

# EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD

January 2024

**EMPLOYEE:** Alisha Wenzel

**UNIT:** Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program

**TITLE:** Engineering Geologist

**SUPERVISOR/TITLE:** Meredith Howard, Environmental Program Manager and  
Jessica Rader, Sr. Environmental Scientist

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Alisha Wenzel is a highly valued member of the Planning Section and is being recognized for her efforts to lead the Lower American River study that is part of the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP).

The Lower American River has been listed as impaired due to fecal indicator bacteria. SWAMP staff have conducted extensive monitoring on the Lower American River since 2007 to track whether water quality supports recreational uses of water. Sampling has shown that fecal indicator bacteria results at recreation areas in the lower few miles of the American River frequently exceed the water quality objectives. For the last few years, a source identification study was implemented to determine the source(s) of the *E. coli*.

Alisha has diligently overseen the Lower American River study for many years. She has coordinated the study with multiple collaborators including dischargers and the scientific community. She has trained and managed field staff, analyzed the data, presented the results at numerous meetings, and developed a summary for public release. Her comprehensive knowledge of *E. coli* combined with her incredible organizational skills have been critical for the success of the study and the dissemination of the results.

We are fortunate to have Alisha working at the Central Valley Water Board and she is well deserving of this award.