Reclamation's Mission

To manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

Desalting Team Values

We believe that developing and refining advanced water treatment technologies and processes to create more water for use in the West and around the world is one of the most important tasks we can take on. We relish the challenge and approach it with enthusiasm. We value curiosity, accuracy, diligence, and achievement.

We are a close-knit, straight-speaking team dedicated to achieving our goals, and committed to creating more water through better technology.

Yuma Desalting Plant Readiness, Water Research Support

Mechanical Engineer GS-12

Major Duties

Plant Readiness - oversees the Readiness Contract for the Yuma Desalting Plant (currently not operating), the world's largest reverse osmosis desalting plant. Capable of creating between 73 and 80 million gallons per day of purified water, the YDP helps salvage agricultural drainage that to increase water supplies in the Western U.S. The employee will inspect, analyze, and monitor contractor-supplied administrative, operation, maintenance, and engineering management plans.

Water Treatment Research - serves as principal investigator on water treatment research projects and participates in the planning and development of the Title I Salinity Control Research Program.

The Best Fit

Have these traits? You could be a good fit.

* Like interesting, complex technical problems that regularly require creative solutions.
* Can approach problems systematically, are persistent, unwilling to always accept the first answer presented, open-minded to seemingly "unworkable" solutions.
* Able to negotiate agreements to meet the needs of the group and accomplish program goals.
* Willing to challenge the professional status quo, and able to withstand having your status quo challenged?
* Like working with a team, while still being driven by the need to accomplish individual results.
* Understand and can rise to the challenges of working in a government agency.
* Want to serve the public by solving water problems that affect people's quality of life.

YAO - Delivering Water to AZ, CA, NV

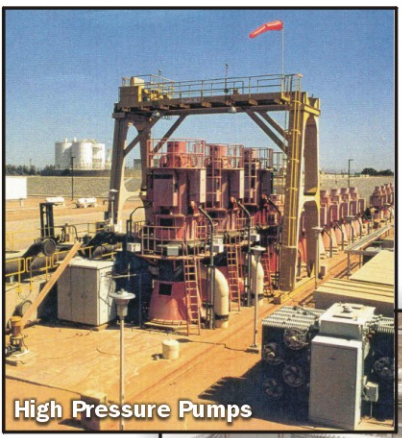
YAO is located in Yuma, AZ, in the southwest corner of Arizona. We deliver Colorado River water to 20+ million people in Nevada, Arizona, California, and the Republic of Mexico.

Making those deliveries entails maintaining the Yuma Desalting Plant so it can be operated when needed. The plant recycles brackish agricultural flows to help the U.S. meet its delivery requirements to Mexico .

YAO also conducts an advanced water treatment research program at the Water Quality Improvement Center. The Center is Reclamation's premier water research facility and houses state of the art bench- and pilot-scale testing equipment.

Supporting the YDP, WQIC, and YAO work is the YAO Analytical Laboratory - which conducts analyses to support research, provision of service water to YAO, and delivery of Colorado River water to our users.

Yuma is a community of about 70,000 people, with extremely hot summers and temperate, sunny winters. Year-round recreation abounds with river sports being popular in the summer, and golf in the winter. Yuma iscentrally located between Mexico, Los Angeles, San Diego, Las Vegas, and Phoenix.


High Pressure Pumps

Solids Contact Reactor

Yuma Desalting Plant Process Area

Yuma Desalting Plant Process Area