

2022 Employee of the Year, Curtis Jordan

In February 2014, Public Works hired Curtis as a Utility Worker in our Fleet Section. His skills and commitment were quickly recognized and there was an opportunity to transfer him to the Landfill in May 2014. His assignments included trash removal from the slopes and performing State mandated stormwater sampling. Curtis took full ownership and quickly familiarized himself with the entire stormwater manual. This piqued his interest in the full operations of the Landfill, and he began independently studying the Landfill's regulations and Operations Manuals. His initiative, dedication, knowledge, attention to detail, and genuine caring for the Landfill and the City resulted in a promotion to Landfill Supervisor in June of 2016.

Curtis has continued to produce exemplary work and increase his Solid Waste education. He completed an intensive week of Manager of Landfill Operations (MOLO) training passing the six-hour test that followed. Curtis has since completed over 80 trainings and webinars associated with Solid Waste operations, many on his own time. His latest training was once again an intensive three-day course and test for certification on Composting Operations. Curtis has also fostered a creative and collaborative environment at the Landfill as is evident by the artwork created by staff from discarded items and proudly displayed in common areas.

Others have noted Curtis' team-minded approach, commitment, and caring. During the La Tuna Fire Curtis used the water truck to save the power generation turbines and a BWP water tank that was in jeopardy of having an internal coating melt. Curtis then raced up to the landfill and closed numerous valves shutting down the turbine's feeder pipe and preventing a methane explosion. Following the fire, he was a key component of our success in mitigating the resulting 2018-2021 mudflows by providing staffing and large equipment to aid in the effort. Curtis has also provided collaborative support to Parks and Recreation at the Starlight Bowl by placing K-rail and grading the parking lots each season, and cleaning mud, debris, and rocks off the driving range after each rain, helping to ensure the success of the Golf Course.

Curtis has also continued the implementation of innovative operational changes at the Landfill. In coordination with the Solid Waste section, he and his team implemented changes to reduce facility operating costs, maximize landfill life by improving airspace utilization, streamlined processes, and improved the efficiency and safety. He oversaw the changes and as a result the Landfill's lifespan was increased by over 70 years and an estimated annual savings in operations of \$70,000. All of the benefits realized by the implementation of these changes lead to long-term sustainable financial savings for Burbank and its residents.

Curtis' latest endeavor is finding the highest best use for City logs that are delivered to the Landfill for disposal. Originally, the logs would be shipped to the Inland Empire, Ventura, or the Central Valley to be ground into mulch or composted. Curtis entered into a collaboration with a sawyer based in Los Angeles and now selected logs are taken to the sawyer and turned into lumber. As a part of this collaboration, Curtis and Kreigh

Hampel, our former Recycling Coordinator, will be creating a new front counter and bench at the Burbank Recycle Center made possible by the City's new "logs to lumber" program. Once this task is completed, they hope to create more furniture to display in City facilities. This collaboration created by Curtis results in finding the highest and best use for the logs.

Curtis has that rare combination of field prowess and administrative skills that other field supervisors sometime struggle with. He is wonderful at handling equipment and ensuring that the landfill is hitting its benchmarks for compaction. In the office, he ensures that the City remains in compliance with regulatory issues and landfill permitting. Recently our Public Works Yard staffing has seen a great number of vacancies; one of their critical tasks includes reporting to CalRecycle, Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, and the State Board of Equalization. Curtis voluntarily took on these tasks and kept the City in compliance of the mandated reporting.

Through his positive attitude and collaborative efforts, Curtis demonstrates his passion to improve on a daily basis. His commitment to his employees and the City is evident in his accomplishments. Curtis has performed beyond any expectations to make significant life changing contributions for the community that will be beneficial for generations to come.