

Superior Accomplishment Award

June 2025

EMPLOYEE: Olivia Mathews

UNIT: Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, Redding Office

TITLE: Environmental Scientist

SUPERVISOR/TITLE: Lynn Coster, Senior Environmental Scientist

Olivia Mathews is being recognized for her outstanding work in the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Olivia joined the Central Valley Water Board's Redding office in May 2024 as an Environmental Scientist and in this short time has made considerable contributions to the program. Olivia serves as the liaison to the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC), a third-party group that represents growers in the Sacramento River Watershed and has quickly gained the respect of Coalition staff, consultants, and delegates of the subwatersheds that constitute the SVWQC. Through her participation in Coalition meetings, she has formed personal relationships and has proven to be responsive and professional in her work.

Olivia is eager to learn and take on new projects. In her new position, she quickly developed knowledge of the program and took the initiative to advance program work that had lapsed due to staff vacancies. In addition to her core workload, Olivia took on the challenging task to determine whether data supported the exemption of irrigated agriculture in the Upper Pit River subwatershed from the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Over several months, Olivia participated in on-site farm inspections and outreach meetings with growers; reviewed complex technical data; and worked collaboratively with the U.C. Davis Cooperative Extension to demonstrate the subwatershed's low threat to water quality from agricultural operations. In February 2025, Olivia presented an informational item on the findings to the Central Valley Water Board and is currently preparing a subsequent Board meeting presentation for the Board to consider exemption of the subwatershed from the program requirements. Olivia's presentation to the Board demonstrated confidence and professionalism well beyond her years of experience and she continues to excel in her position.

Olivia is often required to juggle multiple work items and various demands of her time. She follows through with her many tasks and is conscientious and hard-working. Her positive attitude and aptitude to learn are an asset to the program. The Central Valley Water Board is fortunate to have Olivia as part of its staff and greatly appreciates her contributions.