

MISSION-CRITICAL PROFILE

Name: Stephen Fong

Organization: San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

Job Category (Check one below):



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|---|---|
| <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 am an apprentice at Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant. At this treatment plant, we monitor water quality and pressure in the transmission monitor water quality and pressure in the transmission system, and can control valves in the water transmission system. We also provide water treatment to water stored in Peninsula Reservoirs.

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?

I started as an administrative staff person who worked in an office selling for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. I was interested in water treatment, so I took the test to become a stationary engineering apprentice in a union apprenticeship program. I passed the test and became an apprentice Water Treatment Operator, which is what I am today.

3. What do you like best about your job?

I like being out and about always working with things, fixing things, learning what everyone has to teach me. Working at different facilities has helped me learn new things. The way to learn is to work here and be here every day; I think the rotation of apprentices among different facilities is a good way to train staff.

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,

When I worked in the West Bay Field, I learned a lot about the chemical treatment system. At Harry Tracy Treatment Plant. I enjoyed doing filter inspections. I learned about the filters inside and out, which helped me when I moved to Sunol Valley Treatment Plant.

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?

You have to be willing to work hard, learn and take direction. You have to have a good work ethic. This is all you need. People here are great and will teach you what you need to do. If you have a good attitude about it, you can succeed.

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

If you really want to be in this industry, you can be proactive and read to Ken Kerry books on water treatment. There are classes offered at California State Sacramento. You can take the tests to get T-1 and T-2 certification. To get a T-3 certificate, you need in-plant experience.