

## ENGINEER PROFILE

**Name:** Annie Li  
**Organization:** SFPUC



**Engineering Discipline (Check one below):**

- Civil
- Mechanical
- Electrical,
- Environmental (including Process) Structural
- Information Technology
- SCADA
- Other

1. Please describe the work you do:

I am a senior engineer in charge of the Maintenance Engineering group at the Water Supply and Treatment Division of the SFPUC. I review and approve all projects over \$5,000 within the Regional Water System. I also investigate incidents (water quality violations, unplanned outages, and unexpected discharges) that happen throughout the system. I work with the Division Manager to develop the Capital Improvement Project on an annual basis.

2. What combination of education, experience, and skill was required in order for you to obtain your job?

I received my bachelor's and master's degrees from UC Berkeley in Civil Engineering. I started off as a designer with SFPUC's Engineering Management Bureau. After two years, I transferred to SFPUC's Project Management Bureau and was a project manager for seven years. I was the project manager and project engineer for a \$40M pipeline project in the Sunol Valley before I accepted the position with SFPUC's Maintenance Engineering group.

3. What do you like best about your job?

I enjoy the responsibility of supervising a group of engineers. I take pride in that what my group does directly supports Operators and their ability to deliver water to 2.5 million people.

4. Please tell us about the water or wastewater engineering project you enjoyed working on the most, and what made it rewarding,

I worked on many projects within the Sunol Valley for the SFPUC, but the most rewarding one was the called the Alameda Siphon No. 4 project. It built a fourth siphon across the Sunol Valley. It crosses the Calaveras Fault and can withstand a 4.5' and 1' horizontal and vertical offset after a Calaveras Fault earthquake. It also built a mixing chamber to blend Hetch Hetchy water with local sources. It crossed a creek and there was 600' of microtunneling. It was rewarding because I was able to following the entire life of the project as the project manager from planning through startup and operations.

5. What qualities and capabilities are needed in order for an engineer to be successful in the water/wastewater industry?

Take pride at being an engineer and in designing/constructing/implementing whatever project is at hand. Support your workgroup to the best of your ability, whether they are your superiors, your peers, or your staff.

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

Math, physics, engineering classes are all important, but work life is much more than that. Shadow different types of engineers to discover what you like. Work very hard on the technical courses and they will serve you very well, but a successful and rewarding career will depend just as much on writing, speaking, presentation, and other communication skills.