



### **Operators Have Online Access to Wastewater Operator Database**

Operators can now access their profile in the Operator Certification Information System (OCIS) database. Educational points on file, examination, certification and payment history is available 24/7 from the database.

On February 26, 2015 WWOCP sent letters to all certified operators along with the required operator number to setup their OCIS profile to access their account information. Included in the letter was a step-by-steps user guide. If you would like access to the database and need your operator number or have questions, please call (916) 341-5819 and press 6 or send an email to: [wwoCERTprogram@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:wwoCERTprogram@waterboards.ca.gov)

User Guide Link:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/operator\\_certification/docs/ocis\\_user\\_%20guide.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/operator_certification/docs/ocis_user_%20guide.pdf)

Database Link:  
<https://ciwqs.waterboards.ca.gov/opcert/OperatorLogin.jsf>

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

Operators can find answers to frequently asked questions, such the steps to submit an Operator-In-Training (OIT) application or requirements to qualify for an examination. FAQ's link:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/operator\\_certification/docs/faqs.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/operator_certification/docs/faqs.pdf)



City of Roseville WWTP

### **Drinking Water OpCert Transitions to the State Water Board**

Effective July 1, 2014, the Drinking Water Operator Certification Program (DWOCP) has transitioned from the California Department of Public Health to the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Financial Assistance.

Although both programs are physically located in the same building, each program is administered separately. Each program has separate regulations, databases and filing systems) For a list of Frequently Asked Questions regarding this transition go to:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/operator\\_certification/docs/dwp\\_opcert\\_faq.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/operator_certification/docs/dwp_opcert_faq.pdf).

Alice Webber, Drinking Water Op Cert Staff Services Manager I, and Wes Wilkinson, Wastewater Op Cert Staff Services Manager I, prepared a document to show the similarities and differences in each of the programs. You can find a comparison of the programs at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/operator\\_certification/docs/ooc\\_comparison\\_present.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/operator_certification/docs/ooc_comparison_present.pdf).

DWOCP's website Link:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/cert/coccupations/DWopcert.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/cert/coccupations/DWopcert.shtml)

### **Job opportunities to Operators**

The WWOCP provides a mailing list of the names, addresses, and grades of certified operators that have submitted the 'Permission to Release Contact Information' form to wastewater treatment plant owners (or their designated representatives. Operators contact information is not shared or sold to any other entity). If an operator would like their contact information to be forwarded to wastewater treatment plants for recruiting purposes they will need to complete and sign the Permission to Release Contact Information form and mail it back to our office.

Permission to Release Contact Information Link:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/operator\\_certification/docs/forms/releaseinfo.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/operator_certification/docs/forms/releaseinfo.pdf).

## New Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Examination Dates

The next Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Operator examination is on April 9, 2016. The final filing date is on February 9, 2016. Please note that we must receive the application in the office by the Final Filing Date in order to accept the application. Applications received with the postmarked Final Filing Date will not be accepted. For a complete list of future examination dates go to:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/operator\\_certification/docs/exam\\_info.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/operator_certification/docs/exam_info.pdf)

<i>Deadline Date</i>	<i>Exam Date</i>
February 9, 2016	April 9, 2016
August 16, 2016	October 15, 2016

## A Complete Application includes the fee and the original signed application

A Complete Application includes the fee and the original signed application

Note that applications are not considered complete until both the fee and the original application (exam, cert, contract operator, etc.) are received in the office.

## Examination Results from Spring 2015

For the April 2015 Examination, 854 individuals were approved to take the test, and 782 examinees completed the exam.

<b>April 2015 Examination Statistics</b>	
<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percent Passed</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>69%</b>
<b>II</b>	<b>66%</b>
<b>III</b>	<b>66%</b>
<b>IV</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>V</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>I - V</b>	<b>62%</b>

## Examination Results from Fall 2014

For the October 2014 Examination, 716 individuals were approved to take the test, and 633 examinees completed the exam.

<b>October 2014 Examination Statistics</b>	
<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percent Passed</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>55%</b>
<b>II</b>	<b>72%</b>
<b>III</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>IV</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>V</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>I-V</b>	<b>55%</b>



Central Coast Exam Location

## How Examinations are Graded

Have you heard that Grad Students are grading essay questions? Did you wonder why it takes so long to grade the Wastewater Treatment Certification Exams? WWOCP staff and Technical staff from the Division of Financial Assistance grade the exams (no outside personnel are involved in the grading process). Although the technical staff work within the same agency, they also maintain their individual workloads.

## Volunteer Examination Proctors Appreciation

Some current and retired wastewater operators have volunteered a couple of their Saturdays each year to help administer the Wastewater Operator Certification Examination. With their assistance the WWOCP has been able to conduct the examinations statewide. The WWOCP would like to thank each one of them. If this is something you might be interested in please contact Xia Lao at (916) 341-5819 extension 2.

## **The First Designated Satellite Plant**

Since the Wastewater Regulations were amended in April 2013, a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) was identified as meeting the definition of a satellite plants. The Point Loma WWTP has been classified as the main WWTP plant and the following WWTP's have been classified as Satellite Plants: the City of San Diego/South Bay Water Reclamation Plant (WRP), the Metropolitan Biosolids Center WWTP, North City WRP, and the South Bay International WWTP. All WWTPs are now the same classification as the main plant, so they are now all Class V plants.

The reclassifications comply with the definition of Satellite Plants in the regulations. All the WWTP's are owned by the same entity (in this case the City of San Diego). The Satellite plants are physically separated from the main WWTP but have the potential to affect the operation of or effluent quality of the main WWTP. The City of San Diego now has one Chief Plant Operator (CPO) who is responsible for the overall operation of the main plant and satellite plants. Additionally, we have received an updated employee organizational chart, job descriptions and duty rosters for all WWTPs.

The WWOCP was able to make this determination by working with the San Diego Regional Water Board (Region 9) and with the cooperation with the City of San Diego.



**Point Loma WWTP**

## **Innovative WTPP Design for Graton CSD WWTP**

The Graton Community Service District Wastewater Treatment Plant has been innovatively renovated and the plant designed, by Lescure Engineers, won the January 2015 American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) special merit award.



**Graton WWTP**

The overall concept was to modify the wastewater treatment plant so that it has zero discharge. In order to move towards this goal it has several eco-friendly designs that were combined with three major innovations.

One major innovation is a new disinfection system that pasteurizes the waste (heated for 10 seconds at 162 degrees) and therefore doesn't use chlorine in the final treatment stage. This is both environmentally friendly and makes it safer for the operators. The operators do not have to worry about the possibility of excess chloroform exposure

Another of the major innovations is the suspended air floatation (SAF) that is used to remove algae. This is the first time this technology has been used in a municipal WWTP. The solids are removed and pumped to the composting area.

The third major innovation is the compressible media filter, or Fuzzy filter. It can adjust the percentage of compression and adjust the turbidity. Plate compresses the Fuzzy Filters (pink balls) at the lower end of the compression.

Robert Rawson, the former Chief Plant Operator realized that the holding ponds had an excessive amount of duckweed on the surface of the ponds. He knows firsthand the problem it creates when the diaphragm pump pulls the weeds in and it's sucked into the pipe. He engineered an environmentally friendly solution by inventing a floatation box to skim the water and collect the duckweed, which in turn is added to the biosolids compost pile. The duckweed helps absorb nitrogen and phosphates in the composting process.



**Fuzzy Filters at Graton WWTP**

## Advisory Committee

The last Advisory Committee meeting was held on June 17, 2015 at the California EPA building in Sacramento at 1001 I St. The next meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2015. The meetings are open to the public and announcements are sent via Lyris Blasts (electronic email notifications) at least two weeks before the meeting.



Advisory Committee member Dr. Kenneth Kerri passed on December 15, 2014. He founded the Office of Water Programs and taught at California State University, Sacramento. His dedication and contributions to our program and to the wastewater community will be greatly missed.

Dr. Ramzi Mahmood has been appointed as the new College and Universities representative. He is currently the Director of the Office of Water Programs at California State University, Sacramento.

We regretfully accepted Mr. Hugh Logan's resignation. We are thankful for his twelve plus years of his help and dedication to the WWOCP.

Jeff Carson has been appointed as one of the representatives of Municipal Treatment Plant Operator and Supervisors and is currently the Operations and Maintenance Manager for the City of Hayward Water Pollution Control Facility.

A list of Advisory Committee Members is located on the following link:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/operator\\_certification/advisory\\_com/docs/adcom\\_members.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/operator_certification/advisory_com/docs/adcom_members.pdf)

## New Staff

The WWOCP welcomed several new staff members and celebrated a promotion. Annette Caraway joined the team on July 1, 2014 and is the new Program Manager (Staff Services Manager II) for the Office of Operator Certification (OOC). OOC is comprised of WWOCP and DWOCP. Annette can be reached at [Annette.Caraway@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Annette.Caraway@waterboards.ca.gov). Christa Beck also joined the unit on July 1, 2014 as the Lead Program Analyst. Neal Funston is the newest employee and his start date was October 1, 2015 as the Renewal/Plant Classification Analyst.

Xia Lao moved from Renewals/Plant Classifications and is now the Examination Analyst. Ruby Torres is the new Seasonal Clerk.

## WWOCP Staff

Annette Caraway – Program Manager  
Wes Wilkinson – Unit Manager  
Christa Beck – Program Analyst  
Debbie Zuccala – Certification Analyst  
Xia Lao – Examination Analyst  
Neal Funston – Renewals/Plant Classifications  
Ruby Torres – Seasonal Clerk

## How to Reach Us

*The WWOCP staff is committed to serving the needs of the operator. We encourage you to visit the OCP website first for general information.*

### WWOCP Website:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/operator\\_certification/operator\\_certification.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/operator_certification/operator_certification.shtml).

Email: [wwopcertprogram@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:wwopcertprogram@waterboards.ca.gov).

### Telephone: (916) 341-5819

- Examinations – **press 2**
- Certifications, OIT, Contract Operator, Exam Waiver – **press 3**
- Renewals – **press 4**
- Plant Classifications, Exemption of Class I WWTP – **press 5**
- Online Access for Database & Help Line – **press 6**
- General Information – **press 7**

Fax: (916) 341-5734

### Mailing Address:

State Water Resources Control Board  
Wastewater Operator Certification  
P.O Box 944212  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2120

### Overnight Mail - Address:

State Water Resources Control Board  
Wastewater Operator Certification  
1001 "I" Street, 17th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814