This is a message from the State Water Resources Control Board.

If you are currently registered to take the Drinking Water Operator Certification Distribution Examination on March 21, 2020, please read this entire message and respond as requested.

Due to concerns regarding the risk of communal transmission of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is evaluating the viability of conducting the examinations in accordance with current directives from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). The State Water Board is offering to postpone examinations until the September 2020 examination for enrollees that contact us by 10:00 am, Monday March 16, 2020. No additional fees will be assessed for those that choose to postpone their examination by the Monday deadline.

1. If You Prefer to Postpone the March 21st Exam – please respond to the following e-mail dwopcertprogram@waterboards.ca.gov confirming that you will not be attending the March 21st examination no later than Monday, March 16th at 10:00am. The State Water Board will reschedule you for the September 2020 Drinking Water Operator Certification Distribution Examination. You will not have to pay additional fees to take the September 2020 Drinking Water Operator Certification Distribution Examination.

2. If You Still Plan to Attend the March 21st Examination Despite COVID-19 – Please be aware the State Water Board may need to cancel the exam if the Board cannot conduct the exam in accordance with CDPH guidance. If the examination remains on schedule, please ensure you are free of any COVID-19 symptoms. If the examination does take place on March 21st and you have any symptoms of COVID-19 leading up to the examination, please contact the State Water Board at dwopcertprogram@waterboards.ca.gov as soon possible, stay home and seek appropriate medical care, and do not attend the examination. If you notify the State Water Board that you cannot attend prior to March 21st due to illness, the State Water Board will reschedule you for the September 2020 Drinking Water Operator Certification Distribution Examination. You will not have to pay additional fees to take the September 2020 Drinking Water Operator Certification Distribution Examination.

3. Sign-Up for E-mail Communication – As more details become known on the status of the March 21st examination or other important details regarding the Drinking
Water Operator Certification Program, e-mail list recipients will be one of the first groups to obtain the details. As such, you are highly encouraged to sign up for Drinking Water Operator Certification Announcements, by doing the following:

a. Visit the following website -
   https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.html

b. Follow the instructions outlined under the “Instructions:” portion of the e-mail subscription form.

c. To ensure you receive updates relevant to the March 21st examination and other Drinking Water Operator Certification Program Announcements, please click the “FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (GRANTS & LOANS)” drop down and then select the “Drinking Water Operator Certification” box at a minimum; you are encouraged to check the “Wastewater Operator Certification” and “Tribal Wastewater Operator” boxes as well.

4. Monitor Website – Please continue to monitor the Drinking Water Treatment and Distribution System Operator website regarding the March 21st Drinking Water Operator Certification Distribution Examination as the State Water Board will be updating the website as additional information becomes available.

Background

As a result of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) outbreak, on Wednesday, March 11th, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued guidance that large gatherings of 250 or more people should be postponed or canceled. Additionally, CDPH advised, as a practice of social distancing (reducing close contact) recommended by public health officials, that persons maintain a spacing of six feet between individuals to slow the rate of transmission of COVID-19.

The State Water Board is mindful of the severity of COVID-19 as well as the community transmission of COVID-19 that has occurred in California at this point. As such, the Board is assessing the feasibility of conducting the March 21st Drinking Water Operator Certification Distribution Examination in accordance with CDPH guidelines at all of its testing locations. The State Water Board may have to cancel some or all the examination locations.

Your response to this e-mail, if you are not attending the March 21st examination, is of great assistance and greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

State Water Board Operator Certification Program