

# EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD

JUNE 2023

**EMPLOYEE:** Kyle Cockerham

**UNIT:** Site Cleanup Program – Private Sites Cleanup

**TITLE:** Engineering Geologist

**SUPERVISOR:** Kristi Shelton

Kyle Cockerham is an Engineering Geologist in the Site Cleanup Program Private Sites Cleanup Unit. Kyle oversees cleanup activities at numerous sites including small dry cleaners and industrial sites that range in size from former small mom and pop businesses to large industrial facilities.

One of Kyle's projects includes the Former Titan 1A Missile Facility in Lincoln. This project has recently received significant public attention including phone calls and emails from the public and elected officials; interviews by local reporters; and the formation of a committee of interested neighbors and City Council members. Kyle has attended numerous meetings with the public to discuss the project and provide the Central Valley Water Board's perspective regarding risk and cleanup actions.

In May, Kyle attended a public meeting in Lincoln that included several hundred residents, County Representatives, and State Representatives, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and OEHHA. He was able to answer questions from the public and explain complex issues in an understandable manner to attendees. Kyle has done an excellent job answering questions professionally while being responsive to the public and local officials.

Amazingly, Kyle has handled the Titan public interest in Lincoln while also managing one of the more complex caseloads in the unit, the Sacramento Railyards, and working to refine a contested Cleanup and Abatement Order for a local dry-cleaning facility.

Kyle is a valuable member of the Site Cleanup Program and Private Sites Cleanup Unit. He consistently provides high quality written reviews of reports and is responsive and respectful to the regulated community. He demonstrates patience when engaging with difficult dischargers and has a unique ability to diffuse contentious situations. He is also a key mentor for newer staff in the unit. For all this and more, Kyle is well-deserving of this Employee Recognition Award.