

SUPERIOR ACCOMPLISHMENT AWARD

August 2026

EMPLOYEE: Michael Fischer

UNIT: Compliance and Enforcement

TITLE: Water Resource Control Engineer

SUPERVISOR/TITLE: Xuan Luo/Senior Water Resource Control Engineer



Michael Fischer is a Water Resources Control Engineer in the Compliance and Enforcement (C&E) Section. Since joining the Central Valley Water Board in 2010, Mike has worked in both the NPDES and Storm Water C&E units, where he has consistently demonstrated exceptional dedication, technical expertise, and leadership in support of the Board's mission.

During the past year, staffing turnover within the Section created significant operational challenges and opportunities for leadership. Mike stepped up to assist the NPDES senior in overseeing the unit. In this role, Mike provided critical support in reviewing NPDES compliance deliverables, including monitoring report review letters, Notices of Violation, compliance inspection reports, and settlement offers related to Mandatory Minimum Penalty enforcement actions for more than 25 facilities.

Mike has extensive experience providing substantial support on numerous Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) matters in the NPDES and Storm Water Programs. This year, he helped prepare and negotiate a settlement with the Sacramento Area Sewer District involving sanitary sewer spills that occurred over three years. Mike also provided technical expertise applying the Enforcement Policy to support penalty calculations and preparation of a settlement order for a recalcitrant Industrial Storm Water discharger.

Mike also played an important role in training a newly hired senior specialist following the retirement of a long-serving storm water expert, helping maintain program continuity during a challenging transition period. He further demonstrated leadership during implementation of the new State Board Construction General Storm Water Permit by developing and presenting training materials to educate homebuilders on permit requirements and rainy season compliance expectations, improving understanding and compliance within the regulated community. Mike consistently maintains a positive attitude, adapts to changing priorities, and willingly takes on challenging assignments. His professionalism, technical competence, mentorship, and dedication to the Board's mission make him highly deserving of a Superior Accomplishment Award.