



MISSION-CRITICAL PROFILE

Name: Robert Estrada

Organization: San Jose Water Company

Job Category (Check one below):

Water Treatment

Water Distribution

Wastewater Treatment

Wastewater Distribution

Electronic Maintenance Technician/ Instrument Technician

Electrician/Electrical Line Worker

Machinist/Mechanic

Other

1. Please describe the work you do:

As a senior electronic technician my responsibilities are to maintain SCADA, telemetry and motor control centers for all wells and boosters. I am also responsible for chlorine dosing units of well fields, as well as all instrumentation and controls for our Montevina filter plant and Saratoga membrane filtration plant.

2. What combination of education, vocational training, apprenticeship, experience, and/or skills did you obtain in order to be qualified and selected for your job?

I worked as a prototype build technician for IBM for seven years and attended internal IBM technical training classes for several years. I also attended vocational classes for approximately three years taking electrical, electronics and water treatment courses. I attended San Jose City College/Evergreen College for two years taking electronic courses. These courses were required in order to advance within my position.

3. What do you like best about your job?

There are several aspects of the job which I enjoy, including the people I work with on a day-to-day basis. I also enjoy the challenges of solving electrical, electronic, hydraulic, and mechanical problems which, at times, includes fabrication and welding of material.

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

Specified, designed, and purchased all components necessary to build and fabricate over one hundred and fifty PLCs. These PLC units were programed, installed, and tested over a three-year period. After receiving documents from the Children's Discovery Museum on theory of operation, myself and another senior technician fabricated the PLC control box and wrote Modsoft ladder logic programing to control the current water display at the Children's Discovery Museum. The sense of accomplishment in finishing these projects in a timely manner was very rewarding.

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?

What I have found to be very helpful while doing my job is having a good understanding of the principles and theories of the system I am currently working on. Having on the job experience in the water and waste water industries, even if it is not in the electronic or electrical field, is a plus.