

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD

OCTOBER 2023

EMPLOYEE: Jessa Rego

UNIT: ILRP Compliance and Outreach

TITLE: Environmental Scientist

SUPERVISOR: Bob Ditto, Senior Environmental Scientist

Jessa is being recognized for her contributions to the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Compliance and Outreach Unit. Jessa recently joined the Central Valley Water Board in January of this year and has shown, in a very short time, her commitment and passion for her job.

Jessa oversees Shasta/Tehama, Pit River, Napa/Putah Creek, and Lake County sub watersheds within the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition.

Within 4 months she offered to attend a sub watershed meeting by herself. These meetings can occasionally be rough on waterboard staff as members tend to vent their frustrations. Jessa was aware of this and took on the challenge. Here are a few comments from stakeholders at the meeting.

Ken Tate, a UC Davis Professor: “Jessa did a truly excellent job today.”

Shasta Tehama member: “Thank you for your follow up. Appreciate it. You are easy to talk to.”

Her hard work included enrolling operations who had evaded our previous outreach attempts, resulting in adding more than 6000 irrigated acres in our program.

Jessa is also very tech savvy and has already contributed to our data organization. She is very curious and innovative.

I could go on about her contributions, but since Jessa is a new employee, I'd like to share a little of her background. She is a lifelong northern Californian, who grew up in Modesto and earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Humboldt State University. She has previously worked as a chemist at ELAP laboratories, staff researcher in aquatic toxicology with UC Davis, chemist with the US Geological Survey developing automatic ammonium sensors, and program coordinator for a stormwater discharge permit compliance group. When she is not working, she enjoys river kayaking, experimenting in the kitchen and chilling with her partner Jeff.

For all that and more I would like to Thank Jessa for her commitment to her job, the care and passion she has shown to the regulated community and the excellent work she has done.