

MISSION-CRITICAL PROFILE

Name: John Navarra

Organization: San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant



Job Category (Check one below):

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

1. Please describe the work you do:

In my current job, I supervise a small group of plant mechanics, student interns and laborers. We write standard operating procedure documentation, work with a computerized maintenance management system to set up and schedule recurring preventative maintenance tasks, manage the maintenance shop's tool inventory (tool crib), and perform mechanical equipment repair as needed.

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 am a high school graduate. Much of my mechanical education and training background was gained when I was in the United States Navy, where I completed the Machinist's Mate "A" School program. In this program I learned industrial equipment maintenance skills such as: pneumatics, hydraulics, air conditioning, refrigeration, elevators, etc.

As a machinery mechanic I learned "underway replenishment" which is the transfer of fuels and supplies from one ship to another.

I also completed a hydro-electrical apprenticeship, where I practiced many of the skills I learned in the Machinist Mate program.

After retiring from the Navy, I received my Engineer's License: Second Class, Grade A Boiler Engines and Turbines. I also earned a General Studies Associate's Degree with a diploma in Physical Plant Technology.

3. What do you like best about your job?

When I started my career, I liked being able to work with my hands. I liked the constant learning of new skills.

One of the best parts of my job is the people with whom I work. I work with a bunch of talented, hard-working co-workers.

My job has a lot of variety in it. There is always something different to work on...a new problem to solve every day!

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,

I enjoyed converting the primary tanks from plastic track to stainless steel tracks. What made this project so rewarding is seeing the difference my work made in the "up time" for primary tank operations. When the primary tank flights ran on plastic tracks, we had flights crash, causing major repair work to be performed periodically. After five years, running on stainless steel tracks, we have had almost no breakdowns.

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 should be able to work well with others, be mechanically inclined and be able to use critical thinking to troubleshoot each repair. Mechanics at the wastewater treatment plant work outside and in some dirty situations. You can't be squeamish. The equipment on which we work can be pretty large, so being able to take safety procedure seriously is important.

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

Join the California Water Environment Association (CWEA). CWEA is a good organization for training and education in the wastewater industry.

Don't give up when applying for a position. It takes a lot of tries to land your dream job. Each interview you go to will make you more prepared for the next one!