

**COMPETENCY MODEL FOR
UTILITY SERVICES MANAGER
CLASS CODE 9106**

The following competencies have been identified as those that best separate superior from satisfactory job performance in the class of **UTILITY SERVICES MANAGER**. (Numbers refers to the order of competencies in the Competency Bank.)

- 3. Judgment and Decision Making
- 4. Analytical Ability
- 20. Job Knowledge
- 28. Supervision
- 36. Emotional Maturity
- 45. Oral Communication
- 47. Written Communication
- 53. Leadership
- 56. Awareness of the City Environment

On the following pages are descriptions of each competency, including a definition, the level of the competency required for the class (*italicized*, **bolded**, and underlined), examples of behavioral indicators, and satisfactory and superior performance levels.

3. JUDGMENT AND DECISION MAKING – Accurately assesses situations, seeks new information if necessary, and applies all available information to reach sound conclusions/formulate effective response.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Training and guidelines needed to respond to immediate situations within a very specific function are provided (or supervisor available to assist).

Level 2: General information and guidance to assist in responding to a variety of situations across a range of circumstances are provided.

Level 3: Little guidance available for responding to a wide range of complex situations with far-reaching and/or enduring consequences.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Effectively responds to atypical situations.
- Asks questions or otherwise obtains additional relevant information to make a decision.
- Formulates a decision and necessary actions based on available facts.
- Correctly infers appropriate response based on information provided and existing policies, personal experience, and/or consultation with others.
- Discusses conclusions/possible responses with others before taking action as necessary.
- Considers impact of decisions on all affected parties.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Correctly assesses routine and unusual situations and reaches appropriate conclusions for actions needed. Obtains additional information and/or consults with others as necessary.

Superior

Evaluates new situations accurately to establish an appropriate response or plan of action. Recognizes the impact on all affected parties, as well as the possible ramifications and/or repercussions of setting a precedent.

4. ANALYTICAL ABILITY – Identifies, obtains, and evaluates relevant information to establish relationships or patterns, cite causes, and reach logical conclusions.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Recognize similarities/differences in current situation to those previously encountered and is guided accordingly. Apply existing policies correctly. Ask pertinent questions or otherwise seek additional information to formulate appropriate response.

Level 2: Consider multiple, varied factors when evaluating a situation or issue. Seek additional information to provide further insight. Reach conclusions that logically follow from the information obtained.

Level 3: Consider a multitude of diverse factors, their interrelationships, the perspectives of others, alternative courses of action and their likely ramifications when evaluating information to reach a conclusion.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Obtains the necessary amount of relevant information.
- Recognizes the impact of each type of information on conclusions.
- Evaluates the quality/source of information when considering it.
- States the shortcomings of the information and, therefore, the analysis.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Recognizes available relevant information, seeks additional information to consider, and reaches a conclusion. Provides sound, convincing justification for conclusions, citing relevant data and facts.

Superior

Uses a great deal of existing and obtained information and data to develop and evaluate alternatives and arrive at a final conclusion. Provides compelling arguments in support of conclusions.

20. JOB KNOWLEDGE – Knows information required to perform a specific job. Includes both widely available courses of study (for example, chemistry, human resources management, graphic arts) and City-specific information (parking regulation and ticketing practices; purchasing procedures; provisions of the City Charter).

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Knowledge acquired after hire in a brief orientation, short training program, or through on-the-job training.
- Level 2: Knowledge acquired through an apprenticeship or extensive training program, or long duration of job performance.

Level 3: Knowledge is abstract, conceptual, and/or complex and may be supported by a well-defined academic discipline or authoritative sources (e.g., laws, ordinances, government guidelines/regulations/codes). Situations in which it is applied may vary greatly or be novel.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Performs work correctly/avoids technical (job content related) errors.
- Answers technical questions about work accurately.
- Asks few technical questions about the performance of routine work activities.
- Offers advice (“coaching”) to new employees regarding their work.
- Develops training programs for other employees.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Sufficient job knowledge to perform work correctly independently. Answers technical questions about work correctly.

Superior

Expertise in technical job information sufficient to serve as a resource to others. May develop training manuals/programs and/or give internal and/or external presentations related to work.

Job Knowledge Areas

1. Knowledge of Department of Water and Power rules, policies, and procedures relating to customer service, including electric and water service rates, billing, credit and collections, marketing, and account management sufficient to respond to inquiries from the Department's customers and internal and external stakeholders.
2. Knowledge of Department of Water and Power policies and procedures related to energy and water efficiency, conservation, power generation, water supply and quality, environmental compliance, and regulatory and legislative issues sufficient to address inquiries, problems, and concerns raised by customers.
3. Knowledge of Department of Water and Power organizational and functional budget practices, systems, including budget justifications, materials and services procurement, and staffing levels sufficient to determine operational needs in preparation for section budget.
4. Knowledge of the Department of Water and Power organization, including functions of the various divisions and sections of the Department.
5. Knowledge of City, Personnel Department, and Department of Water and Power policies, practices, and procedures, including but not limited to, Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), Administrative Manuals, Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) policies, and safety policies sufficient to apply them to specific cases and to explain them to others.
6. Knowledge of the principles, practices, and methods of public administration, such as management by objective, management theories, organizational structure, and organizational development.

28. SUPERVISION – Ability to assume direct responsibility for all aspects of the performance of a work group, which requires knowledge and/or ability in the areas of:

- Planning and goal setting
- Creating a safe and positive work environment
- Establishing standards and training employees
- Motivating employees and teambuilding
- Performance Management (assigning, monitoring, facilitating, reviewing and evaluating work, and providing feedback)
- Supporting and developing employees through delegation and participation
- Taking disciplinary action including progressive discipline
- Provisions of employees' MOU's and handling grievances
- Legal requirements including EEO, ADA, FLSA, FMLA, and Workers' Compensation provisions
- Civil Service Commission Rules and Policies related to the management of employees
- Administrative Code provisions related to the management of employees
- Budget processes sufficient to request and justify expenditures in a correct and timely manner

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Supervises small workgroup of employees performing the same or highly related work.

Level 2: Supervises a larger workgroup of employees performing various types of work.

Level 3: Supervises employees including provision of coaching and advice to subordinate supervisors.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Plans, assigns, and monitors work progress.
- Trains employees to do work.
- Evaluates work and gives positive and negative feedback.
- Displays knowledge of legal requirements including applicable Federal and State laws, Administrative Code provisions, Civil Service Commission Rules and Policies, and MOU provisions.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Proficiency in supervision sufficient to supervise a workgroup in terms of task orientation, interpersonal concerns, and personnel administration.

Superior

Proficiency in supervision sufficient to serve as a resource to others and/or represent department position in a public forum.

45. ORAL COMMUNICATION – Communicates orally in a clear, concise, and effective manner.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Exchange specific, job-related information orally with others in the immediate work environment or via telephone and/or radio.

Level 2: Obtain/provide/present general and/or job-specific information orally to a variety of others in various situations.

Level 3: Obtain/provide/present a diverse array of information orally at varying levels of complexity to a wide range of others across many different situations and circumstances.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Audience clearly understands the intended message.
- Rarely must repeat information in response to questions.
- Refrains from use of unnecessary words, phrases, or jargon.
- Provides a level of detail appropriate to the situation (avoids too much or too little detail).
- Speaks at a level appropriate to the audience in terms of terminology, sentence structure, and simplicity/complexity of ideas expressed.
- Uses words with precision (vocabulary) to convey exact information.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Speaks clearly and audibly, providing the appropriate information and level of detail. Typically conveys the message on the first attempt. Answers questions accurately and directly.

Superior

Speech is direct and to the point. Speaks convincingly and with authority when appropriate. Maintains sensitivity to the audience while providing thorough information with the appropriate level of detail through the use of precise language.

47. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION – Communicates effectively in writing.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Write notes/emails. Completes forms with some open-ended responses (sentences).

Level 2: Write letters, articles/reports, and/or detailed descriptions of activities/occurrences.

Level 3: Write lengthy reports, instruction manuals, in-depth analyses/reviews of complex issues and/or articles for publication. Reviews the written work of others.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Writing includes the necessary information to convey the intended message.
- Sufficiently few errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar to not interfere with the intended message or distract the reader.
- Little editing or re-writing needed to produce a final product.
- Composes materials efficiently.
- Information is presented in a well-organized manner.
- Tone and degree of formality are appropriate to the purpose and audience.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Writes material that clearly communicates the necessary information; needs little editing.

Superior

Precisely uses words and organizes information in a way that enhances presentation of the message. Virtually no editing needed.

53. LEADERSHIP – Influences others toward goal accomplishment.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Assume responsibility for operations or a situation when necessary. Direct the actions of others or otherwise ensure required actions are taken. Remain responsible until relieved or situation is resolved.

Level 2: Motivate others to continual activity focused on goal accomplishment. Provide clear objectives and articulate individual activities necessary to achieve them; ensure resources necessary to do so are available. Monitor work progress and provide feedback; assess results.

Level 3: Articulate a vision, convey it to others, and assign responsibilities (or assure they are assigned) for achieving it. Monitor progress, make adjustments as necessary, and evaluate results.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Evaluates circumstances, determining what needs to be done, and ensuring individual responsibility for performing specific actions is assigned.
- Follows-up to ensure that specific actions have been taken and overall objective has been accomplished.
- Clearly communicates objectives and responsibility/individual actions necessary to achieve them.
- Monitors work in progress, provides feedback to those involved, and makes adjustments to work plans/processes to ensure goal attainment.
- Evaluates completed work for quality, thoroughness, and effectiveness to determine whether re-work or additional work is required to meet intended objectives and to provide learning for future assignments

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Assumes responsibility for work of others when required or necessary. Ensures actions taken to achieve objectives, and evaluates results to determine any follow-up needed.

Superior

Articulates vision/states clear objectives and assigns responsibility/motivates others toward achievement. Monitors progress; gives feedback; evaluates results; ensures follow-up.

56. AWARENESS OF THE CITY ENVIRONMENT – Identifies and keeps current on local economic, political, and social trends that affect the work of the City.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Knows (can identify) top local government officials and pressing or highly relevant issues.

Level 2: Knows (can identify) City Council members, often due to Committee assignment, and/or members of City Commissions/Boards, and some of their views and background. Maintains awareness of major trends in the internal City organization and the entire City of Los Angeles.

Level 3: Knows members of the Mayor's office and City Council members' staff and department heads. Maintains considerable knowledge of social, economic, and political issues affecting area of responsibility.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Discerns from media news information of relevance.
- Maintains awareness of local elections and their outcome.
- Meets with appropriate parties to obtain relevant, timely information.
- Incorporates current social, economic, and/or political issues into work plan and priorities.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Through the news and/or discussion at work, knows local government officials and their views if pertinent to work. Identifies and notes information regarding major trends in the City.

Superior

Seeks information on current events relevant to areas of responsibility or the City as a whole. Knows elected officials influential in relevant areas and who to contact regarding the effects of current events. Incorporates discussion of current events into formulation of plans.