

# EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD

November 2025

**EMPLOYEE:** Keely Watland-Bakos

**UNIT:** Forest Activities Unit, Redding Office

**TITLE:** Environmental Scientist

**SUPERVISOR/TITLE:** Griffin Perea, Senior Engineering Geologist

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Keely Watland-Bakos is being recognized for her outstanding work in the Forest Activities Unit. Keely joined the Central Valley Water Board's Redding Office as an Environmental Scientist in June of 2025. Keely is responsible for overseeing Timber Harvest exemptions on private land in the Redding office territory, although she is also covering Timber Harvest Projects and Emergencies on private lands in Tehama, Butte, and Glenn counties. Although relatively new in the Redding office, Keely has come up to speed extremely quickly and has already dealt with several complex projects before her first year has eclipsed.

Keely immediately demonstrated a drive to learn and take on tasks. While coming up to speed on her position Keely was immediately assigned to post fire timber harvest operations resulting from the Park Fire, a complex and challenging project that Keely excelled in. In this role she worked between representatives of CalRecycle, CalOES, and various contractors to ensure that recovery operations were completed expeditiously and with minimal impacts to water quality. Of particular note is her work within the Campbell Creek watershed, which was subject to a large thunderstorm that created sediment discharges leading to turbidity and sedimentation in Big Chico Creek. Keely worked with Sierra Pacific Industries, who was conducting post fire salvage operations in the watershed, to identify and correct issues related to their operations, ensuring adequate protection of water quality throughout the remainder of the winter period. This project included coordination between additional state and local agencies, ensuring all partners had up to date information on the status of the watershed.

Keely is respected by all that have worked with her, and her ability to quickly absorb information and put it into practice is very impressive. Thank you Keely for the professionalism and dedication to learning that you have shown in your work.