

## Julissa Zavala

Grants and Contracts Facilitator  
Research and Education Division  
jzavala08@mail.fresnostate.edu



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Julissa Zavala is the Grants and Contracts Facilitator at the California Water Institute – Research and Education Division. Julissa helps with researching, drafting, and submitting grant proposals and applications that help the institute receive funding for projects. These projects advance CWI’s mission of connecting academia to the water community to solve water management challenges through education, collaboration, and research. In addition to grant writing, Julissa assists with written communication for the institute, guaranteeing clarity and coherence of materials distributed across Fresno State’s campus and among various stakeholders.

Born and raised in the Central Valley, Julissa received her bachelor’s degree in mass communication and journalism from Fresno State and spent several years as a reporter for local newspapers before making the change to grant writing. She brings a unique blend of editorial expertise and a journalistic foundation to her current role, embodying a commitment to effective communication and impactful storytelling in her professional work. When she’s not working at her computer, you can find Julissa reading fiction, watching a scary movie, or (most likely) listening to Taylor Swift.

### California Water Institute

#### Division of Research and Education

The Division connects academia to the water community to solve water management challenges through education and research. To achieve this, the division engages faculty and students in developing interdisciplinary, inclusive, research-based solutions to water challenges for a sustainable

#### Contact Information

2703 E Barstow Ave JC 133  
Fresno, CA 93740

 @FSCWI  
559-278-7001