

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD

April 2024

EMPLOYEE: Chris Jimmerson

UNIT: Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program – Monitoring and Implementation Unit

TITLE: Environmental Scientist

SUPERVISOR/TITLE: Petra Lee, Senior Environmental Scientist

Chris is receiving this award because of his exceptional accomplishment with the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program managing a grant to the Fish Friendly Farms Program.

Chris began managing this grant in 2017 and the last invoice was recently paid – no mean feat, seven years later. The grant helped fund documenting and implementing a series of best management practices on farms enrolled in the program – a total of 10,742 acres! The grantee developed farm plans that focused on reducing the use of high toxicity and high runoff risk chemicals with replacement of lower toxicity and runoff risk materials. Through the annual audit and 5-year recertification process for each farm plan there will be a reduction of 3177.6 lbs. and 324.1 gallons of pesticides that could reach waterways.

The Fish Friendly Farms project is novel in that it allows growers to meet ILRP requirements through an alternative framework and the grantees will work with the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition to assure grower compliance.

Not only did this grant span seven years, but crucial project implementation, paperwork, and invoicing occurred in 2020 during the challenging days of the pandemic. Chris patiently worked with the grantee and helped them get back on track until this April, when the grantee submitted and had their final invoice approved and paid. Chris went on site visits, met with the grantees, went the extra mile to make sure the grantee documented functionally equivalent documents between their program and ILRP requirements, and worked to make sure that there will be an MOU between the Coalition and the Fish Friendly Farms Program.

With Chris's usual diligence and attention to detail, he helped this project through to the finish line. Thank you, Chris!