

SUPERIOR ACCOMPLISHMENT AWARD

JANUARY 2024

Employee: Kate Sjoberg
Unit: Groundwater Unit, Redding Office
Title: Engineering Geologist
Supervisor: Mey Bunte, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer

Kate has been selected to receive this Superior Accomplishment Award for the excellent work she has done on a high profile remediation case managed out of the Redding office. This remediation work at the Union Pacific Railroad Company's North Dunsmuir Railyard involves a massive excavation along 1,600 feet of one of the most pristine sections of the Upper Sacramento River. The work is part of an emergency response initiated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, a Clean Water Act Order issued by USEPA and a Cleanup and Abatement Order issued by the Water Board's Redding office.

At an estimated total project cost of \$100 million, the scale and scope of this remedial action is constantly shifting between the expectations of the Discharger and those of the regulatory agencies. Kate's resolve in holding the Discharger to their obligations has been critical in ensuring the project's remedial action objectives and the requirements of our Cleanup and Abatement Order will ultimately be met. Kate is not afraid to speak up when a proposal falls short or a prior commitment is overlooked, and does so with confident professionalism. Kate is equally adept at evaluating big-picture, long-term issues and diving into the small technical details which have been invaluable on such a fast-paced project.

Decisions on this project are made through a Unified Command consisting of CDFW, USEPA, Regional Board, and the Discharger. Within this experienced and specialized team, Kate has distinguished herself as a technical resource regarding NAPL movement and its impacts to groundwater and surface water. CDFW and USEPA seek out Kate's input and her technical support in evaluating the Discharger's various cleanup proposals. Together, they have developed a strong cooperative relationship and a unified regulatory voice. The trust and respect CDFW and USEPA, as well as the Discharger, have for Kate are evidenced by the numerous times they reach out to her for her input or assistance.

The Redding Regional Board office, and the Groundwater Unit in particular, is fortunate to be represented by Kate.