

# EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD

April 2024

**EMPLOYEE:** Cruz Romero

**UNIT:** Non-15 Permitting Program

**TITLE:** Water Resource Control Engineer

**SUPERVISOR/TITLE:** Bryan Rock, Senior Engineering Geologist

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Cruz Romero is being recognized for his significant contributions during the month of March 2024. Since Cruz came on to the Central Valley Water Board in February 2022, his hard work, attention to detail, and professionalism have been instrumental in advancing the goals and objectives of the Non-15 Permitting Unit.

In the past month, Cruz has completed several significant projects. He prepared and issued two Notices of Applicability for backwash discharges and drafted three more Notices of Applicability for coverage under the Low Threat Waiver and Water Reclamation Requirements General Order, along with two associated Monitoring and Reporting Programs. He's completed comprehensive reviews for a Report of Waste Discharge for a National Park Service facility in Yosemite, and a revised Report of Waste Discharge for the Kern Sanitation Authority's WWTF. Cruz also did a great job presenting a Pre-issue paper to upper management regarding a complex hydroponic facility in the Cummings Valley with a complicated compliance and discharger history.

Over the past year, Cruz has worked on issuing revised WDRs for the Tuolumne Utilities District's Sonora Wastewater Treatment Facility. Thanks to Cruz's hard work, revised WDRs for the Sonora Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility were adopted as an uncontested item at the April 2024 Board Meeting in Fresno. The Discharger provided lengthy comments (almost 30 pages), and Cruz was able to work closely with the Discharger and their consultant to adequately address all comments. During the April 2024 Board Meeting, Cruz was commended by a representative from the Tuolumne Utilities District for his work on the revised WDRs. The commendation was heartily seconded by the Executive Officer and to the pleasure of the Board Members.

On top of his workload with the Central Valley Water Board, Cruz has dedicated time to furthering his technical knowledge and skill, recently finishing a Master's in Engineering Program at Fresno State. In addition to the accomplishments noted above, Cruz provides timely responses to dischargers, other public agency representatives and coworkers, and is always courteous, professional, and positive. It's been a pleasure working with Cruz, and I strongly believe that he deserves the Employee Recognition Award for the stellar way in which he completes project tasks, and the way in which he represents the Central Valley Water Board.