

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD

OCTOBER 2023

EMPLOYEE: Charles Cardenas

UNIT: Confined Animal Facilities

TITLE: Engineering Geologist

SUPERVISOR: Dan Gamon, Senior Engineering Geologist

Charles is an Engineering Geologist and has been with the Confined Animal Facilities Regulatory Unit (CAF Unit) in Rancho Cordova since 2018. Charles consistently manages to juggle competing priorities and delivers high quality deliverables. These priority tasks and actions include preparation of documentation, public communication with dischargers and stakeholders, maintaining the CIWQS and GeoTracker databases with up-to-date discharger information, tracking nitrate exceedance results, supporting enforcement cases, performing regular and complaint related facility inspections, responding to other internal programmatic support requests, and managing facility closures.

Recently, Charles came up with a solution to fix some database errors related to CAF Unit staff assignments in the CIWQS system. His expertise with Excel allowed him to create a complex series of macros and formulas which allowed staff to easily find which confined animal facilities were not properly assigned and needed to be updated in the CIWQS system. This effort was part of a longer-term support practice that Charles provides the CAF Unit regarding quality assurance for tracking spreadsheets that store unit information to ensure current and historical information are backed up and properly secured for historical reference and redundancy purposes.

Another helpful trait that Charles' possesses is an enthusiastic attitude and willingness to help train and mentor junior and new staff. Recently Charles helped train a new scientific aid during several mass mailouts regarding notices of violations for annual report non-filings and for failing to meet groundwater monitoring requirements under the Dairy and Bovine General Orders. Charles' calm, patient and professional demeanor helped the new staff quickly learn the processes and become proficient in short order. For all these above-mentioned actions and accomplishments, I would like to personally recognize him and communicate my gratitude for his ongoing support and presence in the CAF Unit, which is greatly appreciated.