



# winter

## The TJCAA Quarterly

2025  
[www.tjcaa.com](http://www.tjcaa.com)

### Featured Employee: Joseph Martell



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This quarter, TJCAA welcomes Joseph Martell, our newest Senior Automation Engineer!

Joseph comes to us from a long background in software and systems engineering. Born and raised in California,

he spent summers working at his parents' systems integrator company, which they eventually moved to Missouri. Joseph spent a few years in Missouri himself, back at the family business initially, then eventually working as a programmer in the property and casualty insurance industry. It wasn't long before he realized he wanted something different. "I decided I liked the world where my programming actually had an effect."

That desire brought Joseph (and his now -wife) back to California, where he got a job working for MCC Controls LLC (now Primex Controls), focusing on the wastewater industry—where he stayed for more than a decade, honing his skills at programming control systems, developing customer relationships, and integrating new equipment.

When he eventually moved on to Clear Water Services in Rodeo, California, Joseph got the opportunity to apply his expertise to a different aspect of the industry. As opposed to integrating systems, Clear Water had their own systems. As Senior Control System Engineer, Joseph's job was to help maintain those systems over time.

Now Joseph's career has come full circle. In a twist of fate indicative of the close relationships and community building in this industry, he got a call from Andrae Rauch, our very own CSP Group Lead and a former colleague of Joseph's at MCC Controls. When Joseph heard about the job at TJCAA, he accepted.

When asked what he's most looking forward to in his new role at TJCAA, Joseph points to getting his professional engineering license. But beyond that, he's looking forward to the opportunity to gain a new perspective. Compared to his time at MCC, where the work was very inward-out focused, Joseph now gets to do the upfront engineering. "It's very different, kind of a flipside of the coin from where I originally was."

Taking on the challenge of mastering that new perspective allows Joseph to leverage what he considers his greatest skill: troubleshooting. Two jobs ago, when Joseph managed a software department, he was known for telling his team, "Let's go fail," before heading out on a job. For Joseph, it's about moving away from what theoretically should be true and instead dealing with the problems in front of you.

Joseph is currently leading the programming effort for both PAC and SCADA HMI programming on the City of Pittsburg Water Treatment Plant Filter Improvements project, and he's enjoying the hands-on nature of automation engineering compared to software engineering. "Not only are we helping to design the system, we're also helping to actually build it and follow it all the way through implementation."

#### TJCAA's Business Certifications

- Alameda County Small, Local Emerging Business
- California DGS SBE
- California Green Business
- City of Colton SBE
- City of Los Angeles SBE
- City of Oakland LBE
- CPUC Women Owned Enterprise
- Eastern Municipal Water District SBE
- Inland Empire Utilities Agency SBE
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California SBE
- San Diego County Water Authority SBE
- Port of Long Beach SBE
- Port of Oakland LIABE/SBE/VSBE
- PWC Registration—Dept of Industrial Relations (DIR)
- West Basin Municipal Water District SBE

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When asked about his hobbies outside work, Joseph smiles. "I'm a pretty big nerd," he says. When not at his desk, you might find Joseph attending a local Street Fighter tournament or, on the less nerdy side of things, checking out a new brewery or restaurant with his wife.

Welcome to the team, Joseph!

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growing pages



writing | editing

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