



CAREER PROFILE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: Chris Fivecoat

Job Category: Environmental
Inspector II



1. Please describe the work you do:

As an Environmental Inspector, I protect the delicate San Francisco Bay ecosystem by inspecting permitted industrial facilities in San José and tributary cities to ensure adequate waste treatment and compliance with their wastewater discharge permit. In addition to facility inspections, I assist with a surveillance monitoring program by installing equipment at selected locations capable of collecting samples for laboratory analysis over various periods of time to identify illegal disposal of hazardous materials into the sanitary sewer. When I am not in the field, I prepare inspection reports, track and schedule laboratory sampling, issue enforcements for violations, and review monitoring reports and sample results.

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 have a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental science and have completed coursework in industrial technology, water resources, and general and organic chemistry. Prior to working for the City of San José, I worked for environmental consulting companies for seven years on a variety of remediation and construction projects throughout the country. I have certifications in HAZWOPER 40 hour, Title 22 Hazardous Waste Handler, OSHA Outreach 10 hour, and completed

the California EPA Basic Inspector Academy. Necessary skills for this position include a strong background in chemistry and knowledge of industrial wastewater treatment systems.

3. What do you like best about your job?

The City of San José has realistic expectations that allow the time and provide the necessary resources to complete a task correctly, accurately, and safely. Scheduling is flexible and there is an ideal balance between office and field work.

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,

Through the inspection of local businesses, I continue to learn about specific industrial processes while educating individuals about the importance of environmental regulations and the benefits of compliance.

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?

In order to succeed as an environmental inspector you must have integrity, be organized, communicate effectively, pay attention to detail, and have an understanding of wastewater treatment, industrial chemistry, and environmental regulations.

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

The position of assistant environmental inspector will provide you with the necessary training, opportunity, resources, and skills to prepare you for a career as an inspector.