

## SUPERIOR ACCOMPLISHMENT AWARD

**FEBRUARY 2025**



**Staff:** Houa Yang  
**Title:** Scientific Aid  
**Unit:** Water Quality Certification and Dredging  
**Office:** Rancho Cordova  
**Sup:** Stephanie Tadlock, Sr. Environmental Scientist

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Houa has been employed as a Scientific Aid with the Water Quality Certification and Dredging Unit with the Water Boards since April 2013. She has been nominated to receive a Superior Accomplishment Award based on her efforts to create a major improvement in methods, organization, and procedures followed by the Unit that make an exceptional contribution to the efficiency and improvement on processing times for water quality certifications, waste discharge requirements, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document comments, and other deliverables from the Unit. She is instrumental in maintaining the day-to-day workflow within the permitting section.

Houa continues to provide the following key contributions to the unit and MS4 program, including processing incoming 401 applications and indexing all projects into all of our various database systems, being the main point of contact for CIWQS entries and edits for the Unit, receives, processes, and drafts response letters for staff review and signature for all CEQA documents in public circulation requiring Region 5 comments, and assists in processing documents issued by the Board after the final determination has been made, ensuring that all issuances are indexed and filed appropriately. Additionally, Houa works with Liz Lee to maintain correspondence with stakeholders and completes administrative tasks and provides public outreach relating to Region 5 MS4 Permitting.

Houa exhibits a high level of organization, provides excellent stakeholder customer service, and is willing to assist in solving problems and finding answers in a fast and efficient manner. She has been extremely helpful in helping find innovative ways to make the Unit more organized and efficient with its extremely high workload. Her knowledge and willingness to go above and beyond makes her a valued member of the Unit and the Regional Board. For this and many other reasons, she is very deserving of a Superior Accomplishment Award.