



California Public Utilities Commission

Senior Utilities Engineer (Specialist)

Exam Code: 5UCSP
Class Code: 3510
Department: California Public Utilities Commission
Exam Type: Departmental Open
Final Filing Date: Continuous

CLASSIFICATION DETAILS

Senior Utilities Engineer (Specialist)

\$10,311.00 - \$12,905.00 per month.

View the [Senior Utilities Engineer \(Specialist\) specification](#)

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Final Filing Date: Continuous

WHO SHOULD APPLY

Applicants who meet the minimum qualifications as stated on this bulletin may apply for and take this examination.

Once you have taken this examination, you may not retake it for six (6) months.

HOW TO APPLY

The link to connect to the Training and Experience Evaluation is located farther down on this bulletin in the “Taking the Exam” section.

SPECIAL TESTING ARRANGEMENTS

If you require special testing arrangements due to a verified disability or medical condition, please contact:

The CPUC Selection Unit by clicking on the link: pucexams@cpuc.ca.gov. Utilizing this email is the most **expeditious** and **preferred** method of communication.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

All applicants must meet the education and/or experience requirements for this examination by the cut-off dates established by the testing office.

Qualifying experience may be combined on a proportionate basis if the requirements stated below include more than one pattern and are distinguished as “Either” I, “or” II, “or” III, etc. For example, candidates possessing qualifying experience amounting to 50% of the required time in Pattern I, and additional experience amounting to 50% of the required time in Pattern II, may be admitted to an examination as meeting 100% of the overall experience requirement.

Possession of a valid certificate of registration as an engineer issued by the California State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers;

And

One year of experience in the California state service performing duties equivalent to those of an associate level engineer or Utilities Engineer, Range D;

Or II

Experience: Five years of professional engineering experience with a gas, electric, telecommunications, water, sewer, steam, or pipeline utility, railroad, or transportation company; or with an industry or firm involving familiarity with the operation of a public utility or a transportation system; or with a transportation or public utility regulatory agency. At least two years of this experience shall have involved independent responsibility for a wide variety of technical engineering investigations and reports equivalent in responsibility to that of an associate level engineer in the California state service.

NOTE: Professional engineering experience is defined as actual work experience gained after graduation from a four-year college or university with a degree in an engineering curriculum.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Senior Utilities Engineer (Specialist)

Under general direction, a Senior Utilities Engineer (Specialist) serves as a high-level specialist performing very complex engineering duties requiring specialized knowledge and abilities pertaining to public utilities and transportation regulation; and does other job-related work. This examination covers positions located in Los Angeles, Sacramento, and San Francisco, CA.

EXAMINATIONSCOPE

This examination will consist of a **Training and Experience, weighted 100%**. The Training and Experience consists of job-related questions for which candidates must choose their responses.

The PUC reserves the right to modify the selection process as necessary to conform to administrative or business necessity.

A final score of 70% must be attained to be placed on the eligible list.

In addition to evaluating applicants' relative knowledge, skills, and ability, as demonstrated by quality and breadth of education and/or experience, emphasis in each exam component will be measuring competitively, relative job demands, each applicant's knowledge and abilities.

A. Knowledge of:

1. California Public Utilities Code and General Orders.
2. Trends, issues, State and Federal requirements and basic court decisions affecting public utilities and transportation regulation.
3. Traditional rate-making procedures based on the evaluation and analysis of transportation or stationary utility properties including the development of depreciation, unit costs, taxes, rate base, revenues, expenses, and rate of return/operating ratios as well as performance-based and incentive rate making mechanisms.
4. Engineering terminology, fundamentals, mathematics, and economics.
5. Physical properties of transportation or stationary utilities and standards of service, reliability, and safety.
6. Materials and methods of engineering construction.
7. Engineering mathematics.
8. Procedures of conducting hearings before the California Public Utilities Commission and other regulatory agencies.

B. Ability to:

1. Read and understand technical material (e.g., testimony supporting formal utility filings, utility maintenance and operation procedures, advice letters from utilities, etc.).
2. Comprehend and interpret engineering documents (e.g., reports, blueprints, applications, etc.).
3. Pay close attention to detail and analyze situations accurately based on observations or other evidence.
4. Conduct root cause analysis to determine the source(s) of problems.
5. Evaluate possible actions and alternatives to address problems and propose solutions.
6. Translate technical or other complex material into common language.

7. Edit and/or proofread documents (i.e., check for spelling, grammar, sentence structure, logical order of ideas, etc.).
8. Conduct interviews in a way that yields valid and detailed information.
9. Testify on results of completed studies and/or findings at a formal hearing.
10. Negotiate fair resolutions when differences of opinion and/or position occur.
11. Work collaboratively with a group or team in an effort to achieve a common goal. Includes foregoing self-interest for the good of the team, fostering commitment from other team members to a group goal, and actively participating in the group.

ELIGIBLE LIST INFORMATION

A departmental, open eligible list will be established for the California Public Utilities Commission. The names of successful competitors will be merged onto the eligible list in order of final score regardless of exam date. Eligibility expires twelve (12) months after it is established. Applicants must then retake the examination to reestablish eligibility. **Competitors may only test once during a 6-month period.**

Veterans' Preference will be granted for this examination. In accordance with Government Codes 18973.1 and 18973.5, whenever any veteran, or widow or widower of a veteran achieves a passing score on an open examination, he or she shall be ranked in the top rank of the resulting eligible list.

Veterans status is verified by the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR). Information on this program and [the Veterans' Preference Application](#) (Std. form 1093) is available online. Additional information on veteran benefits is available at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

PREPARING FOR THE EXAMINATION

Here is a list of suggested resources to have available prior to taking the exam.

Employment History: Employment dates, job titles, organization names and addresses, names of supervisors or persons who can verify your job responsibilities, and phone numbers of persons listed above.

Education: School names and addresses, degrees earned, dates attended, courses taken (verifiable on a transcript), persons or office who can verify education, and phone numbers of persons or offices listed above.

Training: Class titles, certifications received, names of persons who can verify your training, and phone numbers of persons listed above.

TAKING THE EXAMINATION

[Take the Senior Utilities Engineer \(Specialist\), CPUC examination](#)

TESTING DEPARTMENTS

California Public Utilities Commission

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding this examination bulletin, please contact: The CPUC Selection Unit by clicking on the link: pucexams@cpuc.ca.gov. Utilizing this email is the most **expeditious** and **preferred** method of communication.

NOTE: Due to COVID-19 Pandemic, office closures and/or staff teleworking may affect the application process time and inquiries being answered immediately.

California Public Utilities Commission
Attn: Human Resources Division - Selection Unit
505 Van Ness Ave, Room 3008
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: 1-800-555-7809
California Relay Service: 1-800-735-2929 (TTY), 1-800-735-2922 (Voice)

TTY is a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf and is reachable only from phones equipped with a TTY Device.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The State of California is an equal opportunity employer to all, regardless of age, ancestry, color, disability (mental and physical), exercising the right of family care and medical leave, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, medical condition, military or veteran status, national origin, political affiliation, race, religious creed, sex (includes pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and related medical conditions), and sexual orientation.

DRUG-FREE STATEMENT

It is an objective of the State of California to achieve a drug-free State workplace. Any applicant for State employment will be expected to behave in accordance with this objective, because the use of illegal drugs is inconsistent with the law of the State, the rules governing civil service, and the special trust placed in public servants.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Examination and/or Employment Application (STD 678) forms are available at the California Department of Human Resources, local offices of the Employment Development Department, and through your [CalCareer Account](#).

If you meet the requirements stated on this examination bulletin, you may take this examination, which is competitive. Possession of the entrance requirements does not assure a place on the eligible list. Your performance in the examination described in this bulletin will be rated against a predetermined job-related rating, and all applicants who pass will be ranked according to their score.

The **California Public Utilities Commission** reserves the right to revise the examination plan to better meet the needs of the service, if the circumstances under which this examination was planned change. Such revision will be in accordance with civil service laws and rules and all applicants will be notified.

Applications are available at the State Personnel Board office, local offices of the Employment Development Department, and in the Human Resources Office of the California Public Utilities Commission.

If you meet the requirements stated on this bulletin, you may take this examination, which is competitive. Possession of the entrance requirement does not assure a place on the eligible list. Your performance in the examination will be compared with the performance of the others who take this test, and all candidates who pass will be ranked according to their scores.

Candidates needing special testing arrangements due to a disability must mark the appropriate box on the application and/or contact the testing department.

General Qualifications: Applicants must possess essential personal qualifications including integrity, initiative, dependability, good judgement, the ability to work cooperatively with others, and a state of health consistent with the ability to perform the assigned duties of the class. A medical examination may be required. In open examinations, investigation may be made of employment records and personal history and fingerprinting may be required.

Eligible Lists: Eligible lists established by competitive examination, regardless of date, must be used in the following order: 1) sub-divisional promotional, 2) departmental promotional, 3) multi-departmental promotional, 4) Service wide promotional, 5) departmental open, 6) open. When there are two lists of the same kind, the older must be used first. Eligible lists will expire in one to four years unless otherwise stated on the bulletin.

High School Equivalence: Equivalence to completion of the 12th grade may be demonstrated in any one of the following ways: 1) passing the General Education Development (GED) Test; 2) completion of 12 semester units of college-level work; 3) certification from the State Department of Education, a local school board, or high school authorities that the competitor is considered to have education equivalent to graduation from high school; or 4) for clerical and accounting classes, substitution of business college work in place of high school on a year-for-year basis.