



Photo by Stephen Baack

Col. Julie A. Balten, commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District, joins local officials May 27 to cut the ribbon for the Old Town Creek Walk in Temecula, California. The Corps worked with the City of Temecula and the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District on the trail, which is part of a larger multi-purpose, multi-phase flood-risk-reduction and environmental-restoration project along more than seven miles of Murrieta Creek.

## Corps joins City of Temecula to open recreational trail

BY STEPHEN BAACK  
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TEMECULA, Calif. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers joined the City of Temecula and the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District May 27 to unveil a new chapter in the Murrieta Creek flood-risk reduction project – a recreational trail.

The new 12-foot-wide, 5,300-foot-long trail system now serves as a walking, running and cycling path, as well as a route for maintenance personnel when needed. The trail is paved with asphalt along the east bank and decomposed granite on the west bank.

The Corps' Los Angeles District managed construction of the trail through multiple contracts, from 2006 to 2021, which includes a permanent reclaimed water irrigation system and the planting of California-native vegetation.

"I'm so pleased that the Corps was granted

the opportunity to be such a big part of keeping community members in Riverside County and the City of Temecula safe through the flood-risk management measures in the project," said Col. Julie Balten, the Corps' Los Angeles District commander, "but it's also such a wonderful bonus that we could help give community members a safe and environmentally friendly space for exercise and recreation that will undoubtedly benefit residents' health and well-being for years to come."

Mayor Pro Tem Zak Schwank thanked the Corps and called the trail "a truly wonderful amenity."

"There's thousands of folks, who have now something in their neighborhood that's safe, where their kids can ride bikes, and where they can walk and just be outdoors and enjoy themselves," Schwank said.

The newly opened trail section – called the Old Town Creek Walk – connects to the larger

Murrieta Creek Regional Trail and the Temecula Loop, which is a 17-mile trail that loops around the city and goes to Old Town.

The new section also is part of a larger multi-purpose, flood-risk-reduction and environmental-restoration project along more than seven miles of the creek, which is a major tributary to the Santa Margarita River. The larger project includes about seven miles of channel improvements, three bridge replacements, a 270-acre detention basin with 163 acres of wetland restoration and a 49-acre recreation park.

"This is a project that's been in the works for many years," said Pat Thomas, director of Public Works for the City of Temecula, in his welcoming remarks during the event. This creek actually caused significant flooding damage here several times in the past years. The most recent and largest flood that really set this

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Prospect Budget Training



Photo by Robert DeDeaux

The Los Angeles District’s Phoenix office hosted the Prospect Budget Training 254 course in late May. Thirty-nine students from across the enterprise attended the course. Pictured, from left to right, are Budget Analysis and Resource Management Specialists Amber Jacobsen from the Corps’ Portland District; Jennifer Pott from the Seattle District; and Kelly Daugherty and Riley Owens from the Northwestern Division.

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project in motion happened in 1993, where four or five feet of water was covering all of Old Town. So, there was obviously a need for improvements to the flood channel here.”

In 2000, the Corps took on the Murrieta Creek Improvement Project, which was divided into four phases, one of which the Old Town Creek Walk is a part.

“I’m super excited that this is finally done,” said Temecula City Council Member James Stewart. “We’ve been looking at it for quite a long time, and we’re thankful that the (U.S.) Army Corps of Engineers stepped in and is taking care of a major issue for Temecula and going north. It’s going to be very beneficial to the cities going up there, too.”



Photo by Stephen Baack

Col. Julie A. Balten, commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District, speaks during the May 27 ribbon cutting and grand opening of the Old Town Creek Walk in Temecula, California. The Corps worked with the City of Temecula and the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District on the trail, which is part of a larger multi-purpose, multi-phase, flood-risk reduction and environmental-restoration project, along more than seven miles of Murrieta Creek.

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National Safety Month; return-to-workplace updates

Hello, SPL Team!

As I covered in our recent LA District Town Hall, our Corps of Engineers Safety and Occupational Health Management System, or CESOHMS, assessment took place on May 16-20. We had areas identified as pockets of excellence, including our Operations Park Ranger program and their proactive approach to safety, Operations attendance to supervisor safety prospect course, dedicated safety support for Mega Projects and Operations, and our comprehensive and user-friendly Safety SharePoint site.

The assessors also identified opportunities to continue to grow in our safety awareness, safety actions, safety involvement and how we embed safety in every aspect of our businesses.

CESOHMS is how we manage safety risks, which is crucial to our success in everything we do. That means all of you are responsible for knowing safety processes and ensuring they are implemented in your lines of work.

Our Safety professionals have done an excellent job in improving processes, making them easy and user friendly and communicating through emails, the SharePoint site, command and staff meetings, Safety Management Action Team meetings and using our “Safety Tip of the Week” publication.

The Safety team is working with Public



COL. JULIE A. BALTEN  
LA DISTRICT COMMANDER

Affairs to expand our communications efforts. The goal is that our Los Angeles district will be an Army Star site, where we are thriving in safety excellence in everything we do. Each of you will be able to take the assessor and walk them through how you are implementing safety and managing risk.

National Safety Month

With the weather warming up, that means most of us are getting outside, engaging in recreational activities and taking trips. It’s no coincidence that the Army has designated June as National Safety Month. I won’t mince words: Summer is historically the Army’s deadliest time of the year for mishaps – especially vehicle auto accidents.

Whether you’re planning on taking a road trip this summer or are just going from Point A to Point B, always remember to buckle up, slow down and watch out for the other driver. We want you and your family back safe and sound.

Just as it’s in the Soldier’s Creed that they must maintain their equipment, there’s no reason the same thing can’t be part of your own “safety creed” when it comes to your private motor vehicle, boat or any other piece of equipment that can endanger you or those around you if you don’t take the time to perform preventive maintenance checks and services.

Safety should never be an afterthought,

nor should it be relegated to a “checking-the-box” activity; it must be a priority and something you take the time to do – whether you’re barbecuing in the backyard with family or checking to make sure everyone has their serviceable life-jacket when you’re out on the water.

Updates on returning to the workplace

As many of you know, members of the Executive Office team recently began returning to 915 Wilshire once a week to increase and synchronize

our collaboration efforts. In my “Return to the Workplace” initiative, all employees are to return to their tour of duty stations at least once a week, beginning the week of June 13.

Your supervisors should have already been reaching out to you with plans for your individual offices, in terms of establishing what days of the week your team will be reporting in person and/or your duty locations.

I realize this may be a challenge for some of you, who may still be caring for a child or adult at home. Some of you also may have children still in school this month. I would ask if that’s the case for you, and you haven’t already done so, please talk to your supervisor and our Human Resources staff members, who can assist with guiding you through this process.

Additionally, telework policies are effective for two years, and every employee must have a current telework policy in place. The Maximum Telework Policy for those caring for a child/family member has been extended through September 2022.

We acknowledge there are some other concerns in terms of our “Return to the Workplace” plan, one of them being transportation to and from work and parking.

We realize Los Angeles is a high-cost area, as most of you are aware when you accepted employment with the LA District. For those who don’t want to drive, there are transportation subsidies in place for this reason, which cover the cost of public transportation to and from the workplace and are benefits to you as a federal employee working for the LA District.

If you are interested in taking public transportation – whether it’s by train, bus or subway – please ask your supervisor about obtaining a MetroLink transportation debit card, which subsidizes transportation costs for those using public transportation systems.

I want to reiterate that, as always, the health and safety of our team remains paramount. Be mindful that even as we return to our workplaces, COVID-19 is still out there. We want to keep seeing you come in, so be mindful, vigilant and safe upon your return!

Thank you for all you do!

Sincerely,

Col. Julie A. Balten



Photo by Robert DeDeaux

Col. Julie A. Balten, LA District commander, and David Van Dorpe, deputy district engineer, lead a district virtual town hall meeting June 2.





Col. Julie A. Balten, commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District, addresses the California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference May 19 in San Pedro, California. CMANC is a consortium of California harbors, ports and marine interest groups with the purpose of optimizing California maritime benefits by providing advocacy for the maintenance and improvement of California harbors, ports and navigation projects.

## California ports, waterways, navigation discussed at CMANC gathering

BY JOHN REESE  
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SAN PEDRO, Calif. – Addressing the challenges facing coastal and inland waterways, senior leaders with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers participated in the first in-person meeting since the beginning of the pandemic with the California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference May 18-20 in San Pedro.

CMANC is a consortium of California harbors, ports and marine interest groups with the purpose of optimizing California maritime benefits by providing advocacy for the maintenance and improvement of California harbors, ports and navigation projects. It does this by working with the California legislature and congressional delegation to ensure that California maritime interests are supported by the federal and state government to the greatest extent possible.

“For more than 60 years CMANC, which is the local nonfederal sponsor in California for the navigation projects – along with the dredging contractors and the engineering firms that support the navigation mission in California – have worked with the Corps in order to

achieve that,” said James Haussner, executive director for CMANC. “We certainly value the engineering expertise and the federal funding that flows through the Corps, so that California can move 40 percent of the containerized goods currently into the U.S., as well as have strong recreational and commercial fisheries.”

The Corps was represented by Maj. Gen. William “Butch” Graham, deputy commanding general for Civil and Emergency Operations; Col. Antionette Gant, South Pacific Division commander; Col. Julie Balten, Los Angeles District commander; and Lt. Col. Kevin Arnett, San Francisco District commander. Additionally, Jim Fields and Al Panicia, navigation program managers for LA and San Francisco districts, respectively, and Dr. Todd Bridges, Corps senior research scientist, made presentations.

Balten outlined ongoing projects within the 840 miles of California coastline with LA District updates on dam safety; environmental projects, such as the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration project; and construction projects, adding the LA District has the largest number of permit applications of any district in the nation and has the ability to accept and

expend funds from nonfederal sponsors to expedite the review of permit applications.

“Section 214 (of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000) allows non-federal public entities to enter into funding agreements with the Corps that we can use to expedite their projects,” Balten explained, adding that the San Pedro Breakwater was the very first construction project built by the Los Angeles District in 1902.

For Arnett and the San Francisco District, CMANC is “a great voice and collector-aggregator of some of the interests that are important for us to take into account as we prepare to deliver our navigation missions – establishing a forum, helping organize and collect the voice and the issues,” Arnett said. “It’s a great way to make sure where we have an efficient means to really understand what we’re doing from other stakeholder perspectives, whether it’s the contractors or the Corps. It’s a great venue and a great group.”

In terms of the Corps’ work on environmental issues, Bridges described CMANC as a forum for “limitless potential for the navigation

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sector to support nature and for nature to support the navigation sector.” He posed questions at the conference about how to engineer with nature and what was needed for operations.

“What science do we need to support innovation in engineering and operations to bring navigation infrastructure and nature and nature-based solutions together?” Bridges asked. “That’s why I’m here.”

On May 20, Suzy Watkins, harbor director for the Port of San Luis and current chair of CMANC, introduced Michael Connor, assistant secretary of the Army for Civil Works, telling attendees how Connor made time to join them despite his hectic schedule and would be flying back to Washington immediately after he spoke.

“The most important thing we should know about him is he’s a man who keeps his commitments,” Watkins said.

Connor spoke about the Corps and CMANC’s mutual interests, such as climate resilience and smart infrastructure. In April, during his 10th port visit as the assistant secretary of the Army (Civil Works), he met with President Joe Biden at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, where the Corps had completed a widening project that included projected maintenance costs using appropriated dollars, as well as bipartisan infrastructure money.

Simultaneously while he was speaking, he said his deputy and Shalanda Young, director of the White House Office of Management and Budget, were in Norfolk, Virginia, to celebrate a deepening/widening partnership agreement being developed between the Corps and the Port of Virginia.

“The navigation area and what we do – inland waterways and coasts – is the first of the Army Corps of Engineers’ portfolio of civil works’ missions, starting in 1824. It’s got a special and significant place for what the Army Corps of Engineers does,” Connor said.

Second in the portfolio, Connor said, is to build innovative climate resilient infrastructure to protect communities and ecosystems, adding the Corps integrates climate information and the need to design with that in mind going forward in its construction activities.

“I know that you are all doing that in the investment in ports themselves, even as we do the deepening and widening projects,” he said. “I also think the growth that we’re seeing and the focus that we’re continuing to see in the beneficial use of dredging material has a role in that resiliency strategy overall.”

Using dredged material is not only good for the environment, Connor said, but it also has meaning when it takes on the form of rebuilding barrier islands, coastal marshes and replenishing beaches.

“The level of resources is unprecedented and very exciting, and we look to do good things with that,” he said, explaining that even in just the navigation portfolio of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Corps has funding for coastal navigation projects and the inland waterway system. On the coastal side, 10 deepening and widening projects have already been funded to date.

Safe navigation is critical to the nation’s economy, and the partnership between the Corps and CMANC has led to safer California waterways, according to Fields, who also is a section chief with the LA District Navigation Branch.

“CMANC is a great collaborative team working together to acquire future funding for California projects,” he said.

Though he was not scheduled to speak at CMANC, Graham, the senior Corps of Engineers’ officer in attendance, provided final comments.

Watkins also added that one of the strengths of CMANC is that it’s been a successful partnership among local and federal agencies, other organizations and private sector vendors.

“We all work closely together and have identified our common goals – infrastructure, environmental and financial responsibility,” Watkins said. “We’re able to collaborate and advocate for all of those objectives, and we have good working relationships and enjoy each other’s company.”



Senior leaders and representatives with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District pose for a recent photo in front of San Pedro Harbor during the California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference May 18-20 at San Pedro, California. San Pedro Harbor was the first project undertaken by the LA District. CMANC is a consortium of California harbors, ports and marine interest groups with the purpose of optimizing California maritime benefits by providing advocacy for the maintenance and improvement of California harbors, ports and navigation projects.



# Corps hosts meeting about Lake Elsinore ecosystem restoration study

BY JOHN REESE  
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LOS ANGELES—The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District hosted a virtual public meeting May 24 for partners, stakeholders and private citizens about the Lake Elsinore Continuing Authority Program 206 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study.

The purpose of the meeting was to update all interested parties about the feasibility study that began a year ago on how to restore Lake Elsinore’s wetland ecosystem and heal the lake of invasive plant species and abate algae.

“In a city like Lake Elsinore, the lake is central to the identity of the town, and a cultural and recreational hub,” said Daria Mazey, Corps plan formulation specialist, South Pacific Division Regional Continuing Authority Program, or

CAP, Center. “It’s important to engage with residents and business owners to find out what they care about and what they think of our ideas, so that we can refine them with this input.”

Riverside County, the City of Lake Elsinore and the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District partnered with the Corps to address the lake’s issues. Mazey began by explaining how CAP works, how a project goes through its approval process and when—or when not—it must return to Congress for further consideration. The Lake Elsinore project will use CAP Section 206.

Lake Elsinore has a lot of ecological challenges, but also a ton of opportunity to improve the ecosystem health and enhance an already great recreational experience, Mazey said, adding that getting community input on this from the real experts, who live it every day, is an important part of the Corps’ process. She provided a detailed, science-based presentation about what the Corps learned in the past year, how the Corps conducts a feasibility study and how Section 206 “is a standing construction authority which allows us to partner with locals on aquatic ecosystem restoration that is less complex than our larger studies.”

“The cool thing about CAP is that the process is simplified, cutting red tape and facilitating more efficient delivery on projects that



Photo by Daria Mazey

A view of Lake Elsinore taken during the feasibility study shows the green lake water caused by algae.

improve aquatic ecosystems. As long as we stay within our cost limit of \$10 million federal funding and show that we have a good feasible recommendation, we don’t need to go back to Congress for authority and money to construct,” Mazey explained. “We can also spend up to 10 percent of the budget on recreation improvements, which is great in a place like Lake Elsinore.”

Mazey detailed how a wetland ecosystem could improve the lake’s water quality and offered multiple alternative project ideas weighing the costs and benefits using an interactive screen for meeting participants to gauge their interest and affiliation with the lake community. Participants also engaged directly in the virtual room or shared their concerns using the chat. Questions posed by participants, such as legal issues or how local residents can help, were answered on the spot. If a particular question needed additional information, contact information was collected for follow-up after the meeting.

Citizens expressed their willingness to assist the Corps, and Mazey said there are many things that individuals can do that can help improve water quality and habitat, especially if done consistently over time.

“If you have a yard or garden, don’t over-fertilize. Most folks use up to three times the amount of fertilizer required, and the plants

can’t uptake it, so it dissolves in water and runs off into the lake and fertilizes the algae instead,” Mazey said. “Cut your grass no shorter than three inches, which helps slow and sink runoff water and helps keep polluted runoff out of the lake. Plant drought-tolerant native grasses or shrubs as buffers if you really want to support local ecology.”

Those plants will draw native pollinator species and birds, Mazey said.

Another suggestion was converting septic systems to using sewer lines. Septic tanks tend to leak over time and the contents add nutrients, such as fertilizer to groundwater, that can feed the lake.

“And you guessed it, (it) fertilizes algae,” Mazey concluded. “If you want to help remove invasives, consider joining a volunteer group that pulls invasive species up. If one doesn’t exist, maybe help form one – could be a cool school project.”

With a 782-square-mile watershed, Lake Elsinore is California’s biggest natural freshwater lake. Located in Riverside County at the terminus of the San Jacinto River in the Santa Ana Mountains, the lake was home to Native American tribes when Spanish explorers arrived in 1797. The lake is a popular Southern California destination that had a Union Army horse-watering outpost in 1862 and was used in the 1920s for Olympic training and speedboat races.

## Engineer Safety Gram:

# Avoiding death at dinner: grilling safety



Courtesy photo

Summer means grilling and grilling means flare-ups, gas explosions, grease fires, singed hands and arms, burnt clothing and lots of close calls.

BY LOS ANGELES DISTRICT SAFETY OFFICE

Summer means grilling, and grilling means flare-ups, gas explosions, grease fires, singed hands and arms, burnt clothing, and lots of close calls. Hopefully, it also means a great steak, juicy burgers, perfect salmon, and awesome chicken breasts! Here are some grilling safety tips to enjoy your grilled dinner without the need to call 911.

### Clean your grill every few weeks.

Over time, your grill will accumulate heavy grease as you cook. This grease is highly combustible and too much of it can quickly cause fires. So, clean your grill regularly to keep the grease buildup down.

### Leak test your grill every year – or if you smell gas.

With propane grills, the best practice is to leak test them every year. The process is pretty simple. You brush dish soap and water on the connections to the tank and the gas

line. Then, turn on the gas. If you notice bubbles, you have a gas leak.

### Have baking soda and a fire extinguisher on hand.

Grills get as hot as an oven, so you want to have everything you need to keep fires at bay. As the saying goes, it’s better to be safe than sorry. So buy some baking soda and store it near your grill station in case of a fire. Keep a fire extinguisher close by if the fire is difficult to contain. When putting out a cooking fire, never use water as it can help spread the fire.

### If your grill doesn’t light, wait five minutes before lighting it again.

Sometimes, for whatever reason, your grill won’t light immediately. Instead of letting it run for minutes, turn the gas off after about 20 seconds. If there’s a strong scent of gas, it’s been on for too long. Let the gas dissipate for five minutes for your safety before lighting it again. If you don’t let the gas dissipate, you could cause a flare-up.

### Always supervise your grill when it’s running.

Babysit your meats – or any other food you have on the grill. It’s so easy to step inside and get distracted doing something. Next thing you know, your whole patio is smoking and your food is burnt to a crisp. So, give cooking your undivided attention.

### Avoid using lighter fluid if possible.

Lighter fluid works well in a pinch to light your charcoal grill. But it’s highly combustible and can be dangerous. Flare-ups can occur and it’s easy to lose control of the grill if you use too much. Never add lighter fluid to a burning fire. Instead of lighter fluid, you can use newspaper and a chimney starter to light your coals. It’s much safer and easier to contain.

*Questions? Contact Chris Rainwater in the LA District Construction Division or Tony McCoy in the LA District Operations Division.*



Click the links above to find the Los Angeles District on social media!



# Second Quarter FY 2022 Awards

## The Kevin Inada Employee of the Quarter Award *Kristen Bedolla*

For her outstanding commitment as a civil engineer from Jan. 1 to March 31, 2022. During this period, Bedolla was instrumental in the Prado Dam DSMS and the Santa Ana River Trail projects. She is a talented problem solver who jumps headfirst into projects that have been stalled due to complications. Bedolla's professionalism and dedication to duty reflect great credit upon herself and the Los Angeles District.

## Outstanding PDT Award *Joint Simulation Environment Construction PDT*

For exceptional service as a member of the Joint Simulation Environment Project Delivery Team. Your tremendous efforts have returned 99% of submittals within the contract review period. In addition, the assistant chief of Construction and his quality inspection team visited the site March 30, 2022, for an impromptu quality inspection and left with exactly zero inspection comments about the project quality itself. Your dedication to duty reflects great credit upon yourself and the Los Angeles District.

## The Mike Cogan Safety Employee of the Quarter Award *Natalie Martinez-Takeshita*

For her outstanding efforts while serving as a marine biologist, Planning Division from Jan. 1 to March 31, 2022. During this period, Martinez-Takeshita exhibited a passion for practicing and advocating for safe practices at every construction site she monitors. In addition, she has mentored other Corps staff to identify and report potentially unsafe conditions. She exhibited the highest ideals of Safety and Occupational Health in her quick thinking and leadership. Martinez-Takeshita efforts and dedication to duty reflect great credit upon herself and the Los Angeles District.

## The Mike Cogan Safety Employee of the Quarter Award *Christopher L. Chabot*

For his outstanding efforts while serving as a marine biologist with the Planning Division from Jan. 1 to March 31, 2022. During this period, Chabot was monitoring dredge disposal

activities at Oceanside Harbor and recognized a potentially dangerous situation where small children were playing too close to heavy equipment, without a spotter present. Christopher took immediate action to inform lifeguards and Corps inspectors so they could rectify the situation and informed management. He exhibited the highest ideals of Safety and Occupational Health in his quick thinking and leadership. Christopher's efforts and dedication to duty reflect great credit upon himself and the Los Angeles District.

## Commander's Eagle Award *Phillip J. Serpa Jr.*

For his outstanding efforts while serving as a project engineer for the Long Beach Resident Office, Construction Division, from Jan. 1 to March 31, 2022. During this period, Serpa has been granted Contracting Officers Representative authority and is responsible for the \$140 million mental health project. Serpa is directly responsible for delivering this project to the finish line (95% complete) and has overcome substantial encounters such as funding constraints, designed re-work in the middle of construction, and challenging requirements from Department of Veterans Affairs. Serpa's efforts and dedication to duty reflect great credit upon himself and the Los Angeles District.

## Outstanding PDT Member *Nicole Jackson-Crespo*

For recognition of her outstanding performance and invaluable support for the Veterans Affairs Long Beach Project. Jackson-Crespo has been integral in the development and execution of the risk register log to assist the PDT and the lead PM in capturing those crucial items that need to be tracked. In addition, she is very talented in creating achievable do-outs with the proper accountability to ensure the project is moving forward with the Corps business acumen in mind. Her professionalism and dedication to duty reflect great credit upon herself and the Los Angeles District.

## Compass Award *Hayley Lovan*

For her outstanding efforts while serving as a supervisory biological sciences environmental manager, Planning Division, from Jan. 1 to March 31, 2022. Lovan takes time to work through issues with her staff and ensures they understand the full picture. In addition, despite her heavy workload she always takes the time to mentor and support her team and works hard for the betterment of the organization. Hayley's efforts and dedication to duty reflect great credit upon herself and the Los Angeles District.

## H2O Award *Leanne Van Tuyl*

For her outstanding performance as a Project Manager, Mega Projects Division from Jan. 1 to March 31, 2022. During this period, Van Tuyl volunteered her time in the successful completion of the USACE-SPD/VA-CFM West partnering session. Van Tuyl has great interpersonal skills and always seeks occasions to contribute to the technical and professional knowledge shared within the Los Angeles District community. Her energy and excitement encourage participation to tackle any challenge professionally. Her continued support and dedication to duty reflect great credit upon herself and the Los Angeles District.

## H2O Award *Emily Lester*

For her outstanding performance as a Biologist, Planning Division, from Jan. 1 to March 31, 2022. During this period, Lester was always willing to share her knowledge with others and go the extra step to assist. She goes the extra step to coordinate with co-workers, team members or members outside the Corps. Her continued support and dedication to duty reflect great credit upon herself and the Los Angeles District.

## National Award Recognitions

### SPL Nominees

**FY22 PM CoP Award:**  
*Jeffery Armentrout*

**FY22 PDT of the Year:**  
*FY21 FEMA COVID-19 Hospital Support*

### SPD Nominees

**Don Lawyer Award for Regulator of the Year:**  
*Timothy W. Jackson*

### USACE Winners

**Communicator of the Year:**  
*Robert DeDeaux*  
**Third Place Photographer of the Year:**  
*Robert DeDeaux*



Life jackets come in sizes to fit babies through larger adults. They are intended to keep you afloat in lakes, rivers, and other bodies of water. Worn correctly, they work!



Life jacket should feel snug, yet comfortable. Lift up on the shoulders to make sure it doesn't slip above your chin or ears.

Check the label for U.S. Coast Guard approval, weight limit, and activity types.

Straps should be pulled tight and not twisted.

All buckles and zipper, if it has one, should be fastened.

Damaged life jackets should be discarded and replaced. Check often for mold, broken parts, holes, tears, and buoyancy.

Infant and some child life jackets have a strap between the legs. Be sure to fasten that for extra protection.



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