



**Emergency Regulations were Approved! Wastewater Operator Certification Program (WWOCP) Fee Changes-Fee Reductions**

Water Code section 13628(e) allows the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to adopt amendments to the WWOCP fee schedules through the emergency rulemaking process and provides that the emergency regulation will remain in effect until it is revised by the State Water Board. The State Water Board approved a resolution on September 19, 2017 to amend Section 3717 of Chapter 26 of Division 3 of Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations to alter the WWOCP fee schedule. The Office of Administrative Law, approved the new Fee Schedule on November 16, 2017.

As of November 16, 2017, Emergency Regulation changes went into effect. The WWOCP's new Fee Schedule includes:

- Certification fee reduction for all grades (I-V) by 25%;
- Fee for all certification renewal fees for all grades (I-V) of \$150.00;
- New examination fee reduction (not including the application processing fees) for all grades (I-V) by 25%;
- Establishment of reduced fees for certification and renewal fees by 25% for dual wastewater and Drinking Water operators.

Sample Fee Change for Grade II

	Old Fee	New Fee
Examination	\$180.00	\$155.00
Certification	\$230.00	\$170.00
Renewal	\$230.00	\$150.00

The new fee schedule is available at: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/operator\\_certification/docs/forms/fee\\_increase.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/operator_certification/docs/forms/fee_increase.pdf)

New applications are available at: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/operator\\_certification/form.shtml](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/operator_certification/form.shtml)

**Changes in 2017**

On July 1, 2014, the responsibility for California's Drinking Water Operator Certification Program (DWOCP) for operators of public water systems was transferred from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to the State Water Board. To better align the WWOCP and the DWOCP the State Water Board sponsored Assembly Bill (AB) 2890. AB 2890 was signed into law by Governor Brown on September 12, 2016.

Effective January 1, 2017:

1. Wastewater Operator Certifications and Renewals will be issued for three years.
2. WWOCP can accept educational points from for-profit educational entities. (Accredited for-profit colleges and universities, for-profit continuing education companies).
3. The Wastewater Advisory Committee added one additional committee member, a water recycling treatment plant operator to represent water recycling treatment plants

Additionally, the WWOCP will **only** accept official or copies of official college or university transcripts. The transcripts must display the institution's official seal, signature and/or watermark. Even if unofficial transcripts were submitted previously, applicants must resubmit official or copies of official transcripts with new applications.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact the WWOCP at (916) 341-5648 or use the following email: [wwopcertprogram@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:wwopcertprogram@waterboards.ca.gov).

## How to Access Official Transcripts from closed schools

### -High Schools, Colleges, and Universities-

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

**High School:** Contact the school's district education office and request a copy of your diploma or a copy of your final high school transcript. Another option is to contact the State's Department of Education. If the high school was located in California, you can search the California Department of Education's California School Directory at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/sd/index.asp>.

**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: <https://nasasps.org/resources/state-contact-list>

**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](http://www.bppe.ca.gov/students/transcript_req.pdf).

### New Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Examination Dates

The next Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Operator examination is scheduled for April 14, 2018. The final filing date for completed applications and applicable fees is February 13, 2018. Please note that we must receive the application in the office by the Final Filing Date in order to accept the application. For a complete list of future examination dates go to: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/operator\\_certification/docs/exam\\_info.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/operator_certification/docs/exam_info.pdf)

<b>Deadline Date</b>	<b>Exam Date</b>
February 13, 2018	April 14, 2018
August 14, 2018	October 13, 2018

**Note: Examinees are now required to bring their own number #2 pencils and erasers.**

## Examination Results - Spring 2017

For the April 2017 Examination, 692 individuals were approved to take the test, and 623 examinees completed the exam.

<b>April 2017 Examination Statistics</b>	
<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Percent Passed</b>
I	73%
II	63%
III	54%
IV	25%
V	68%
<b>Total I - V</b>	<b>62%</b>



San Luis Obispo Testing Site

## Examination Results - Fall 2017

For the October 2017 Examination, 759 individuals were approved to take the test, and 687 examinees completed the exam.

<b>October 2017 Examination Statistics</b>	
<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percent Passed</b>
I	71%
II	59%
III	51%
IV	15%
V	15%
<b>Total I - V</b>	<b>53%</b>

**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**

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

**What to bring to the exam site**

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



*City of Woodland Water Pollution Control Facility*

**City of Woodland Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF)**

WPCF is a class V Tertiary plant that has recently been updated to an Advanced Treatment facility. The upgrade was completed in December 2016. There were several upgrades including:

- An upgrade of the secondary treatment process to the Modified Ludzak-Ettinger fine bubble diffuser aeration with an anoxic zone for denitrification.
- A replacement of the mechanical bar screens at the headwork's to a band screen system due to excessive ragging and carryover (breakthrough) of solids which improved the facility's trash capture rate.
- A 30 inch Secondary Effluent bypass with proportional flow options. This allows WPCF to regulate the flow to the filters for improved effluent quality during plant upsets.



*City of Woodland Water Pollution Control Facility*

**Unique Features:**

As part of the Davis-Woodland Water Supply Project, starting in June 2016, the Woodland Regional Water Treatment Plant began drawing its water from the Sacramento River (surface water) instead of using well water. Consequently, this change effected the WPCF's influent as the river water lowered the alkalinity and inhibited the nitrification process. As a temporary fix, while the WPCF's upgrade construction was being completed, the staff fed pond water into the plants influent to increase alkalinity. Operators needed to be careful because the

addition of too much pond water could cause the plant poor settling from algae. The permanent solution is now the addition of magnesium hydroxide into biological process.

WPCF installed new high efficiency, air-bearing turbo blowers, APG-NEUROS, for aeration. After the new blowers were installed, operators saw that the blowers were accumulating too much dust. Staff added polyester filters and decreased the dust issue.



City of Woodland Water Pollution Control Facility

WPCF found that covering the edges of the weir on the clarifier decreased the amount of algae in the weirs.

WPCF both lined and added new valves to some of their ponds for better pond control.

WPCF has received several awards to recognize their plant including:

- The American Public Works Association (APWA), Sacramento Chapter, 2007 Project of the Year Award (Small Agency, Environmental Project Category)
- California Environment Association (CWEA), Northern Valley Section, 2016 Plant of the year medium.

### Consequences of Exam Cheating

Sections 3709 and 3710 of the [Wastewater Operator regulations](#) allow fines up to \$5,000 per violation including additional disciplinary action for anyone engaging in dishonest examination conduct. For example, if an examinee either engages in dishonest conduct (e.g., caught with a cell phone in the exam, using a recording device, bringing-in notes, etc.) or violates the examination question confidentiality agreement (e.g., copies/distributes examination questions, reveals all or part of an examination, etc.), the State Water Board can:

- Enforce fines up to \$5,000 for each violation
- Reprimand, place on probation or refuse to grant, suspend or revoke a certificate
- Fail to grade an examination
- Confiscate examination materials
- Prohibit an examinee from taking future examination(s)

- Refuse to refund examinee application fee. \*

\*In accordance with section 3701.1 of the [WWOCP's Regulations](#).

Unfortunately, recent enforcement action was taken against a wastewater operator for examination cheating, resulting in a downgrade. We urge all examinees to be thoroughly familiar with the examination instructions and remain vigilant during exams to avoid any potential conflicts or issues.

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

### How to Reach Us

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

#### WWOCP Website:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/operator\\_certification/operator\\_certification.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/operator_certification/operator_certification.shtml)

Email: [wwopcertprogram@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:wwopcertprogram@waterboards.ca.gov).

#### Mailing Address:

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

#### Overnight Mail - Address:

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

#### WWOCP Staff and Responsibilities

Name	Responsibility	Phone #
Wes Wilkinson	Manager-Staff Manager I	(916) 341-5131
Christa Beck	Lead Analyst, Website/Advisory Committee/Newsletter/Regulations	(916) 341-5648
Debbie Zuccala	Certification/OIT/Reciprocity/Contract Operators Analyst	(916) 341-5639
Neal Funston	Analyst, Plant Classification, Renewals, Change of Address, Chief Plant Operator Acknowledgment Forms	(916) 341-5909
Jaime Marotte	Analyst -Exams/Mailing List of Operators	(916) 341-5741
Annette Caraway	Manager of the Office of Operator Certification-Staff Manager II	(916) 449-5620