

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD

SEPTEMBER 2023

EMPLOYEE: Cruz Romero

UNIT: Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Permitting Unit

TITLE: Water Resource Control Engineer

SUPERVISOR: Alexander Mushegan, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer

Cruz Romero joined the Central Valley Water Board in February 2022 as a Water Resource Control Engineer in the WDR Permitting Unit. Since joining, Cruz has quickly gained an understanding of the intricacies that come along with the unit and has proven his ability to address the challenges inherent to being a WDR permit writer.

In the past month, Cruz has completed several significant projects. He prepared and issued a Notice of Applicability for a backwash discharge, crafted a notification letter to comply with AB 2108, completed a comprehensive review of a groundwater monitoring well disinfection plan, and drafted revised WDRs for the Tuolumne Utilities District, Sonora Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility. Cruz has also reached out to multiple dischargers, assisting them in preparing required reports of waste discharge.

Most notably during this period, Cruz conducted an in-depth evaluation of a revised report of waste discharge for a centralized waste management system in Wasco, a unique and challenging project that has not previously been permitted by the Central Valley Water Board. Cruz demonstrated a high level of professionalism throughout the project, providing thorough reviews of both the original and revised reports of waste discharge within 30 days, enabling us to identify the report was incomplete both times. His involvement included multiple in-person meetings with the discharger and prompt responses to numerous phone calls from the facility owner.

Overall, Cruz consistently displays his enthusiasm for taking on new tasks and frequently seeks additional responsibilities. He volunteered to be the point person for the WDR Permitting Unit within the Salt and Nitrate Control Program. Furthermore, Cruz has repeatedly proven his capacity for growth and adaptability, readily sharing his knowledge with colleagues. Despite his relatively short time in the WDR Permitting Unit, he has already become a valuable resource for assisting new staff members.

I wholeheartedly appreciate Cruz's positive attitude, eagerness to learn, and willingness to embrace new challenges. For these reasons, among many others, I am pleased to nominate Cruz for the Employee Recognition Award.