



Jessica Stempniak: I am currently a Project Manager at Archico Design Build, Inc., bringing nearly a decade of experience in the industry. I earned my Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Cal State University, Fullerton (CSUF), where I also completed a minor in business administration. Initially, I started out as a business major, but after talking with someone involved in a Caltrans 91 Freeway project, I was drawn towards civil engineering—especially the structures. The more I learned about civil engineering, the more I realized it was what I wanted to pursue, so I made the switch from business to civil engineering between my sophomore and junior years and haven't looked back since.

My journey in construction really started just before graduating college, when I interned at the City of Anaheim and got a taste of the design side of engineering. That experience made it clear I didn't want to spend all my time behind a desk, so I started exploring General Contracting. After earning my degree, I joined PCL Construction and spent four years there, beginning as a Field Engineer and working my way up to Senior Project Engineer in their special projects group. I had the chance to be involved in a variety of projects—from jobs at Dodger Stadium, Cooling Towers at Cal State Dominguez Hills, to multiple projects at Cal State Fullerton. PCL is where I really found my footing in construction and discovered my passion for this work. I was fortunate to have incredible mentors who taught me more than I realized at the time and exposed me to so many different aspects of construction beyond just project engineering. They also helped me understand the importance of work-life balance, all of which has stuck with me ever since. Their guidance truly shaped my career. When COVID hit, I was laid off, but soon after I joined W.E. O'Neil and spent three years working on bigger projects, including specialty work in Anaheim and multi-family apartment developments. For the past two years, I've been at Archico Design Build Inc. (ADB), a smaller general contractor focused on Public Works. I started as an Assistant Project Manager and quickly moved up, managing a project at OC Sanitation where we built two metal structures with underground utilities and a new natural gas tank. After that, I completed a DSA project in El Segundo and

worked at a Senior Center in Moreno Valley. Right now, I'm managing a Metal Building project for the Water Resources District.

What I like about Public Works projects is how straightforward they can be. Things are mostly pretty clear, which makes it easier to know what is and what is not required. My team and I are always working together to solve problems and find the best ways to help our clients, and along the way, we build some great relationships. This industry can be tough sometimes, but I honestly love what I do and take a lot of pride in it. It's taken a lot of hard work to get here, and I'm really thankful for everyone who's helped and mentored me along the way.