



## MISSION-CRITICAL PROFILE

**Name:** Dave Calvo

**Organization:** San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

**Job Category (Check one below):**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Treatment | <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Maintenance Technician/ Instrument Technician |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Distribution         | <input type="checkbox"/> Electrician/Electrical Line Worker                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater Treatment       | <input type="checkbox"/> Machinist/Mechanic                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater Distribution    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other  |

1. Please describe the work you do:

I work at East Bay Field Facilities of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission which converts the treated water. In this part of the system, we convert water from the Hetch Hetchy system from free chlorine water treatment to chloramines. We also dechlorinate water when it needs to be temporarily stored in East Bay reservoirs. Our goal is also maintaining water quality analyzers throughout the East Bay transmission system. We also operate and maintain the Tesla Treatment Facility, which provides ultra-violet disinfection to Hetch Hetchy water (along with PH adjustment, chlorine disinfection, and fluoridation). Tasks I perform include the following:

- a. Attend operational meetings
  - b. Create work orders for repairs required by other trades
  - c. Train and provide training information and operations and maintenance manuals to my staff to perform their jobs safely and effectively
  - d. Track and log staff attendance and time using computerized recordkeeping system
  - e. Track and log all assets and their maintenance using computerized materials management program
  - f. Evaluate and track employee performance with the goal of building their skills
  - g. Validate that all staff is monitoring and verifying that the water treatment processes are within water quality guidelines and state regulations.
  - h. Maintain and repair all water treatment equipment
  - i. Perform daily water quality analysis
2. What combination of education, vocational training, apprenticeship, experience, and/or skill did you obtain in order to be qualified and selected for your job?
- a. Four year apprenticeship program through Local 39 as a Stationary Engineer

- b. Eight courses of water treatment, water distribution and wastewater through Sacramento State College
- c. Two years of watershed management courses through Feather River College
- d. Various training courses in the fields of maintenance, water treatment, and water quality
- e. Taught water treatment distribution, and wastewater courses for Local 39
- f. Assisted the Operator Certification Board with writing questions for water treatment and water distribution certification exams

In our organization, operators are required to have Grade 2 certifications from the Department of Health Services at the time of hire, as well as two years of experience or completion of a four-year apprenticeship. The additional training I have acquired through courses and on-the-job experience have positioned me to become a Senior Water Treatment Operator.

3. What do you like best about your job?

There are always different challenges as water quality changes and equipment repairs are needed. I have also enjoyed the opportunity to provide water treatment training to journey-level staff and apprentices. Once you see the light come on in their eyes and see that they are starting to feel confident in what they are learning, sometimes it feels better than getting a paycheck

4. Please tell us about the projects and activities you have enjoyed most in your work in the water/wastewater field, and what made them rewarding,

One that comes to mind is when I came in after being off for the weekend and noticed a fluoride feed pump was turning on and off due to a false flow signal. After notifying my supervisor and finding out that the fluoride level was high, we got all of the men together and isolated the source, avoiding any water entering the system that could create a problem with the water quality to the public. We took corrective action and avoided any violations. This is an example of the kind of challenge I enjoy in my work. It was a good feeling going home to have accomplished this.

5. What qualities and capabilities are needed in order for a person in your area of expertise to be successful in the water/wastewater industry?

- a. Have a strong will to learn and keep up with changes and mandated regulations
- b. Have a good mechanical understanding of equipment involved in water treatment
- c. Have good lab techniques to perform all water quality analysis

6. Do you have any advice for an individual who is considering pursuing a career in your field in the water / wastewater industry?

The water treatment industry is a good field to work in and will always need hard-working operators. I would recommend individuals interested in the water/wastewater industry to contact Sacramento State and other organizations to obtain training in the water treatment field. They have an office of water programs.