

Betsy Flores, Civil Engineering Major

Senior: California State University, Sacramento

Internship Focus:
Project Management,
Data and Contract Analysis



What projects are you currently working on?

I am currently working on Master Service Agreement vs. Project Management Plan contract comparisons, reviewing construction pricing for mobile home park projects, and some data entry. I'm also doing research into permeable AC mix developed for asphalt, and updating a subcontracting plan worksheet. Mike Jacob, a project manager for VPC, has introduced us to encroachment permits; where to find them and how to fill them out.

What's something new you have learned so far?

I have not stopped learning! Going out into the field to Berkeley, Pleasant Hill, Fair Oaks, and V Street sites was very rewarding in terms of knowledge about boring, open and closed trenches, safety, and street markings/colors. I also got some insight into how projects start and end, as well as the complexity that comes with it, such as contracts, budgets, permits, etc. I value all the work I've seen getting done and just how hard everyone works.

Does any particular experience stand out to you?

There is not one specific experience I have had, but many. Everyone has been super helpful and approachable. They take the time to check in and see how we are doing and answer questions. People who work here just stop and say hello and chat to get to know us as interns. I respect that so much and it makes working here a great experience.

What do you look most forward to working on during your internship?

The planning, budget, business, and engineering side of construction. I think the most interesting yet difficult part of project management is overseeing many projects at once, so I look forward to that. Eventually, I hope to know enough to provide useful feedback to those I work with so I too can give back. It would also be interesting to know what a field engineer does.

What skills/experience do you hope to gain by the end of your internship?

I hope to become a better leader and gain skills in communicating my thoughts in a good manner, learning how to listen, and executing my work in a group/team setting. I hope to also be able to manage, work with data and profits, and just honestly be open to learn as much as possible over the rest of this internship.

What do you see yourself doing in the future?

In the future I see myself doing multiple things with my degree; more specifically, in management and possibly owning my own business. The work I am doing now is giving me knowledge and experience with contracts, teamwork, construction, and necessary mentoring to see what real engineers/managers do daily when at work.