

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD

December 2024

EMPLOYEE: Jessica Rader and Mason Gatti

UNIT: Delta and TMDL Unit/Planning Section

TITLE: Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory) and Environmental Scientist, respectively

SUPERVISOR/TITLE: Meredith Howard, Environmental Program Manager 1

Jessica Rader and Mason Gatti are highly valued members of the Planning Section who work on the TMDL Program. Jessica also works on the SWAMP and Delta Programs. Jessica is the Supervisor of the TMDL and Delta Unit and Mason is an Environmental Scientist in the Unit. They are each being recognized for their efforts on the 2024 Triennial Review.

The Triennial Review is a Clean Water Act requirement to review the Basin Plans every three years. A workplan with prioritized projects is developed, along with a response to comments received, followed by a Board adoption hearing. This requirement is usually handled by Basin Planning staff, however, due to several promotions that created vacancies, the project was delayed. Jessica and Mason enthusiastically stepped up due to the need to commence the project despite not working in the Basin Planning Program. Due to the delayed start, there was a strict timeline by which the Triennial Review had to be completed. Jessica and Mason diligently kept the project on this expedited timeline and ensured the Board's requirements were met despite many challenges. They both worked with stakeholders, Tribes, and the public that submitted comments, carefully thought through the comments and used them to develop the Draft Workplan, revise the Draft Workplan, and write a response to the comments. Mason and Jessica managed this work with enthusiasm, professionalism, producing very high-quality work with well thought out suggestions for management.

Jessica and Mason are both hard-working team members who have greatly exceeded expectations. We are fortunate to have them working at the Central Valley Water Board and they are well deserving of this award.