

# EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD

December 2023

**EMPLOYEES:**

Kate Sjoberg (Redding, Engineering Geologist)

Jeff Tierney (Rancho Cordova, Water Resource Control Engineer)

Geoff Rader (Rancho Cordova, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer)

Helen Yu (Rancho Cordova, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer)

Walter Floyd (Rancho Cordova, Senior Engineering Geologist)

**UNITS:** Site Cleanup and Underground Storage Tank Programs

**TITLES:** See above

**SUPERVISOR/TITLE:** Chris Flower, Site Cleanup Program Manager

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In August 2023, Site Cleanup and Underground Storage Tank Program staff from across all Regional Boards and State Board participated in the California Water Board Cleanup Program's Cleanup Summit. This Cleanup Summit included technical, administrative, and funding discussions for the Site Cleanup and Underground Storage Tank programs. To aid the Cleanup Summit's technical discussions, the staff nominated for this employee recognition award each prepared technical posters for presentation to Regional and State Board staff. In addition to their regular workloads, these staff condensed extensive technical topics into visually engaging posters, developed talking points to support their presentations, and shared their content with numerous staff from across the state.

Kate Sjoberg, an Engineering Geologist in the Redding Groundwater Unit, carries a complex caseload that includes the Union Pacific Dunsmuir site. The Union Pacific Dunsmuir site is a priority case for the Site Cleanup Program due to extensive hydrocarbon releases, continued impact to the Sacramento River, and substantial remediation currently in progress. Kate condensed information for this challenging project in the "*Union Pacific Railroad Company – North Dunsmuir Railyard*" poster.

Jeff Tierney, a Water Resource Control Engineer in the Rancho Cordova Federal and Private Site Cleanup Unit, has been on the forefront of leveraging data management software to better visualize site information. In addition to helping coordinate the recent Tableau brownbag session, Jeff prepared the "*Data Discovery in Tableau*" poster that presents a summarized approach to viewing and optimizing data using Tableau.

Geoff Rader, a Senior Water Resource Control Engineer in the Rancho Cordova Site Cleanup Program, oversees the investigation and cleanup of the Aerojet Superfund Site. The Aerojet site is a complex, priority case for the Site Cleanup

Program due to the numerous site releases, size of contaminant plume, impact to receptors, and multi-agency regulation. Geoff shared the Aerojet site history, extent of impact, remedial approaches, and contingencies in his *“Managing a 25+ Square Mile Groundwater Plume”* poster.

Helen Yu, a Senior Water Resource Control Engineer in Rancho Cordova’s Tanks Program, helps several Central Valley Regional Board programs understand the extent and impact of PFAS releases. Helen coordinates the Region’s monthly PFAS working group meetings and works to keep staff informed of PFAS developments. To help share the Central Valley Region’s understanding of PFAS, Helen prepared the *“Preliminary Per – and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Sampling Results in the Central Valley Region – What Have We Learned?”* poster.

Walter Floyd, a Senior Engineering Geologist in the Rancho Cordova Site Cleanup Program, manages a complex caseload, provides technical support to several programs, and works to better understand the fate and transport of emerging contaminants. Walter has collaborated with the USGS to publish technical papers assessing 1,2,3-trichloropropane. Walter has also worked to develop tools to differentiate point and non-point sources for 1,2,3-TCP and summarized this approach in the *“Guidance for Discriminating 1,2,3-Trichloropropane Sources in Groundwater”* poster.

These staff all provide high-level and high-quality work across a broad spectrum of contaminant cleanup projects and are tremendous assets to the Central Valley Regional Board. For having gone above and beyond their normal workload to support the Cleanup Summit and more, these staff are deserving of this employee recognition award.

Lastly, the posters prepared by staff are available for viewing in the Redding and Rancho Cordova offices.