

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD

April 2024

EMPLOYEE: Amber Ginorio

UNIT: Federal Facilities Unit

TITLE: Engineering Geologist

SUPERVISOR/TITLE: Mark Clardy, Senior Engineering Geologist

Amber Ginorio, an Engineering Geologist in the Site Cleanup Program's Federal Facilities Unit, has been nominated for an Employee Recognition Award. Amber has been with the Regional Board for three years and in December 2023 passed the exam to become a California Professional Geologist. Her projects include a mixture of Department of Defense sites as well as several private sites. Other activities she has been involved with are the monthly internal PFAS meetings and coordinating mentoring meetings for newer staff to learn about the Water Board and staff's work interests and background.

At Mather Air Force Base, Amber has been instrumental in working with the Air Force to ensure human health is being protected from PFAS contamination in groundwater. The Air Force solicited off base residents by mail to gauge interest in sampling domestic supply wells potentially impacted by PFAS. Although the Regional Board was not privy to the mailouts, Amber researched and followed up with several residents when it was unclear if they had been contacted and whether they had responded to the Air Force. This effort helped ensure potentially impacted residents were aware of the Air Force's intentions and gave them another means of learning about the sampling program and responding.

Amber has also recently navigated a complex cleanup site along with coordinating legal enforcement on the project. The Office of Enforcement (OE) has been involved due to multiple responsible parties and attorneys representing the property owner and current operator. Amber has made a significant effort to move this project towards regulatory closure while coordinating routine engagement with the County Environmental Health Office and the County District Attorney's Office.

Amber regularly attends the Regional Board's monthly internal PFAS discussions where recent updates about PFAS are shared. For the March 2024 meeting, she delivered a presentation summarizing the latest PFAS news and regulatory challenges at Mather. This included highlighting EPA's updated lifetime health advisories, Regional Screening Levels, and forthcoming maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) which will have a significant impact on ongoing remedial investigations and subsequent cleanup efforts.

Considering all these efforts, Amber is hereby nominated for this ERA.