

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD

January 2025

EMPLOYEE: Ryan Cornwall

UNIT: Cannabis

TITLE: Water Resources Control Engineer

SUPERVISOR/TITLE: Jason Schroeder, Senior Engineering Geologist

Ryan Cornwall has been a member of the Cannabis Regulation and Enforcement Unit since 2018. He has developed into a leader among staff in the enforcement of illegal cannabis cultivation, handling numerous responsibilities including coordination with California Department of Fish and Wildlife scientific and law enforcement staff, mentoring newer Water Board staff, and leading critical efforts to streamline internal processes.

Ryan recently led the effort to triage the existing cannabis backlog that included some cases going back to 2015/16. Ryan coordinated helicopter flyovers of all active cases to determine the current condition of each site, developed a spreadsheet to track case history and status for all cases, and worked with other staff to classify each site and determine next enforcement steps. This process made it possible to administratively close dozens of old cases that appeared to be low water quality risk, were no longer cultivating, and had revegetated.

Ryan also identified sites that were still actively cultivating and in need of additional enforcement. Ryan has also been instrumental in refining documents, including the Notice of Violation and Inspection Report templates, and refined our administrative case closure process through CIWQS. He has been very successful at encouraging dischargers to remediate their sites through voluntary compliance.

In 2024, Ryan drafted a Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) for a complex site in Shasta County that will be moving forward with an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint and recently referred two additional cases for CAOs to Office of Enforcement.

Ryan continues to be a valued asset in the Cannabis Program and his service is much appreciated.