

SUPERIOR ACCOMPLISHMENT AWARD

**QUARTER 3, FISCAL YEAR 22-23
JUNE 2023**

Employee: Michael Collins
Unit: Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) Permitting Program
Title: Water Resource Control Engineer
Supervisor: Stacy Gotham

Michael Collins is a Water Resource Control Engineer who has been working in the NPDES program since 2018, performing both permitting and compliance and enforcement duties. Michael has earned the employee recognition award for his contribution to multiple aspects of our program including his leadership in permit writing, proficiency in compliance and enforcement, mentoring of fellow staff, and for being an excellent team member. During the past quarter, Michael worked on two NPDES permits and successfully brought the items to the final stages within the targeted deadlines. Both permits came with challenges. One permit was highly technical, it included development of mixing zones and dilution credits for effluent limitation calculations and incorporation of the new Statewide Toxicity Provisions. The other permit action was a Notice of Applicability (NOA) for enrollment in the Limited Threat General Order. The issuance of the NOA required additional coordination with the applicant to ensure the schedule remained on track and that information needs were met. Michael participated in weekly meetings with the applicant and fielded numerous questions related to the enrollment process during the past quarter. Michael did not let the applicant's tight timeframe for commencement of the project compromise the integrity of the application process. He displayed firm, but fair, thresholds for project description and data needs. This resulted in a NOA that is thorough, complete, and meets the needs of the project scope. Michael has also been working diligently on NPDES compliance and enforcement items this past quarter. Under Michael's lead, over 100 monitoring reports were reviewed for compliance determination and 5 Notice of Violations have been issued related to his case load. Michael has also completed his scheduled fiscal year compliance and enforcement inspection targets during the past quarter. One of Michael's strengths includes independently seeking out answers to regulatory challenges; he does this by familiarizing himself with past permit adoptions, recent Orders, and taking the time to read guidance documents and relevant policy. As a result of these extra efforts, Michael is both a technical and policy resource for our Unit. Michael is always willing to share his knowledge and insight with staff and help someone through a process that is new to them. He maintains a great attitude, he is dependable, and exemplifies the qualities we seek in a team member. We are so fortunate to have Michael at the Central Valley Water Board and within the NPDES program.