

## **Excellence in CRM Award goes to Jennifer Darcangelo**

Jennifer is graduate of Sonoma State University where she learned so much from Dave Fredrickson but also professionals like Terry Jones, training which set her up to be the strong yet unobtrusive leader she is today.

Jennifer joined Caltrans District 4 in 1999 as an Associate Environmental Planner, Archaeologist and eventually worked her way up to becoming the Office Chief for the Office of Cultural Resources Studies. There she led a multi-disciplinary team and served as the District's Native American Coordinator for five years. Many in this room are familiar with the Caltrans Cultural Resources Database. That database was the brainchild of our own Carie Montero but it took someone like Jennifer to champion it and build it into something that we could then expand into the statewide enterprise system in use today. At Caltrans she worked to educate local governments on the importance of doing quality archaeology and engaging in meaningful consultation with Native Americans. When AB52 passed and changed CEQA consultation requirements, those local governments that paid attention to that training were able to comply with the new law with minimal fuss and project delays.

But greater opportunities called and Jennifer left Caltrans for PG&E where today she leads their cultural and tribal coordination program. She manages Section 106 compliance for the Topock remediation project, navigating the difficult task of balancing protection of cultural resources and building relationships with tribes while delivering this much needed groundwater clean up project. While at PG&E she found time to serve on the SCA Board, being president in 2014.

Jennifer was a single mom while going to school to finish her MA, which motivated her to be a founding member of the Women in California Archaeology committee. She spearheaded having childcare at the SCAs so other parents wouldn't have to make the difficult choice of being with their kids versus presenting papers and networking with their peers. She must have provided a great example because her daughter has joined the profession.