



DWOCP

Drinking Water Operator Certification Program



E-NEWS

Summer 2018



DWOCP E- News

Announcing the first edition of the Drinking Water Operator Certification Program (DWOCP) Electronic Newsletter! Starting with this edition, Summer 2018, the Newsletter will be issued twice a year. Future issues will include Drinking Water Treatment and Distribution examination and certification information.

- If you have any suggestions for future articles, please email the DWOCP email at: dwopcertprogram@waterboards.ca.gov.

DWOCP Advisory Committee

Effective January 1, 2017, Health and Safety Code section 106898 established the number of committee members and the type of entity they must represent. Each of the ten Advisory Committee members is nominated to represent a particular segment of the Drinking Water Treatment/ Distribution field. In June 2017 the State Water Board appointed members to staggered terms ending in 2019 and 2021. The Advisory Committee generally meets twice a year with additional meetings scheduled as necessary. Membership includes:

- Two people from a Statewide Organization representing Medium to Large Water Systems.
- Two people from a Statewide Organization representing Small Water Systems.
- One person from a Statewide Organization representing a Local Primacy Agency
- One person employed at a Water Recycling Treatment Plant
- One person from an Educational Institution's School or Division of Engineering.
- One person from an Organized Labor Union that represents water treatment and water distribution operators
- One person who is an employee of an Educational Institution, Professional Association, or Public Agency that provides water treatment and water distribution courses of instruction
- One person who is a Professional Engineer specializing in Sanitary Engineering

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 2018 at the California EPA building in Sacramento at 1001 I St. The meetings are open to the public and announcements are sent via an Email Subscription List (electronic mail notifications) at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

DWOCP Advisory Committee member Jill Deurig

We regretfully accepted Jill Deurig's resignation. We are thankful for her many years of help and dedication to the DWOCP.

A list of Advisory Committee Members is located on the following link:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/advisory_committee/docs/dw_adcom_members.pdf

DWOCP Can Now Accept Online ACH Payments!

The DWOCP can now accept online payments from checking and savings accounts to pay application and renewal fees! Keep in mind that the payment is NOT sufficient to complete the process. You must submit a complete application with original signatures to finalize the process. 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.

For more information and instructions please go to:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/occupations/DWopcert.shtml and look for the Drinking Water Online Payments section.

How to Access Official Transcripts from closed schools – Colleges & Universities

As part of the Drinking Water certification and examination application process, applicants submit copies of their official college/university transcripts. What can applicants do if their school has closed?

College/University: Contact the school's State licensing agency. Generally, closing institutions will make arrangements to store academic records. Here is a state contact list:

<http://www.nasasps.org/listing-of-regular-members>.

Private College/University: Contact the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE). The BPPE has a transcript request form that is available for downloads at

http://www.bppe.ca.gov/students/transcript_req.pdf.

Changes to the DWOCP

On July 1, 2014, the responsibility for California's DWOCP for operators of public water systems was transferred from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to the State Water Board. Effective January 1, 2017, the Health and Safety Code sections governing the DWOCP and the Water Code sections governing the Wastewater Operator Certification Program (WWOCP) were amended to better align the two programs. The amendments to the DWOCP include:

- Civil Liabilities may be imposed for Water Treatment and Water Distribution Operators.
- The DWOCP Advisory Committee was established in statute. The statute requires that the committee consist of ten members that represent specified types or organizations of stakeholders.
- Allows for a discount fee for renewals or certifications for Drinking Water operators that also hold a Wastewater certification.
- Allows operators that hold certification with the United States, a territory of tribal government or a unit of any of these to apply for reciprocity.
- Deleted obsolete language or terminology and made technical (clean up) amendments. Deleted obsolete references to the drinking water "operator-in-training".

How does the addition of Administrative Civil Liabilities affect Operators?

Administrative civil liabilities are fines or other forms of action taken by the State Water Board against entities and/or individuals that commit a violation of the statutes.

Penalties range from \$100 per day to \$5,000 for each violation, depending upon the type of violation committed.

Violations may include but are not limited to:

- Operate a water treatment plant or water distribution system without a valid or unexpired certification of the appropriate grade.
- In responsible charge and allowing the employment of any person as an operator who does not hold a valid, unexpired certification of the appropriate grade.
- Use of fraud or deception in the course of operating a water distribution system, a water treatment plant or a water recycling plant (please see the following article regarding Siskiyou County).
- Failure to use reasonable care of judgement in the operation of a water distribution system, a water treatment plant or a water recycling plant.
- Willful or negligent acts that cause or allow the violation of the federal or California Safe Drinking Water Act or the regulations and standards adopted pursuant to either act.
- Engaging in dishonest conduct during a water examination.
- Submitting false or misleading information on an exam or certification application.

Office of Enforcement and DWOCP

[The Water Board's Office of Enforcement \(OE\), Special Investigations Unit](#) is charged with responding and investigating statewide operator complaints and issuing necessary enforcement for drinking water treatment, drinking water distribution, and wastewater treatment operators.

Complaints can be sent directly to the OE at (916) 327-8363, or sent to the DWOCP to David.Maurer@waterboards.ca.gov.

Two Siskiyou County Drinking Water Treatment Operators Lose Their Certificates

The State Water Board investigated a complaint for three individuals for allegedly failing to report positive findings of bacteria in public water systems to the Division of Drinking Water (DDW).

Ronald Dean Larue of Dunsmuir and Wayne Garland Grisby of McCloud each pled no contest to a misdemeanor in violation of the Health and Safety Code section 116730 (a)(1). In addition, the State Water Board revoked their Drinking Water Certifications. They are banned from operating a California public drinking water system.

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press_room/press_releases/2018/pr20180430_siskiyou.pdf

Drinking Water Operator Examination Dates

The upcoming examinations for Drinking Water Operator are noted below. Please note that applications must be **postmarked on or before** the Final Filing Date in order to accept the application. Also, all examination requirements must be met by the final filing date.

Water Distribution (Grades I-5)

Final Filing Deadline Date	Test Date
July 2, 2018	September 15, 2018
January 2, 2019	March 16, 2019

For more information:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/occupations/documents/opcert/distribution_exam_schedule.pdf

Water Treatment (Grades I-4)

Final Filing Deadline Date	Test Date
September 1, 2018	November 3, 2018
March 1, 2019	May 18, 2019

For more information:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/occupations/documents/opcert/treatment_exam_schedule.pdf

Treatment Grade 5 exams are oral exams and specially scheduled and held in Northern and Southern California twice a year.



Distribution Exam Results - Spring 2018

For the March 2018 Examination, 2,574 individuals were approved to take the test and 2,299 examinees completed the exam.

Distribution Examination Statistics March 2018		
Grade	Examinees	Percent Passed
1	678	53 %
2	917	56 %
3	410	54 %
4	186	59 %
5	108	44 %
Total	2,299	54 %



Treatment Examination Results – Spring 2018

For the May 2018 Examination, 1,733 individuals were approved to take the test and 1,522 examinees completed the exam.

Water Treatment Examination Statistics May 2018		
Grade	Examinees	Percent Passed
1	504	59%
2	726	57%
3	207	55%
4	85	51%
5	32	56%
Total	1,554	57%

THERE WILL NO LONGER BE A PERSONAL BELONGINGS TABLE INSIDE THE EXAM ROOM FOR CANDIDATES TO LEAVE THEIR ITEMS



What NOT to bring to the exam site

NO	
APPAREL:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hats, Knitted caps, or any ball caps Sunglasses
PERSONAL ITEMS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cell phones, pagers, or charging equipment Wrist watch, smart watch, or iwatch Food, snacks, beverages Tobacco products Programmable calculator Pens, markers, or mechanical pencils Laptops, tablets, or PDA devices Fitness trackers Translation equipment Smart glasses Recording devices Mp3 players, ipods, or headphones Loose papers, books, study materials Purses, backpacks, luggage, or other bags Work badges for ID

What to bring to the exam site

YES	
APPAREL:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Layered clothing for warmth Reading glasses Medical bracelets (if applicable)
PERSONAL ITEMS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government Issued Photo ID Exam admittance letter Wooden #2 pencils Simple calculator(s) Transparent carrying pouch Car keys Wallet Inhalers Eye drops Diabetic monitoring kit

How to Reach Us

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

DWOCP Website:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/occupations/DWopcert.shtml

Email: dwopcertprogram@waterboards.ca.gov

Renewal Email: DWCEU@waterboards.ca.gov

Mailing Address:

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

Overnight Mail - Address:

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

DWOCP Staff and Responsibilities

Name	Responsibility	Phone #
Alice Webber	Manager-Staff Manager I	(916) 449-5642
Michael Rohner	Renewals/Advisory Committee	(916) 449-5649
Bonnie Sutherland	Water Treatment Exam and Certification Requirements	(916) 449-5629
David Maurer	Water Distribution Certification Requirements/ Regulations	(916) 449-5628
Amy Chiang	Operator Mailing Lists	(916) 449-5618
Chris Walker	Issuance of new D1, D2 Certificates	(916) 341-5672
Ruby Torres	Issuance of new T1, T2 Certificates/ General information line	(916) 449-5611 (916) 449-5610
Rebecca Tindell	Renewal ID card/Change of Address/General Information Line	(916) 449-5611 (916) 449-5610
Angela Grace	Seasonal Clerk	
Annette Caraway	Manager of the Office of Operator Certification-Staff Manager II	(916) 449-5620