

SUPERIOR ACCOMPLISHMENT AWARD

August 2026

EMPLOYEE: Jeff Tierney

UNIT: Federal and Private Sites Cleanup

TITLE: Water Resource Control Engineer

SUPERVISOR/TITLE: Nathan Casebeer / Senior Engineering Geologist



Jeff Tierney is a Water Resource Control Engineer in the Federal and Private Sites Cleanup Unit. Over the past several years, Jeff has consistently taken the initiative to improve work processes, expand knowledge and then share that information within and beyond the Site Cleanup program.

For example, in 2022 Jeff worked with Office of Public Participation (now OPEETA) to develop a Spanish language fact sheet for requesting access to test private domestic wells for 1,2,3-trichloropropane near fumigant supply businesses. Jeff used the experience with fact sheet translation to prepare and present a “Best Practices for Engaging the Office of Public Participation” guide for Site Cleanup staff.

In 2023, Jeff reached out to and engaged with staff working on GeoTracker, GAMA, and in the Office of Information Management and Analysis to improve cross-platform data sharing, data visualization and data analysis. Jeff shared the results of his work with discovery and visualizing water board data in Tableau in a poster presentation at the August 2023 Water Board Cleanup Summit that included staff from across all the Regional Boards and State Board.

In 2024, Jeff set out to build a comprehensive collection of historical industry and academic documents for 1,2,3-trichloropropane. His search took him on several excursions deep into archival collections at university libraries in Davis, Berkeley and San Francisco. In the process, Jeff has become an expert on 1,2,3-trichloropropane, supporting both his and other’s cases and potential future initiatives.

In 2025, Jeff digitized the Rancho Cordova office’s microfilm archive of approximately two million pages into searchable PDF files. By identifying and upgrading available scanning equipment, coordinating with staff, and dedicating significant personal effort, Jeff transformed a cumbersome, manual document retrieval process into an effective digital system. His work streamlined access to historical records, improved response times to public records requests, enhanced site analysis, and uncovered previously overlooked sites, providing lasting benefits to the organization.

More recently, Jeff has been working as a subject matter expert using Co-Pilot Artificial Intelligence to support our work at the Water Boards. His findings using Co-Pilot to gather information and develop contaminant fate and transport models that run using Python scripts within Excel have attracted attention throughout our organization. While using the models to inform decisions on program project work, he has also presented his findings and processes at multiple statewide meetings and roundtables spurring important discussions about the future potential for AI tools at the Water Boards.

Jeff’s track record of initiative, leadership, and dedication in going above and beyond his day-to-day job duties make him well-deserving of this Superior Accomplishment Award.