

Requirements for Granting Non-news Interviews on State Water Resources Control Board Property and With Staff

All non-news motion picture, radio or television programs produced at any State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) facility must have prior approval. For definition purposes, non-news related productions include features, documentaries, news magazine programs, commercials and pilots for proposed news, public information, religious and entertainment television programs.

The State Water Board requires the following items before granting access to State Water Board property or staff:

1. A script, "treatment," or detailed storyboard that explains in detail the nature of the film that is being created, i.e. subject matter, desired message/tone; why the filmmaker is seeking input from the State Water Board and the particular subject; and what the goal is of the film. Other items to include (if critical to successful completion of the project): production location needs; crew size; plans for the project; type/quantity of production equipment on premises; production schedule and duration.
2. Editorial researchers, freelance writers, authors of books, independent filmmakers and other unaccredited media must provide proof of employment by an accredited publication/production company, or have evidence an accredited publication/production company has contracted to purchase the completed project.
3. The State Water Board also requires that the executed contract contain a scheduled air/publication date and a description of how and where the film/project will be distributed.
4. Non-news media/filmmakers must submit a list of questions they wish to ask the subject, including follow-up questions. State Water Board Office of Public Affairs staff will keep these questions on file and will prep the subject for these questions. If before,

or during the interview, the filmmaker diverts from the set of questions agreed upon, OPA and State Water Board staff may terminate the interview.

5. If project approval is given to a filmmaker, a location agreement must be executed with the parent firm and a California Film Commission permit (<http://www.film.ca.gov/>) will be required along with evidence of financial responsibility and liability insurance in the amount of at least \$1 million with the State of California, its offices, employees, and agents as the “additional insureds.”
6. Non-media must provide proof of workers compensation and employers’ liability with a limit of \$1 million. If a company has no employees, a workers compensation waiver letter must be submitted to the California Film Commission. Part of the agreement provides for defending and indemnifying the State against any lawsuits. Another part of the agreement also states the parent firm is responsible for staffing costs, including benefits and overtime rates of pay, directly associated with its filming activities.
7. Non-news films with script sections pertaining to the State Water Resources Control Board must also be submitted for review and approval to ensure accuracy.
8. It is asked a minimum of 20 working days for the least complicated request be given. There are no assurances access will be granted. The State Water Board evaluates requests to determine the impact of filming on available resources, and availability of subject matter experts, among other considerations.

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