

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

CITY OF BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA



Why Apply?

This is a unique opportunity to join the friendly community of Blythe, improve the quality of life through the public works department, and enjoy 360 days of sunshine a year. Blythe is a tight-knit community that offers small-town charm and attracts visitors year-round as a destination for watersports on the Colorado River. The City benefits from experienced leadership at the city manager and department director positions. City employees are committed and have a strong professional work ethic. Come join a dedicated group that works well as a team.



Welcome to BLYTHE

Blythe is a warm and friendly agricultural community of 15,000 tucked alongside the Colorado River in southwest California. Located at one of the busiest entrance points to California, the area sees more than 8.5 million interstate travelers a year. The city is known for a strong sense of community, 360 days of sunshine a year, and limitless outdoor recreation opportunities on and around the beautiful Colorado river.

Located 2 hours east of Palm Springs in the Palo Verde Valley, Blythe enjoys a comfortable California desert climate with winter temperatures averaging 55-75 degrees, and summer temperatures averaging 85-110 degrees. Annual rainfall is approximately 3 inches per year. This ideal climate offers year-round fun in the sun activities such as golfing, camping, hunting, dunebuggying, rock hounding, and off-road exploring. The Colorado River also brings tourism to the area, with almost 90 miles of navigable water for fishing, boating, watersports, or just relaxing along the shore.

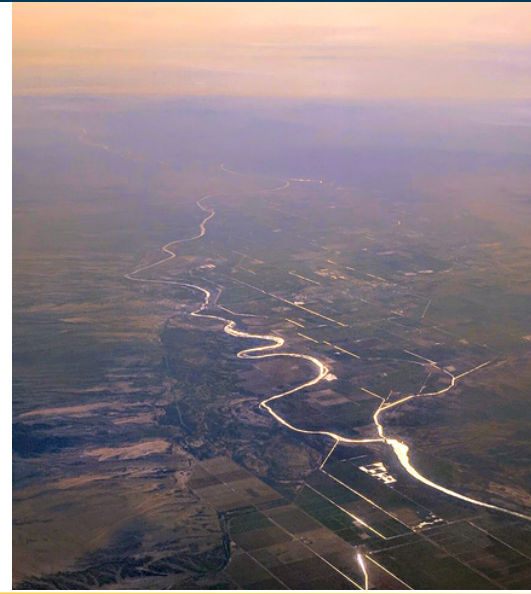
Blythe is a close-knit community. Residents take care of each other during times of hardship and gather regularly for numerous events, dinners, and fundraisers hosted by an active group of community organizations. Blythe offers a championship 18 hole golf course, a recreation center, and multiple city parks—including a 8,500 square foot skate park. Popular events like the Colorado River Music Festival, Jazz Festival, Cinco de Mayo, I-10 Speedway races, street festivals, softball tournaments, Christmas parade, 4th of July fireworks display, and others provide year-round entertainment for visitors and residents alike.



THE CITY OF BLYTHE

Incorporated in 1916, the City of Blythe is a General Law city that operates under a Council-Manager form of government with a total operating and capital budget of \$44.2 million and a team of 81 FTEs serving a resident population of about 15,000. Blythe voters elect five City Councilmembers at-large from the community.

Councilmembers serve four-year terms, with municipal elections held in November of even-numbered years. The City Council selects a Mayor and Vice Mayor to serve as presiding officer during public meetings and events. The interim city manager has been serving in her role for seven years.



THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department operates with a budget of \$16.3 million and a team of 22.5 FTE's with five major areas of responsibility: Administration, Water/Sewer Maintenance and Treatment, Street Maintenance, Park Maintenance, and Engineering (contracted).

Administration

Responsible for the overall planning, direction and execution of the various activities, projects and work programs of all of the above divisions as well as the Central Garage internal service function.

Water & Sewer

Responsible for the operation, maintenance and long-range planning of the city's sewer and water systems, which include 11 active wells and 6 reservoirs. This department includes the Waste Water Treatment Plant, Water Treatment Plant and the Sewer Collection Maintenance System.

Streets

Works to improve the City's image by reducing litter and graffiti, repairing and painting 85 miles of streets, and replacing deteriorating street signage.

Parks

Maintains 8 parks, one park and marina, as well as the landscaping maintenance of City facilities, landscaped traffic islands, and two landscape and lighting districts.

Engineering Services

Provided by Contract.



THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Under the general supervision of the City Manager, the Public Works Director plans, organizes, directs the City's Public Works activities including: street maintenance, engineering design, public works construction and inspection, the repair and maintenance of City infrastructure, park maintenance, fleet maintenance, the production and distribution of potable water and the treatment and disposal of wastewater. The Director provides highly responsible and technical staff assistance to the City Manager.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

- Experience as a Public Works Director or Assistant Public Works Director.
- Considerable knowledge and experience in water and sewer operations.
- Strong management skills, including effective time management and scheduling, with the ability to efficiently and effectively organize work crews.
- Will be team oriented and a team player with outstanding communication skills.
- Willing to invest and live in the community.

EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

A Bachelor's Degree in civil engineering, public administration, business administration, or a closely related field, and a minimum of five (5) years of increasingly responsible public works experience including two years of management and administrative responsibility. Registration as a Professional Civil Engineer in the State of California is desirable but not required.

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

- Considerable knowledge of the California Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Procedures and/or bidding and overseeing the Construction of Public Works Projects.
- Proficiency in computer applications such as Word, Excel, pdf, Outlook, virtual meeting suites, and other computer applications related to assigned functions.
- Principles and practices of public administration including budgeting, purchasing, and record maintenance.



Full job description available at gmphr.com



OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

- The staff is very dedicated and the turnover is low. There are key staff with institutional knowledge of the City.
- The City is supported with active community volunteers.
- The City will need to continue to comply with all state regulations for water and waste water.
- Developing and maintaining maintenance standards is a priority.
- Effectively organizing and scheduling work crews needs to be addressed.
- Prioritizing, maintaining, replacement, and funding city streets is a very high priority.

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

The City of Blythe is offering a salary range of \$135,000 to \$141,835 for this position, dependent upon experience and qualifications.

- Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, & STD Insurance
- PERS 2.5% at 55 for Classic Members (2% at 62 for PEPRA employees)
- Employee pays employee's share
- 13 paid City Holidays
- 1 floating holiday
- Vacation accrual rate of 4.62 hours per pay period
- Sick leave accrual rate of 5.2 hours per pay period (paid bi-weekly)
- 11 Administrative leave days annually
- Take home vehicle

RESOURCES

[City of Blythe](#)

[Public Works Org Chart](#)

[Blythe Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Palo Verde Valley Times](#)



TO APPLY

Apply Online: gmphr.com

First Review: April 28, 2024

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