

SUPERIOR ACCOMPLISHMENT AWARD

**FISCAL YEAR 23-24
DECEMBER 2023**

Employee: Denise Hill
Unit: Program Support, Rancho Cordova Office
Title: Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Supervisor: Christine Croyle, Staff Services Manager I

The Central Valley Water Board purchased six pedal kayaks (two for each of our three offices) to ensure staff could collect samples and investigate Freshwater Harmful Algal Blooms (FHAB) events. This was the first purchase of kayaks for the State Water Resources Control Board, and we were informed by the Division of Administrative Services (DAS) Health & Safety Office that staff must be trained on the use of pedal kayaks prior to their use in the field.

Central Valley Water Board Program Support Unit staff, Denise Hill, took the initiative to figure out how to get staff trained to use our new pedal kayaks. The process to set-up the kayak trainings proved to be challenging and complicated. Denise used her training expertise to navigate complex health and safety policies and procedures. She also had to find a vendor that was willing/able to train staff on how to use/transport pedal kayaks, which proved to have much more limited training options than traditional paddle kayaks.

Denise coordinated and met with the DAS Health & Safety office, identified and met with potential training vendors, and consulted with technical staff/Program management on their needs. Denise worked alongside the Training Office to select a training vendor that could meet the needs of the Central Valley Water Board, worked with the training vendor to problem solve how to hold a training for eight staff a day with only two pedal kayaks, worked with Program Managers to identify staff that needed training, and ensured all Training Request Forms/staff payments were submitted timely.

Denise was successful in setting-up two kayak training sessions, held on September 25 and 26, 2023, for 16 Central Valley Water Board staff across all three of our offices. Overall, this was a highly complicated process that took a large amount of staff time over many months. Denise's efforts have paved the way for kayak training for the rest of the Water Board's Regions/Divisions/Offices.