

# EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD

JUNE 2023

**EMPLOYEE:** Alan Buehler

**UNIT:** Underground Storage Tank Enforcement Unit

**TITLE:** Engineering Geologist

**SUPERVISOR:** Galvin Kauffman, Sr. Engineering Geologist

Alan Buehler is an Engineering Geologist in the Underground Storage Tank (UST) Enforcement Unit at the Rancho Cordova office. Alan joined the UST Enforcement Unit in 2016 and has since become an exceptional contributing member of the Unit. Due to Alan's actions that go above and beyond his work expectations, Alan is being recognized for his excellent contributions to the Unit and entire UST Program.

As an example of one of his exceptional contributions, Alan volunteered to create a tutorial for utilizing racial equity tools that are available in GeoTracker. Alan's tutorial consisted of easy-to-follow steps to find and use these tools. Alan presented his tutorial to our staff at our recent program section meeting. His tutorial is expected to help staff consider racial equity in case management and help the Central Valley Water Board office effectively work toward our racial equity goals as part of our UST Programmatic Work Plan.

Another example of Alan's exceptional work is his identification of process improvements and solutions. Alan identified that a State Water Board's EAR funding contract process was not being communicated clearly to stakeholders. Alan presented the issue at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter UST Roundtable meeting with all Regional Board UST program seniors and managers. Alan recommended a change in the process that would clearly communicate the contracting process. The OCC staff in the meeting agreed with improving the process. Alan's presentation helped our program staff and other Regional Board program staff better understand the funding process while helping OCC make the needed improvements to the funding system. Alan's suggested changes are expected to result in less delays in EAR case cleanups.

As a valuable member of the UST Enforcement Unit, Alan consistently provides high quality work, is responsive and respectful to the regulated community and the public, and is always looking for ways to improve our processes. For these reasons and more, Alan is well-deserving of this Employee Recognition Award.