



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

EMILY L. THOMAS

**Selected as California-Great Basin April 2022
Regional Office Employee of the Month**



Emily Thomas is a hydrologic engineer with the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP). In addition to her regular duties as project manager for the Sack Dam fish passage and Arroyo Canal fish screening project, she has also served in the vacant Deputy Program Manager position. SJRRP has been without the Water Management Deputy Program Manager for over a year now and Emily has helped to fill this role. Emily has done a fantastic job making sure all critical tasks get done while acting in the Deputy Manager position and still keeping a keen eye on fish passage and screening design progress. She genuinely wants to know how the team is fairing, relentlessly seeks solutions to thorny issues, and offers to support team members. During the last several months, Emily has also

onboarded a new employee in our team, training him on some of her previous roles and providing tasks and coaching. Her presence in any meeting is welcome as she brings a positive attitude, even temperament, and agreeable demeanor to every task she is involved with. When asked how she remains so cheerful amidst daunting tasks, she replied “it just seems like a better way to be.”

Emily stays in touch with developments outside her sphere of responsibilities to better understand the political winds and the bigger operational picture. In the past Emily has detailed for the Washington DC liaison position with the Regional Director’s Office and maintains professional relationships among a variety of staff from other offices. Finally, Emily has been able to keep her project management duties on track, recently bringing the \$40 million Sack Dam fish passage and Arroyo Canal fish screening project to the 30 percent design stage and navigating through a litany of design challenges and multiple stakeholders representing the San Joaquin River Settlement parties, third party river diverters, regulatory agencies, and the Restoration Administrator. She consistently exhibits skill, professionalism, energy, and empathy; and is most deserving of Employee of the Month.