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

To All Interested Parties:

As a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency, and the guidance released by Governor Newsom to limit gatherings to 10 people or less while social distancing, the Fall 2020 Drinking Water Distribution Operator Certification Examination has been cancelled. The State Water Resources Control Board understands this decision along with the cancellation of the Spring 2020 examination will, and has had, negative impacts on the water industry. Therefore, the State Water Resources Control Board is working to implement Operator Certification Computer Based Testing (CBT) in early 2021.

All examinees who were approved and scheduled for the Fall 2020 Drinking Water Distribution examination will automatically be approved to schedule a testing opportunity upon the implementation of Operator Certification CBT. As the State Water Resources Control Board moves further into implementing Operator Certification CBT additional communication will be provided to each candidate regarding any refunds of the Spring/Fall 2020 examination fees paid and any costs owed for testing fees for Operator Certification CBT.

Understanding that early 2021 is five months minimum to wait for the opportunity to test for/obtain operator certification, the State Water Resources Control Board is currently working to identify any viable options to assist those who may have emergency examination needs (e.g., water system compliance needs, etc.) to take a Drinking Water Distribution Operator Certification Examination in the Fall. Therefore, if your water system has an emergency need for a Drinking Water Distribution examination to be administered, please inform the Drinking Water Operator Certification Program by sending the following information to the dwopcertprogram@waterboards.ca.gov e-mail address:

1. Name of Examinee
2. Grade Level of Exam Needed
3. Water System Location
4. Water System Supervisor Contact Information (Name, Phone Number & E-mail Address)
5. Emergency Need

Thank you for your patience and understanding during these unprecedented circumstances.