



Operators Can Now Make Online Payments

Wastewater Operator Certification Program (WWOCP) can now accept online payments from checking/savings accounts to pay for application fees! Keep in mind the application is not complete until the WWOCP receives the payment and a completed application with original signatures. Payments CANNOT be made by credit card or debit cards.

To submit an online payment, operators must provide the bank routing number, the checking, and/or savings account number.

Instructions are available on the Wastewater Operator Certification Home page (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/operator_certification/operator_certification.shtml) and at the bottom of the page locate the Online Payments section.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact the Wastewater Operator Certification Program at (916) 341-5819, select option 7 or e-mail us at: wwopcertprogram@waterboards.ca.gov.

Website Change

The Office of Operator Certification (OOC) now has it's own website. http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/operator_certification/index.shtml

Therefore, the WWOCP home website address changed. http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/operator_certification/operator_certification.shtml

Instead of a menu of the left side of the screen, there are now six tabs that offer information. If you have any questions regarding this change, please contact the Wastewater Operator Certification Program at (916) 341-5819, select option 7 or e-mail us at: wwopcertprogram@waterboards.ca.gov.

Disciplinary Reporting Responsibilities

If an operator receives a disciplinary action, is the operator obliged to report it? The answer is that the owner (or CPO representing the owner) is required to notify the WWOCP of an action in writing within thirty days of a disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action includes: reprimanding or placing on probation, suspending, demoting, or discharging an operator, provisional operator, operator-in-training, or contract operator for performing, or allowing or causing another to perform, any act in violation.

Only disciplinary actions that effect the wastewater operations of the plant are reportable to the WWOCP. For example, a disciplinary action due to a DUI or an issue that doesn't have any bearing on the operations of the plant does not have to be reported.

The notice shall include the name of the operator, provisional operator, operator-in-training, or contract operator, the specific violations, and the disciplinary action taken. The notice also shall include the operator's certificate number or the contract operator's registration number. For more information refer to section 3676 (g) of the Wastewater Treatment Regulations that can be found at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/operator_certification/docs/ocr_clean.pdf.

If you have any questions regarding reporting disciplinary actions, call (916) 341-5819 select option 7.



New Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Examination Dates

The next Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Operator examination is scheduled for October 15, 2016. The final filing date for completed applications and applicable fee is August 16, 2016. Please note that we must receive the application in the office by the Final Filing Date in order to accept the application. For a complete list of future examination dates go to:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/operator_certification/docs/exam_info.pdf

<i>Deadline Date</i>	<i>Exam Date</i>
August 16, 2016	October 15, 2016
February 8, 2017	April 8, 2017

Note: Examinees are now required to bring their own pencils and erasers.

Examination Results from Fall 2015

For the October 2015 Examination, 760 individuals were approved to take the test, and 688 examinees completed the exam.

October 2015 Examination Statistics

Grade	Percent Passed
I	64%
II	61%
III	45%
IV	50%
V	63%
I - V	57%



Examination Results from Spring 2016

For the April 2016 Examination, 815 individuals were approved to take the test, and 749 examinees completed the exam.

April 2016 Examination Statistics

Grade	Percent Passed
I	65%
II	54%
III	42%
IV	44%
V	26%
I - V	52%

Viewing Profile Information

Here are some highlights about viewing your profile information in the Operator Certification Information System (OCIS).

Exam: Operators can view exam application information including the received date, approval status and result. If the exam date is double clicked and the examinee failed then the exam points will be viewable for each section.

Payment: The 'Received Date' is the date the office received the check or money order (not the day that the check was cashed). The top of the payment screen is the debit and bottom portion is the credit. The "event date" is the date of the service such as the issuance date of a certificate or renewal, test date, etc.

Experience: Currently, the WWOCP only calculates hours worked for Operator-In-Training (OIT's). OIT's are required to have at least 1800 hours of experience before they become eligible to apply for a certificate.

Education: If an operator has an Associate's degree with 15 semester units of science courses (as defined by the regulations, specifically coursework in wastewater, math, physics, chemistry, biology, and engineering), and has completed at least 60 college semester units it will be noted as an AA + 15, and a Bachelor's degree and noted as BS + 30. The Science units indicate semester units towards the AA or BS. If the applicant has not graduated from college and/or obtained 30 semester units additional science coursework will be added as educational points. Educational points indicate training, coursework or college classes that have been allotted as educational points.



The Bufferlands

Regional San exercises conscientious land stewardship, providing phenomenal habitat for hundreds of wildlife species on more than 2,000 acres surrounding the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant.



Sacramento Regional Wastewater Bufferlands

Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (SRWTP) is the third largest WWTP and the largest WWTP to discharge to a river in the State. It is a class V tertiary WWTP. When the SRWTP was initially constructed in the 1970's, the plant purchased extra land. This enabled the SRWTP to create a 2,650 acres green space and bufferlands between the WWTP and housing developments.

The Bufferlands is a wildlife habitat that supports many native species of birds, mammals, and flora including 21 special status species. This resource is shared with the community by educational and outreach programs. Additionally, the SRWTP has created partnerships with community groups. For example, the National Audubon Society and the Sacramento Job Corps Training Center, and other groups have teamed up to restore and create wildland habitat known as the Upper Beach Lake. The Bufferlands also gives the SRWTP an odor impact zone and a solids dust impact zone.

SRWTP is one of the few WWTP's in California that has obtained a permit for onsite disposal of biosolids. It does so by two methods. One is by injecting 70% of the treated biosolids onto lined on-site land disposal fields. This is both environmentally friendly and cost efficient at \$150.00 per dry ton. The Second is by recycling 30% of the biosolids at the Biosolids Recycling Facility at a cost of \$700.00 per ton. The facility became operational in December 2004. It produces dry pellets and currently sells them to rural farms south of Sacramento for fertilizer.

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (a State Water Resources Control Board Program) approved a 1.6 billion dollar low interest loan for the SWWTP's EchoWater Project, which is a response to new discharge requirements issued in 2010. The treated wastewater will be cleaner and more natural.

By 2023, the SRWTP discharge requirements will include stricter standards for removing ammonia and nitrates, enhanced filtration and enhanced disinfection. The SRWTP's unique green space and bufferlands created an opportunity to provide habitat and the EcoWater project will provide cleaner effluent water discharges into the Sacramento River.



Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant

Posting Certifications

All certified operators including operators-in-training (OIT) are required to display their valid certificates in an area accessible to the public. For example, certificates can be placed in Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)'s hallways, or waiting areas. They cannot be placed behind inaccessible areas such as behind closed and or locked doors.

Certificates are required to be placed at each wastewater treatment plant where they are employed. In order to do so, operators can request duplicate certificates. This is a courtesy service. OIT certificates are specific to the plant and a certificate must be issued for each plant the OIT works in.

If there isn't an area accessible to the public, such as at a state prison, the certificates shall be posted in an accessible area at the WWTP's owner's headquarters.

Call (916) 341-5819 press 4 to request duplicate certificates or send an email to wwopcertprogram@waterboards.ca.gov.



Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee meets biannually in Sacramento. The last meeting dates were June 15, 2016 and 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.

To receive notices from the Wastewater Operator Certification Program you can go the link listed below, click on the Financial Assistance (Grants & Loans) box and then click on Wastewater Operator Certification http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml. Additionally, operators can check the box marked 'to receive public notices' on their certification, Operator-In-Training (OIT), or renewal applications.

Richard Althouse, Chris Berch, and Mick Berklich appointments to the Advisory Committee will be ending at the end of June 2016. They provided valuable assistance and guidance for many years. Please join the WWOCP in our sincere thanks for their dedicated

service. Chander Letulle, Levi Fuller, and Michael Melady are the newest Advisory Committee Members.

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

New Staff

The WWOCP welcomed a new staff member. Jaime Marotte joined the team on March 14, 2016 and is the new Examination Analyst. The position was previously held by Xia Lao who recently received a promotion within the SWRCB. Ruby Torres, one of our Seasonal Clerks was recently promoted to Office Technician in the Drinking Water Operator Certification Program

WWOCP Staff

Annette Caraway – Program Manager
Wes Wilkinson – Unit Manager
Christa Beck – Program Analyst
Debbie Zuccala – Certification Analyst
Jaime Marotte – Examination Analyst
Neal Funston – Renewals/Plant Classifications
Denise Willard – Seasonal Clerk

How to Reach Us

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

WWOCP Website:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/operator_certification/

Email: 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 Office of Operator Certification
P.O Box 944212

Sacramento, CA 94244-2120

Overnight Mail - Address:

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