

MISSION-CRITICAL PROFILE

Name: Anna C. Garcia

Organization: Dublin San Ramon Services District



Job Category (Check one below):

- | | |
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| <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wastewater Treatment | <input type="checkbox"/> Machinist/Mechanic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater Distribution | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Please describe the work you do:

I perform day-to-day operations at an activated sludge wastewater treatment plant.

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

Math / Science in college, Bay Area Consortium Water / Wastewater Education (BACWWE)-sponsored wastewater-water technology certificate earned through Solano College

I have taken a series of Wastewater, Distribution and Water Treatment certification exams. I hold certificates in Distribution -D2, Water treatment-T2 and a Grade III in Wastewater. Plus, I worked a 1.5 year internship and part-time paid position at City of Livermore Water Reclamation Plant.

2. What do you like best about your job?

I make a difference to the planet/environment and serve a vital purpose to the community. I learn new things on a regular basis.

I get to spend plenty of time out of doors being active instead of sitting trapped at a desk in a cubicle.

3. 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,

I have become a “cat-skinner” During harvest, when we dredge the facultative sludge lagoons, I have ripped and disked the dedicated land disposal fields for injection of solids using a D-7 caterpillar tractor; even more exciting than the regular injection tractor or the dredge boat – which I also get to operate.

I enjoy seeing the big tanks and heavy equipment get taken down, parts uncovered, and “secrets revealed” when they are serviced or upgraded.

In the course of a year of plant process, opportunities for research occur with some frequency, whether relating to the trouble-shooting of a particular issue, or pilot programs run by outside agencies to further the science and application of recycled water and waste solids. I love to unravel a mystery and am gratified when I am able to make a contribution toward solving a problem.

4. What qualities and capabilities are needed in order for a person in your area of expertise to be successful in the water/wastewater industry?

Logic, focus, the aptitude to assess and problem-solve; the ability to engage in physical outdoor activity; having curiosity and being persistent.

Group thinking, being a team player and having the ability to work well with others is important; and a good memory for details is very helpful.

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

An appreciation for learning

A strong stomach

A reasonable level of physical fitness (shift work has a demand on your stamina)

Be patient – it can take a while to get hired.

Be willing to relocate.