

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD

November 2024

EMPLOYEE: Madeline Kelsch

UNIT: Land Discharge Permitting

TITLE: Water Resource Control Engineer

SUPERVISOR/TITLE: Scott Armstrong, Sr. Engineering Geologist

Madeline Kelsh is a Water Resource Control Engineer in Rancho Cordova's Land Discharge Permitting Section. Madeline joined us in June of this year and immediately jumped into her role as a permit writer for Title 22 recycled water discharges. Madeline's arrival came just before state budget constraints paused hiring additional permit writers, so since then she has taken on several complex projects simultaneously.

One of Madeline's recent assignments was responding to a request from the State Water Board's Recycled Water Unit for an evaluation of approximately 900 existing recycled water permits across all of Region 5. This exercise was part of the development of new fees for the production and reuse of recycled water. Madeline quickly coordinated with NPDES and WDR permitting staff in all three Region 5 offices and spearheaded a rapid permit review process to collect the necessary information.

Madeline took on this project quickly and demonstrated her ability to rapidly evaluate and rank permits while organizing additional useful information to update CIWQS records for each discharge. To successfully complete this project, Madeline also coordinated with State Water Board staff to ensure Region 5 staff collected and reported the necessary data. This exercise provided Madeline with an opportunity to work with permitting staff in all three Region 5 offices, making her a recognized resource for Title 22 projects in the future.

Meanwhile, in addition to evaluating Title 22 permits and developing individual Waste Discharge Requirements for Title 22 facilities, Madeline has also assisted with reviewing and providing recommendations on 5-year Water Quality Assessment Reports submitted by local County Health Departments as part of their Local Agency Management Plan (LAMP) Program under the On-site Wastewater Treatment System Policy (OWTS). She swiftly grasped the OWTS Policy and our region's approach to reviewing the WQA Reports and has shown a strong understanding of the technical and policy aspects of this important effort.

Although Madeline has only been with the Rancho Cordova office for a few months, she has already demonstrated her willingness to jump into new and in-depth assignments where she can utilize her technical skills while also working collaboratively and productively with staff and project stakeholders. For these reasons and many others, we are very glad to have Madeline as part of the Region 5 team!