

## MISSION-CRITICAL PROFILE

**Name:** Michelle Tarantino

**Organization:** Central Contra Costa Sanitary District

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

- Water Treatment
- Water Distribution
- Wastewater Treatment
- Wastewater Collections
- Electronic Maintenance Technician/ Instrument Technician
- Electrician/ Electrical Line Worker
- Machinist/ Mechanic
- Other

1. Please describe the work you do:

Treat wastewater through various methods and protect the environment.

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

Started taking classes (offered through Solano College and various districts) in wastewater treatment and related subjects.

3. What do you like best about your job?

Each day is different! Also, you are constantly learning on the job.

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,

The activities I enjoy the most are the times when “the unexpected” happens and you have to use all your knowledge to get the job done. (i.e. power outages or mechanical failure). Those times are rewarding because of the teamwork which is required to achieve results.

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

Team player, flexibility, patience, physical strength, mental grit, and a sense of humor.

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

Don't give up! Be persistent.