

# BAYWORK SPOTLIGHT WOMEN IN TRADES



**Sunny Williams**

Senior Management Analyst

Sunny Williams, from Valley Water, with over 30 years of industry experience, was nominated by the members of BAYWORK for her commitment to service and passion for women in the trades.

Most recently, she hosted a learning session at the training buffet that encouraged others to identify the benefits of starting a women-centric employee resource group at their agencies.



**Valley Water**  
Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection

## Certifications and Skills:

I perform environmental planning work and have a B.S. in Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning from UC Davis. I'm a licensed Certified Arborist. It's not required in this position, but it is helpful.

## What interested you to pursue a career in the field?

"To protect and provide environments for our natural flora and fauna, and the ecosystems they need to thrive."

## If you can provide one piece of advice for women entering the field, what would it be?

"Find other women who work in the field that you are or want to work in. When I first became a Certified Arborist and attended continuing education workshops, there would be a line in the men's restroom and we women just walked directly into ours. While that was a welcome and elating experience, there just weren't women arborists. Now, there's a line for the restroom AND women are now more equal in attendance. Progress.

Being the lone or rare woman in a work environment can be lonely, frustrating, and difficult. Find male allies who you work with. Find other women who also work in your field to talk about your challenges and to support one another.

While there may always be someone who questions why you want to work (or live) as you do, you have just as much 'right' as anyone else to be there. And know that there are other women, trying to do the same thing as you."

**To learn more  
about BAYWORK, or  
how to nominate a  
woman in trade or  
water, go to  
[www.baywork.org](http://www.baywork.org)**

