

**TITLE 23. WATERS
DIVISION 3. STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD AND
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CHAPTER 26. WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT CLASSIFICATION,
OPERATOR CERTIFICATION, AND CONTRACT OPERATOR REGISTRATION**

Economic Impact Analysis

Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State of California:

There will be minimal impact on both creation and elimination of jobs. We expect that the regulation will result in uncertified operators at privately owned wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) becoming certified, rather than resulting in jobs created or eliminated.

Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses Within the State of California:

The State Water Board has determined that the regulation will result in a minimal, if any, elimination of existing businesses or the creation or expansion of businesses in the State of California.

Expansion of Businesses in the State of California:

The regulation will not expand businesses in California. Instead, the regulation will result in a new certification requirement for certain existing operators within the Operator Certification Program. The proposed regulations will bring operators at approximately 434 privately owned WWTPs into the Operator Certification Program. The Operator Certification Program includes requirements for classifying plants, registering contract operators, processing certificate applications and giving examinations to the additional 468 operators (certified operators, certified provisional operators, or certified operators-in-training). The majority of the plants will have only one operator. However, some plants will have multiple operators. The State Water Board will maintain its current workload of certifying operators and registering contract operators at publicly owned WWTPs.

No initial (capital) costs are required by the regulation. A privately owned WWTP may comply with the regulation by either employing its own certified operators or contracting for operator services from a registered contract operator. The estimated average annual cost for a privately owned WWTP employing operators is \$4,000. The estimated average annual cost for a privately owned WWTP contracting for operator services is \$2,967. The estimated average annual cost for a privately owned WWTP employing operators and/or contracting for operator services is \$3,483.

Contract operators are expected to pass their increased costs on to the WWTPs in the form of increased service rates.

Benefits of the Regulation:

The specific benefits anticipated will protect public health and the environment by providing for the effective operation of not only publicly owned but also privately owned WWTPs.