and diverse members of the public.
- Maintain a high level of personal and professional integrity and honesty.
- Quickly grasp and manage highly complex and technical issues in a fast-paced environment and in a context of inter-related issues, systems, projects and strategies.
- Interpret, explain and apply complex guidelines, codes, regulations, policies and procedures.
- Maintain current knowledge for assigned areas and adapt to new technologies, keeping personal and team technical skills up-to-date and using technology to increase productivity.
- Maintain consistent and punctual attendance.
- Ability and willingness to demonstrate the Public Service Competencies of Service Orientation, Results Orientation, and Teamwork and Cooperation.
- Physical ability to perform essential functions of the job, including:
 - Frequently operate a computer and other office machinery such as a keyboard, mouse, phone, and fax machine;
 - Communicate accurate information and ideas with others;
 - Occasionally move between work sites;
 - Infrequently traverse on uneven surfaces such as gravel parking lots, docks, and lake side beaches with a mix of sand, gravel, pebbles and rocks;
 - Infrequently travel, sit and move about a boat on the water.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT:

Work is performed in an office setting and at field locations throughout the City and involves travel to various work sites and meeting locations. Extended periods of concentration and sedentary work are required. May include walking for long distances through varying terrain. Possibility of exposure to a variety of environmental allergens standard to the area of assignment. Frequently drives motor vehicle to perform duties. Uses appropriate safety equipment and follows established safety policies, practices and procedures. This is a position with minimal to moderate physical exertion requirements.

EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's degree with emphasis in science such as hydrology, ecology, environmental science, or water resource management with knowledge in business or public administration required; master's degree preferred.
- Minimum of five (5) years progressively responsible experience in water resources and stormwater management and planning, including three (3) years of supervisory experience required.
- Municipal supervisory experience preferred.
- An equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to provide the applicant with the knowledge, skill and ability to successfully perform the essential functions of the job will be considered.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENT:

- Employment contingent upon passing a criminal background check.
- Valid Washington State driver's license and good driving record. Candidates must submit a three-year driving abstract prior to hire.
- Willingness and ability to frequently attend and participate in evening meetings.

PREPARED BY:

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REVIEWED BY:

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