

Superior Accomplishment Award

April 2025

EMPLOYEE: Stephen Klein

UNIT: Confined Animal Facilities

TITLE: Water Resource Control Engineer

SUPERVISOR/TITLE: Balraj Tammali, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer

Stephen Klein has worked in the Fresno office for 25 years. Twenty of those years he has been a member of the Confined Animal Facilities (CAF) unit. Mr. Klein specializes in reviewing time-sensitive complex technical engineering reports and provides recommendations to management. These technical engineering reports were prepared for the design, construction, and operation of the anaerobic digesters, which play a significant role in improving the quality of waste produced at a CAF.

Mr. Klein is one of the original staff that drafted the expectations and acceptable standards for these newly designed and constructed anaerobic digesters.

These anaerobic digester design reports are time-sensitive documents that need to be reviewed expeditiously since they are partly funded by federal and state departments funds and Mr. Klein has completed the review of these reports in an efficient manner and developed methods to assist others in completing these reviews efficiently. He has trained several other staff on reviewing these complex technical engineering reports.

He has reviewed and provided timely recommendations to management on 112 out of a total of 384 lined ponds workplans since 2014. Last year, Mr. Klein worked closely with private engineering firms to ensure the newly introduced Bio-dynamic Aeration System (BIDA) design, a new treatment technology for Dairy waste, meets and aligns with the water quality objectives of our Board. He recently completed the review of the first BIDA project.

Mr. Klein represents the Fresno office as a subject matter expert on technical advisory committees for the Dairy Digester Research and Development Program and Alternative Manure Management Programs for the review of grant applications from the dairy industry.

Even though he has spent 20+years in his current role, the quality of his work product has been impeccably maintained, his positive attitude towards accepting greater workload under strict timelines, his proactive nature to mentor new staff on reviewing complex engineering reports, and his collaborative teamwork with internal as well as external professionals is truly appreciated.