



**AUGUST 2018  
FLSA: EXEMPT**

## **SENIOR COST ESTIMATOR**

*This class specification indicates, in general terms, the type and level of work performed as well as the responsibilities of employees in this classification. The job functions described are not to be interpreted as being all-inclusive to any specific employee.*

### **DEFINITION**

Under general supervision or direction, prepares complex cost estimates to provide detailed information regarding quantity and cost of materials and labor on Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects; analyzing and evaluating change order cost and proposals, maintaining a cost database and monitoring current cost trends; develops processes and/or techniques that provide clear and standard estimating methods across projects; provides data for analytical comparisons between projects.

### **SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED**

Receives general supervision or direction from the assigned supervisory and/or managerial staff. Exercises no direct supervision of staff. May exercise functional and technical leadership in assigned workgroups or teams and may coach and/or mentor less experienced staff.

### **CLASS CHARACTERISTICS**

This classification is the second of two (2) levels within the engineering cost estimation job series and is responsible for preparing detailed cost estimates to engineering and project management staff in support of the District's capital improvement program. Employees at this level provide technical leadership for cost estimate development and cost analysis; perform more difficult assignments, projects and analyses; and receive only occasional instruction or assistance as new or unusual situations arise; and have full and thorough knowledge of the concepts, practices, procedures, and policies of the assigned function. Responsibilities may include providing guidance on programs and/or projects. Work is normally reviewed only on completion and for overall results.

### **EXAMPLES OF ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS** (Illustrative Only)

*The following essential job functions are typical for this classification. Incumbents may not perform all of the listed job functions and/or may be required to perform additional or different job functions from those set forth below to address business needs and changing business practices.*

- Prepares independent complex cost estimates to provide detailed information regarding quantity and cost of materials and labor on Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects (both in-house and those performed by contractors); reviews contractors' cost proposals by validating and analyzing request for information, request for change, request for proposals, Field Change Order documents, project drawings and specifications; prepares cost estimates during the project planning stage by reviewing as-built drawings and scope of work.
- Leads the development of the total project estimate, whether detailed and/or conceptual.
- Reviews and provides comments on the construction cost estimates submitted by design consultants at different phases of the design, including PDR, DS1, DS2, DS3, and FDS.
- Prepares cost estimates for in-house design projects by analyzing and reviewing project plans and specifications.

- Ensures established safety precautions are adhered to, corrects unsafe work conditions/practices, and/or reports unsafe work conditions practices to assigned supervisory or managerial staff.
- Reviews engineering plans and specifications to determine materials and quantities required by project specifications.
- Recommends cost saving changes and reviews cost estimates and change orders submitted by construction contractors; provides recommendations to contractors and project managers on potential/available cost savings options.
- Develops processes, templates and/or techniques that provide clear and standard estimating methods across projects, including measuring scope creep as projects advance through the design process.
- Develops and maintains cost estimating policy, procedures and guidelines, including the level of detail and project level allowance requirements.
- Develops and maintains cost database; provides data for analytical comparisons between projects.
- Maintains construction estimating software, procedures, guidelines, and formats.
- Develops and implements estimating systems to include multiple estimating platforms, spreadsheets, templates and databases.
- Participates in the development and implementation of standards used; researches and recommends quality improvement standards.
- Prepares analytical and statistical reports on operations and activities.
- Develops resolution/negotiation strategy with Construction Management and Contract Management Staff on large/complex claims and changes.
- Attends and participates in professional group meetings; stays abreast of new trends and innovations in the field of cost estimation; researches emerging products and enhancements and their applicability to District needs.
- Develops and conducts basic cost estimating training sessions for Resident Engineers and Assistant Resident Engineers.
- Reviews work of Cost Estimating staff to ensure consistency and adherence to policy.
- Provides work direction to Cost Estimator(s) to strategically complete workload and goals.
- Forecasts staffing needs for projects and makes recommendations on project assignments.
- Provides leadership and guidance to others for programs and/or projects. As a program and/or project leader, may direct, assign, train, monitor and review the work activities of team members; determines work priorities; makes recommendations on project assignments; oversees quality and quantity of work performed and ensures adherence to established procedures by instructing employees accordingly; is a reference to employees by possessing specialized skills; develops and implements work improvements.
- Performs related duties as assigned.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

### **Knowledge of:**

- Best practices and procedures of cost estimating of large construction-based projects, including pipeline rehabilitation, large diameter pipeline work, microtunneling, wastewater treatment facilities, and building construction.
- Project construction environment, engineering terminology and calculations (e.g., flow rates, water pressure, pump capacity, etc.) to determine associated costs.
- Principles of project control techniques and methods.
- Consultants and construction specifications and contractor methods of operation.
- Principles and practices of project management and project management techniques.
- Principles of methods, materials, and techniques used in the design and construction of wastewater projects.
- Factors affecting materials and labor costs.
- Principles of work breakdown structures.
- Labor and equipment usage including material and cost databases.

- Principles and techniques of asset management and criteria for the evaluation of projects.
- Technical report writing and preparation of correspondence.
- Principles and procedures of record keeping.
- Advanced mathematical principles used in estimating.
- Applicable Federal, State, and local laws, regulatory codes, ordinances, and procedures relevant to assigned area of responsibility.
- Modern office practices, methods, and computer equipment and applications related to the work, including word processing, database, and spreadsheet applications.
- English usage, grammar, spelling, vocabulary, and punctuation.
- Techniques for effectively representing the District in contacts with governmental agencies, community groups, various business, professional, educational, and regulatory organizations, and with property owners, developers, contractors, and the public.
- Principles and practices of customer service and techniques for effectively communicating with the public, vendors, contractors, and District staff.

**Ability to:**

- Perform work of a specialized nature requiring the ability to use independent judgment, personal initiative and attention to detail.
- Provide technical guidance and expertise to lower level staff on programs and projects.
- Define project scopes based on limited specific knowledge.
- Read and interpret engineering plans and specifications.
- Interpret consultant design documents and complex facility construction documents.
- Apply critical thinking and analysis to a broad range of situations and for problem-resolution.
- Estimate the cost of large construction-based projects.
- Utilize estimating software, procedures, guidelines, and formats.
- Implement estimating systems using varying platforms, i.e., spreadsheets, databases, etc.
- Research, compile, analyze, and interpret data.
- Identify problems, research and analyze relevant information, develop and present recommendations and justification for solution.
- Apply advanced mathematical calculations to estimate the cost or projects and/or its components.
- Prepare clear, concise technical reports and documentation.
- Interpret, apply, explain, and ensure compliance with Federal, State, and local policies, procedures, laws, rules, and regulations.
- Make sound, independent decisions within established policy and procedural guidelines.
- Organize and prioritize a variety of projects and multiple tasks in an effective and timely manner; organize own work, set priorities, and meet critical time deadlines.
- Maintain confidentiality in maintaining critical and sensitive information, records, and reports.
- Utilize a computer, relevant software applications and/or other equipment.
- Effectively communicate in person, over the telephone, and in writing.
- Operate a motor vehicle and travel to various District sites, projects and/or meetings.
- Use tact, initiative, prudence, and independent judgment within general policy and legal guidelines.
- Establish, maintain, and foster positive and effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.
- Adhere to safe work practices and procedures in the workplace.
- Train others on proper work procedures.

**Employment Standards:**

Any combination of education and experience that provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities may be qualifying as determined by OCSD.

1. Bachelor's degree from a college or university accredited by the U.S. Department of Education, with major coursework in engineering, construction management or a related field; AND,

2. Eight (8) years of work experience in cost estimating large construction-based projects, including three (3) years at a level comparable to a Cost Estimator.

**Licenses and/or Certifications:**

- Valid California Class C Driver's License.

**Disaster Service Workers:**

All Orange County Sanitation District employees are designated Disaster Service Workers through state law (California Government Code Section 3100-3109). Employment with the Orange County Sanitation District requires the affirmation of a loyalty oath to this effect. Employees are required to complete all related training as assigned, and to return to work as ordered in the event of an emergency.

**PHYSICAL DEMANDS**

Must possess mobility to work in a standard office setting and use standard office equipment, including a computer; ability to travel to various District sites, projects and/or meetings; vision to read printed materials and a computer screen; and hearing and speech to communicate in person, before groups, and over the telephone. This is primarily a sedentary office classification although standing in and walking between work areas may be required. Finger dexterity is needed to access, enter, and retrieve data using a computer keyboard or calculator and to operate standard office equipment. Positions in this classification occasionally bend, stoop, kneel, reach, push, and pull drawers open and closed to retrieve and file information. Employees must possess the ability to lift, carry, push, and pull materials and objects weighing up to 10 pounds.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS**

Employees work in an office environment with moderate noise levels, controlled temperature conditions, and no direct exposure to hazardous physical substances. Employees may interact with upset staff and/or public and private representatives in interpreting and enforcing departmental policies and procedures.