



Maria Lancheros Civil Engineer



My job involves designing systems to manage wastewater and stormwater, which is crucial for keeping our environment clean and safe.

How long have you been a civil engineer?

About 5 years

Where do you currently work?

Langan Engineering

How do you spend most of your time at work?

- Creating designs for stormwater and wastewater systems.
- Reviewing plans and submissions to make sure they meet regulations.
- Working with local ordinances and guidelines to ensure our projects comply with laws.
- Collaborating with developers and government agencies to get the necessary permits for different types of buildings and projects. These projects can be anything from houses to warehouses and even resorts.

Why did you choose this career?

I've always loved math and wanted to use it to create something meaningful. This job allows me to design developments that help improve our communities and make them better places to live.

What did you do to prepare for this career?

I started by going to community college for two years, then transferred to a four-year college to complete my degree. I also did internships every summer, which gave me hands-on experience and helped me learn more about the field.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love seeing a project come to life from just an idea on paper to a real structure that benefits people. It's incredibly rewarding to know that my work makes a positive impact on the community.

What do you find most challenging about your job?

One of the most challenging parts of my job is making sure all the designs meet the constantly changing regulations and standards, especially stormwater regulations. It requires a lot of attention to detail and problem-solving skills as we need to adapt our plans to meet new requirements while still achieving our project goals.

What was one of your first jobs and how did that experience influence your career path?

One of my first jobs was working at a retail store. It taught me the importance of customer service and working as part of a team, skills that are very useful in my current role.

What is one piece of advice you would give to a young person who is interested in your profession?

Try to get internships or part-time jobs related to the field to gain experience. Most importantly, stay curious and never stop learning. Engineering is all about solving problems and improving the world around us.

MARIA'S ADVICE
Read *How to Win Friends and Influence People* by Dale Carnegie

