

# Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility

*"Water Quality Through Modern Technology"*



April 2012

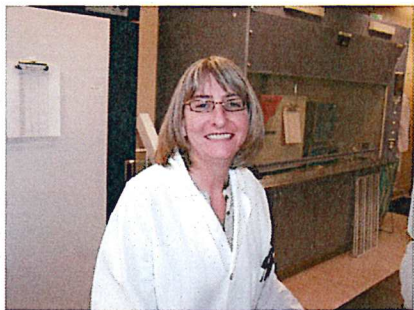
At the wastewater professionals state conference this year, three (3) of the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (TMWRF) staff received awards for their achievements, contributions and professional service to the industry. I would like to recognize and congratulate Mike Bailey, Helene Decker and Tom Farrell.



Mike Bailey – Received the Nevada Water Environment Association (NWEA) Operator of the Year Award

This is a state award given to recognize outstanding performance, professionalism and contributions to the wastewater operations profession.

Mike Bailey has worked as an operator at TMWRF for 26 years beginning as an Operator - in - Training and advancing to Grade III Operator. Mike is a natural leader and as each new employee is trained on the dayshift team, he oversees their initial training requirements. He completed a re-tasking of an unused facility at the plant that allowed us to switch from chlorine gas to bleach for disinfection and was recognized for the financial savings and comprehensive handling of the retrofit of this facility by Sparks City Council. In addition, he is currently involved in a process wide analysis and update of the digestion facility piping. He is planning the segregation of piping to mitigate build up and process safety issues. Mike is considered the chief contributor on new employee development and evaluation. He is a primary resource for planning of in-plant rehabilitations that reduce capital expenditures, preserve infrastructure and improve process operation.



Helene Decker – Received the Water Environment Federation (WEF) Laboratory Analyst Excellence Award

This is a national award given to recognize outstanding performance, professionalism and contributions to the water quality analysis profession.

Helene Decker has a Master of Science in Biological Sciences from the University of California. She has worked at TMWRF since 1994. Helene has mastered all of the analytical instrumentation and methodologies required by her title as Chemist II. Since the retirement of TMWRF's Biologist in 2010 she has volunteered to assume the roles and responsibilities including performing the Bioassay testing. She has also become the laboratory's expert with remote sensors and represents the facility at Truckee River water quality meetings. She is considered to be TMWRF's Truckee River expert. She has also obtained a grade IV Wastewater Quality Analyst Certificate from NWEA.

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Tom Farrell – Received the NWEA Laboratory Analyst of the Year Award

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Tom Farrell has Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science from the University of Nevada. He has worked as a Chemist at TMWRF since 2002. With the reduction in staff; Tom has repeatedly stepped up and taken on the additional tasks needed to get the job done doing whatever it takes to ensure the laboratory meets the needs of its customers. He has become the TMWRF's expert with online process instrumentation. He has set a new standard by creating an efficient method of calibration, maintenance and documentation. He has also obtained a grade IV Wastewater Quality Analyst Certificate from NWEA.