

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD

December 2023

EMPLOYEE: Mitch Messmer

UNIT: Underground Storage Tank and Site Cleanup

TITLE: Water Resource Control Engineer

SUPERVISOR/TITLE: Galvin Kauffman, Senior Engineering Geologist

Mitch Messmer is a Water Resource Control Engineer in the Underground Storage Tank (UST) Cleanup Unit at the Rancho Cordova office. Although Mitch's position is organized in the UST unit, Mitch works on Site Cleanup cases with an emphasis on PFAS orders, bulk petroleum cases, and backlog case reduction. Mitch joined the Water Boards in January 2022 directly from the Montana State Master's Program. In less than two years, Mitch learned extensive cleanup knowledge, gained professional growth, and became an asset to both programs. Mitch is recognized for his excellent work, but specifically, his ability to communicate with the regulated public.

Mitch inherited many historical backlog cleanup cases, which required researching responsible parties and often difficult outreach to those parties about why these cases sat idle for many years. Mitch communicates clearly, empathetically, respectfully, and with confident authority. Because of his communication skills, Mitch has guided responsible parties to make progress on many of the backlogged cleanup cases.

Mitch works closely with Ms. Helen Yu, a Senior Water Resource Engineer Specialist that coordinates PFAS efforts for the Region. Helen shared that Mitch demonstrates great patience and professionalism in communicating with financially strained chrome plating operators to move the PFAS investigations forward. Helen also said Mitch is organized and efficient, and his writing is clear and concise.

For Mitch's work in both the Site Cleanup and UST Programs, as well as his excellent communication with the regulated public, Mitch is well-deserving of this Employee Recognition Award.