GENERAL MANAGER
Amador Water Agency
Amador County, California

THE COMMUNITY
The Amador Water Agency provides water and wastewater services to the residents of Amador County. Amador County extends from the Central Valley east of Sacramento, through the Sierra Nevada foothills, then up into the high elevation Sierras, including several of California’s historic Gold Rush communities.

A few months after gold’s discovery in Coloma, native Californios of Spanish-Mexican-Indian descent, soldiers and sailors who deserted, and other “49ers” flocked to rich diggings along the Mokelumne River. Amador County soon overflowed with gold seekers, and soon after that, lumbermen, farmers and ranchers looking to make a fortune. The rich Mother Lode quartz vein running through the county eventually supplied several of the richest gold mines in the U.S., operating until gold mines were closed during World War II.

Today Amador County is largely rural, with five incorporated cities: Jackson (the county seat), Sutter Creek, Plymouth, Amador City, and Ione. Historic Highway 49 runs north and south, connecting Gold Rush towns throughout the Sierra foothills. State Highways 88 and 16 connect the county to valley cities of Stockton and Sacramento, and Highway 88 continues east into the Sierras, to Kirkwood Ski Resort and connecting to Lake Tahoe.

Amador County is home to about 38,000 people (2010 Census), with major employment in government and tourism. Two gaming casinos and a growing wine producing region are also large employers.

Visitors are attracted to the natural beauty, charming small towns and country roads, national forests and campgrounds, several lakes and two major rivers and all the outdoor recreation they offer. San Francisco Bay Area, Sacramento, Lake Tahoe and California beaches are all within a few hours driving.
Amador County enjoys 259 sunny days a year, with four distinct seasons. In the lower elevations, temperatures may occasionally dip below freezing with light snow once or twice in the winter. Summer high temperatures typically range between 90 and 102 degrees. Winter snows are frequent above 2000’ and can be significant, depending on the year.

Amador County is a diverse county of 568 square miles, ranging in elevation from 200 to 9000 feet. The terrain varies from dry valleys to high alpine forest, demanding a variety of water needs.

To learn more about Amador County, please visit Amador Council of Tourism at www.VisitAmador.com and Amador County Chamber of Commerce at AmadorChamber.com.

THE ORGANIZATION
GOVERNANCE: The Amador Water Agency provides water and wastewater services to the residents of Amador County. The Agency is governed by an independent board of five directors. Directors are elected to four-year terms from districts that coincide with the county’s supervisorial districts. The Board of Directors appoints a general manager who supervises day-to-day Agency operations, headquartered in Sutter Creek.

A RICH & COLORFUL HISTORY: During the years following the California Gold Rush, pioneer entrepreneurs built a maze of canals and reservoirs designed to move Mokelumne River water from the Sierras to the Amador mines to power their stamp mills. Lumber companies also used the canals to float timber from the high country down to the foothills.

From the late 1800s through the 1950s, power companies consolidated ownership of the canals into the Amador Water System and developed powerhouses and new reservoirs in Amador County.

In 1959, the Amador County Water Agency was created by popular vote of Amador County residents. The Central Amador Water Project was built in 1978 to provide water to upcountry communities affected by multi-year drought. This system continues to provide treated retail and wholesale water to unincorporated communities in the higher elevations of Amador County.

In 1985 the Agency purchased the Amador Water System from Pacific Gas & Electric. Today that system provides treated retail and wholesale water to Jackson, Ione, Sutter Creek, Amador City, Plymouth and unincorporated areas in the lower elevations of Amador County. Several more water and wastewater improvement districts have since elected to become part of the Agency. In 1995 the Agency changed its name to the Amador Water Agency.

WATER SUPPLY: The primary source of water is the Mokelumne River, which is supplied from rainfall and snow melt. Water from the Mokelumne River is stored in high mountain reservoirs, conveyed to Lake Tabeaud and the Tiger Creek Afterbay and diverted to AWA’s treatment plants. Two communities are served by AWA groundwater wells.

SERVICE AREA: The Amador Water Agency serves approximately 10,000 customers with a work force of about 46, one of Amador County’s major employers. Employees provide customer service and systems operations including treatment plant operations and maintenance, regulatory compliance, construction, engineering and administration.

WATER SERVICES: AWA owns and operates two major surface water systems and two community groundwater well systems, three water treatment plants, and maintains approximately 22 miles of historic open canal. Recently the Agency completed construction of in-line hydroelectric generation plants at two water treatment plants.

WASTEWATER SERVICES: The Amador Water Agency owns and operates 11 small community wastewater systems, including collection, treatment, leach field and spray pond operation, and disposal.
GENERAL MANAGER

The General Manager is responsible for the total operation of the Amador Water Agency in accordance with policy direction of an elected five-member Board of Directors.

The General Manager provides overall executive direction of day-to-day and long-term operations and activities of the District, organizing and assigning responsibilities, and directing and overseeing the management provided by department managers.

The General Manager implements polices and directives set by the Board of Directors, which includes directing the implementation of the Agency’s Strategic Plan long-term goals and objectives; oversees preparation and ongoing implementation of the annual Agency budget; and keeps the Board of Directors advised of Agency activities and laws, issues or problems that may affect Agency operations.

The General Manager represents the Board of Directors and the Agency in contacts with various federal, state, and local government agencies, community groups and businesses and other professional organizations; and negotiates and oversees implementation of a variety of contracts and agreements on the Agency’s behalf.

The General Manager provides general direction on the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of Agency facilities; monitors and implements all personnel rules and regulations; and responds to and resolves difficult and sensitive customer inquiries and complaints.

QUALIFICATIONS

EDUCATION/CERTIFICATION:
A bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university in public or business administration, management, engineering, political science or a related field is required. Significant directly related and increasingly responsible experience may be considered in lieu of a bachelor’s degree.
Professional certifications (i.e. water/wastewater certifications) are desirable but not required.

Must possess a valid California driver’s license, have a satisfactory driving record, and be insurable by the Agency to operate Agency vehicles.

EXPERIENCE: Minimum of ten years’ experience in the administration of a public agency with water/wastewater agency preferred. Five years of experience in executive management including budget preparation and implementation.

COMPENSATION
A generous compensation package includes salary range between $150-190K compensatory with qualifications and experience, three weeks’ vacation, sick leave as covered for all employees. All other benefits as negotiated by the Board.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
John Kingsbury,
Interim General Manager
Kingsbury.john@yahoo.com
(530)957-7879

Amador Water Agency
12800 Ridge Road
Sutter Creek, CA 95685
209.223.3018
www.amadorwater.org