

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD

February 2025

EMPLOYEE: Lamyae Zinebi
UNIT: Confined Animal Facilities
TITLE: Water Resources Control Engineer
SUPERVISOR/TITLE: Danny Gamon, Sr. Engineering Geologist

Lamyae has been working as a Water Resources Control Engineer (WRCE) in the CAF Unit since she was initially hired in February of 2023. Lamyae graduated from Sacramento State University in December of 2022 with a Civil Engineering degree and filled a vacancy held by a former staff employee that worked in the CAF Unit for over 15 years. Lamyae rose to this significant challenge and quickly learned the position's essential tasks and duties and began to perform confined animal facility inspections in her assigned area, mostly in Merced County.

Lamaye's assigned area of Merced County is very densely populated with large dairy and other confined animal facilities. With an assigned workload of approximately 150 facilities to manage for regulatory compliance and enforcement, the position can be demanding and requires consistent field inspections, travel, and interactions with the regulated community. Some of these inspections can also be challenging due to encounters with the members of the regulated community that often become defensive or frustrated during the compliance or complaint inspection process. Staff that have accompanied Lamyae praise her ability to remain respectful and calm during these types of encounters and interactions despite the stressful situations.

Lamyae has reviewed and processed several large and complex confined animal facilities merger requests which resulted in Region 5 issuing CAF General Order Revised Notice of Applicability packages. She has also helped process and review several dairy expansion projects that require review of CEQA and technical documents. Lamyae has also written and followed up with two facility inspection related notice of violations and continues to manage their compliance regarding the directed corrective actions.

As a WRCE, Lamyae is also required to review CAF related anaerobic digester pond liner design and post construction reports in an engineering capacity. She has worked well with an assigned WRCE mentor and the Implementation Manager and has quickly learned complex engineering and construction techniques. Her sound understanding of engineering principles and concepts has led to effective and efficient management of over 15 CAF anaerobic digester projects.

Lamyae's drive to learn all aspects of the position extends beyond her core engineering work assignments. She has also gained sound understanding of non-engineering topics such as soil agronomic applications, nutrient management, irrigation techniques, animal waste management, surface water, and groundwater chemistry to name a few.

She enrolled and completed the American Society of Agronomy's multi-module series of courses while keeping up with her busy and complex workload within the CAF Unit. Other courses completed include USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) training associated with Conservation Planning Activities (CPAs) and Design and Implementation Activities (DIAs), specifically those related to Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning and Nutrient Management Designs and Plans. These trainings are core components related to the NRCS's Technical Service Providers certification program.

Lamyae also recently completed digester and pond liner design and construction course work to include University of Illinois' Construction Quality Assurance (CQA) series of courses. Lamyae has undertaken and completed all these job-related courses while keeping up with the busy and complex workload within the CAF Unit.

The CAF Program is proud and happy to have Lamyae on our team and wants to acknowledge all the positive impacts she has had on our unit in a relatively short period of time. Well done and Thank You Lamyae!