

Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center

I. Presenter: David Wolf, Senior Controls System Technician

II. Mission-Critical Job Category: Electronic Maintenance Technician/Instrument Technician

III. Treatment Plant Characteristics:

- MGD Advanced Water Purification Center
- 731 employees
- Commercial and irrigation use

IV. Nature of the job

I manage all the maintenance operations at Santa Clara County's three largest water treatment plants. My job is to responsibly manage the budget associated to maintaining all the equipment at the plants, policies relating to the maintenance workforce, and closely monitor work and equipment performance measures.

V. Why is this work important for operational reliability?

Without a maintenance workforce, water treatment equipment would not be properly maintained, repaired, or modified as required for the operators to consistently produce good tasting, clean, and safe drinking water for the public.

VI. Education and experiences that will help students prepare for career technical education

As with any skill-based career, you are required to work with people, so good relationship skills, positive communication, and most importantly, being a good listener. As for education beyond interpersonal skill-building, a math and science focus complimented with good written and oral communication will be most helpful.

VII. Type of education or experience that would be useful

Vocational training is always a plus. These courses will teach you the fundamental application math and sciences as well as provide an individual with the skill-based hands-on training to be efficient, and more importantly, safe.

We always encourage students to explore their mechanical and technical interests. For example, your basic automobile encompasses two of the three core crafts skills commonly found in water treatment maintenance organizations. To effectively maintain and repair your car you must have mechanical aptitude and skills, like our Plant and Pipeline Mechanics, and a good understanding of electronic sensing devices and controllers, like our Instrument and Controls Technicians.

VIII. What do you like about your job?	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Salary/benefits	Great benefits, stable pay
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Job security	After working in the private sector for almost 20 years, this is a good feeling.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Interesting work/opportunity to learn	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Service to the community	Definitely more fulfilling than manufacturing widgets!

