SUPERIOR ACCOMPLISHMENT AWARD

October 2026

EMPLOYEE: Erin Jonasson
UNIT: NPDES
TITLE: Environmental Scientist
SUPERVISOR/TITLE: Michael Collins, Senior WRCE



Erin is being recognized for her outstanding contributions to the Redding NPDES Permitting Compliance and Enforcement Unit. Erin began her career with the Central Valley Water Board's Redding office in April of 2022 as a scientific aid and was hired as an environmental scientist in August of 2023. Erin has a

bachelor's degree in biochemistry, a PhD in molecular & cell biology, and is currently pursuing a master's degree in environmental engineering.

Erin is responsible for overseeing a variety of surface water dischargers, including manufacturing facilities, sawmill-cogeneration facilities, and municipal wastewater treatment facilities. She also acts as the point person for enrollees in the fish hatchery general NPDES order.

Erin has a creative mindset and is a natural problem solver who independently initiates and executes ideas to address the needs of the NPDES Unit. She is tasked with conducting Analytical Method Report reviews. These reports contain laboratory method data for approximately two hundred pollutants of concern, and reviews assess compliance with reporting requirements and EPA's Sufficiently Sensitive Test Methods Rule and determine whether Dischargers are proposing appropriate lab methods for wastewater analyses.

Erin created a tool to help staff conduct these reviews more efficiently, significantly reducing the time needed to complete each review while increasing the quantity of reports that can be processed and improving the accuracy of results. Using this tool, she has identified instances of insufficient reporting levels and inappropriate laboratory methods. She also developed a template Review Response Letter to communicate what Dischargers need to provide for report approval.

The Analytical Method Review Tool supports the Central Valley Water Board Strategic Plan's objective of "collecting information that is meaningful and actionable," and will undoubtedly lead to more reliable and actionable water quality data.

Erin recently completed an NPDES permit renewal for a sawmill-cogeneration facility. The permit was developed primarily to regulate stormwater rather than process wastewater, which presented unique challenges. Additionally, comments submitted by

an interested party during the public comment period required last-minute revisions before the permit could be finalized, and Erin worked to incorporate these changes and ensure the permit's timely completion.

Through this effort, Erin has become the go-to subject matter expert for sawmill facilities within the region, representing an important contribution to the Water Board's technical expertise. Her permit will serve as a model template for sawmill permits going forward, helping improve the efficiency of future permitting efforts and ensuring the benefits of her work extend beyond the immediate organization to permits issued across the region.

Erin has great attention to detail and is an excellent writer, which has made her a valuable peer reviewer for other staff in the unit. She has also been extremely helpful in onboarding new staff and has developed guidance documents for scientific aids and the eSMR review process.

Erin is a positive and enthusiastic colleague who brings energy and professionalism to everything she does. Her dedication and skill are an asset to the unit, and the Central Valley Water Board is fortunate to have her on its team.