



**Technician's name:** Blas Huezo

**Golf facility:** Barona Creek Golf Club

**Nominating superintendent's name:** Sandy C. Clark CGCS

**Why should your equipment technician be considered for the Most Valuable Technician Award?**

Blas has been our Equipment Manager and Head Mechanic since 2006. He came from a background that included sales and service with both Toro and Jacobsen distributors. Blas manages nearly 500 pieces of equipment and supervises a crew of three mechanics, including the cart technician.

Along with being fully hands on, he has organized every piece of equipment in Toro's My Turf Program, allowing for everything to be serviced at factory suggested intervals. This attention to detail has resulted in our fleet remaining free of major problems, resulting in high resale value.

With his background, Blas is looked to by our equipment suppliers for guidance. He finds things before they are aware of problems. On a regular basis, he will photograph details of needed repairs and send the pictures to the sales and service reps and work closely with them on follow through. Many times, he will locate service bulletins before they are made public due to his detailed knowledge of how each equipment distributor works. Because of his knowledge and attention to detail, Blas has kept our large fleet in perfect operating condition at all times.

He is a master at teaching and training and shares everything with the other mechanics. He has made all of them far better at their jobs. He also helps train all operators in the safe and proper use of every piece of equipment. He keeps me informed daily, being bilingual, communicates clearly and is an incredible asset to our property and a source of information for all San Diego technicians.

In my opinion, he is the best I have ever worked with and clearly one of the very best in the business. He keeps us in great shape at all times. I am very proud to nominate Blas Huezo for this deserving award.

**Does the nominee have any formal equipment technician education/training and/or industry certifications? Please list.**

From 1984 to 2004 as Service Manager for TurfStar, Toro Distributer, he attended every service manager seminar offered. He also attended educational classes annually at Toro U. He taught classes for local technicians throughout this period. He also spent 2004 through 2006 selling Jacobsen equipment, adding to his knowledge.

We have allowed Blas to volunteer annually for the Farmers Open, and he and his team helped at the US Open at Torrey Pines. He also assisted at the US Jr. Am Championship at Chambers Bay.

He has been a board member for the International Golf Course Equipment Manager Association and assists other members through his affiliation. Blas is a teacher, a trainer, a communicator and the most respected technician the San Diego area and beyond due to his Equipment Managers affiliation. He is respected by distributors, superintendents and technicians throughout our area. He is a member of the GCSAA.

**Explain how the nominee emphasizes shop management (organization, cleanliness, etc.) at your facility.**

Every piece of equipment has its specific location. The shop is immaculate at all times, and we have frequently been told by national representatives that it is the best organized and cleanest shop they have observed nationally. His team is highly trained for efficiency and safety.

The My Turf System allows for accurate records of where we stand with each piece of equipment, including carts. He controls when everything is serviced and tracks in detail all maintenance costs involved, allowing for easy justification for replacement. Every piece easily out lives its life expectancy. Blas and his team check in the field operations daily to ensure quality of and safety of every piece of equipment.

Blas was instrumental with his input in the design of the Toro My Turf System. He was just trained on the Visage System for our cart fleet on Friday March 17.

**Explain how the nominee manages costs/budgets/inventory while maintaining high-quality, dependable resources.**

His knowledge and full utilization of the My Turf System allows Blas to be on top of every piece of equipment at all times. With this effort, we have avoided all major repairs.

He provides me the status of each piece on a regular basis and due to the trust we have, he is allowed to order directly through My Turf and manage an exact inventory so maintenance stays on schedule and parts are always in stock. I have a recognition of the order daily and an invoice with delivery within a day. Every dollar on every piece of equipment is tracked. Adjustments are checked daily on all mowers plus daily field checks.

Blas and his team truly prevent breakdowns and provide daily excellence. Far from a parts changer, the attention to detail allows Blas and his team to always work preventive and not reactive.

**Explain how the nominee embodies and promotes safety in the workplace.**

Blas teaches safety not just to the team he works with but to every operator who starts up any piece of equipment. Thorough safety checks are performed daily for each unit in operation. Blas has retrofit many units to further increase safety and recognize operator comfort.

Training is ongoing with experienced crew members and even more frequent for less experienced. Crew safety always comes first. He has also reduced lifting of reels for grinding utilizing technology and tools available to increase safety. We have an extremely low rate of accidents or injuries, and Blas and his attention to detail is a key reason.

**Explain how the nominee demonstrates a commitment to environmentally conscious practices.**

He is careful to avoid any spills in the shop or maintenance yard, and everything is recycled through properly licensed haulers. He has undergone annual pesticide training so he and his team will be safe servicing sprayers in operation and has been instrumental in training chemical techs in all aspects of spray operations.

He is responsible for our re-circulating wash rack and keeping it in working order. He and his team are trained for emergency spill response and due to attention to detail, we have never had one. Blas has been trained so that while in the field, he keeps his eyes open for environmental issues along with operator safety.

His spotless shop is a great example of his environmental awareness. Blas is an asset not just to Barona Creek Golf Club but the entire Barona Valley Ranch. I am more than proud to nominate him.