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Office of Operator Certification (OOC)
Drinking Water Operator Certification and
Wastewater Operator Certification Programs
AB 1588 Sub Workgroup
Update June 27, 2023

AB 1588 Workgroup

Members

- OOC
 - Christine Gordon
 - Jaime Marotte
 - Sahand Rastegarpour
 - Keisha Kelley
- Industry
 - Jose Martinez, Chair, Otay Water District
 - Chris Lehman, Vice Chair, City of San Luis Obispo
 - Sue Mosburg, CA-NV AWWA
 - Norah Duffy, CWEA
 - Steven Garner, CA-NV AWWA

Objective(s)

Establish a clear process for the State Water Board to evaluate and award experience and education credits to persons who performed duties comparable to the duties of an operator at a water treatment facility, water distribution system, or wastewater treatment plant while serving in the United States military. This process would also include, where appropriate, to issue certificates by reciprocity or examination waiver to those persons or to award experience or education credits to those persons.

- Model an (experience and education) evaluation process similar to those for operators from other states
- Process should be similar between water and wastewater certification
- Coordinate with other subgroups to ensure consistency in deliverables (forms, etc.)
- Complete within 12 months (September 2023)

Identified Resources

- Official resources identified and documented
 - Federal – DoL, DoD – job/skill translators
 - ✓ [COOL](#)
 - ✓ [MyNextMove](#)
 - ✓ [O*Net OnLine, Military Crosswalk](#)
 - National – [American Council of Education](#) – college education credit hours
 - Local – [CA-NV AWWA Basecamp site](#) for gathering of resources & job title comparisons
- Survey other jurisdictions that have already implemented similar approaches to recognizing military education and experience
 - Identify the processes and documentation required to grant reciprocity or qualifications to sit for credential exams
 - DD214
 - Training records
 - Certificates
 - Verified education and on-the-job experience using external resources like American Council on Education (ACE), ...
 - Four states surveyed so far (TX, WA, VA, HI, NEWEA)

Recommendations

- Revised guidelines for application reviews
- Update to general operator application form and possibly a supplemental form for veterans
- Coordination with the output from the other workgroup efforts
- Active participation with OOC staff exercising application review enhancements during pilot phase evaluation of guidelines

Recommendations (continued 2)

- Continue using pilot experiences to evaluate recommended form and procedural adjustments
 - Develop tailored workflow for OOC staff
- New forms and procedures will be ADA compliant
- A standing agenda item for advisory group meetings to address potential regulatory changes
- Message management processes to promote awareness of current wave and future shifts in forms / procedures

Recommendations (continued 3)

- Sunset the AB 1588 subgroup and transition the work to the existing Advisory Group (including military representative position)
- Advisory Groups meet more frequently, quarterly suggested
- Continue with Joint Advisory Group meetings