

HIDDEN HERO AWARD

October 2024

EMPLOYEE: Nicholas Savino

UNIT: Water Quality Certifications Program

TITLE: Environmental Scientist

SUPERVISOR/TITLE: Stephanie Tadlock, Senior Environmental Scientist

The California Natural Resources Agency launched the 30x30 Partnership in 2022 to support implementation of Governor Newsom's initiative to conserve 30 percent of the state's land and coastal waters by 2030. On 3 October 2024, the 30x30 Partnership 2024 Summit was held in Sacramento as an opportunity for colleagues to connect, learn, and inspire progress in meeting this goal. During the Summit, the "Cutting Green Tape Hidden Hero Award" was presented to Nick Savino, an Environmental Scientist in the Central Valley Water Board's Water Quality Certifications Program in the Rancho Cordova office. The award was created to recognize the innovation and dedication of public employees who are increasing the pace and scale of environmental stewardship in California. These Hidden Heroes are working with creativity and commitment to improve governmental processes so that California's natural resource goals and plans can be implemented more efficiently and cost-effectively, and with fidelity to California's environmental protection standards.

Partners working with Nick praised his character and approach to work in nominating him for this award. They commended Nick for looking for ways to make the permitting process more efficient for large scale restoration projects, providing transparency and consistency in permitting, and viewing the process as an opportunity to educate project proponents. Most importantly, they expressed that Nick has a collaborative mindset that welcomes opportunities to work with project proponents and provides exemplary guidance and feedback.

Congratulations on your contributions and effort to increase environmental restoration in California, Nick! The Central Valley Water Board is proud of your accomplishments and is fortunate to have you as part of our team.