

**Proposed Amendments
to the
California Code of Regulations
Title 23. Waters
Division 3. State Water Resources Control Board
and Regional Water Quality Control Boards
Chapter 26. Wastewater Treatment Plant
Classification, Operator Certification, Operator
Certification, and Contract Operator Registration**

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

**July 2026
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Financial Assistance**

TITLE 23. WATERS
DIVISION 3. STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD AND REGIONAL
WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS
CHAPTER 26. WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT CLASSIFICATION, OPERATOR
CERTIFICATION, AND CONTRACT OPERATOR REGISTRATION

Article 2. Classification of Wastewater Treatment Plants, Owners Reporting Requirements, and Criteria for Exemption of a Class I Wastewater Treatment Plant

§ 3677.1. Application for Exemption for a Class I Wastewater Treatment Plant

- (a) An application for exemption shall contain sufficient information to demonstrate that the wastewater treatment plant meets the criteria prescribed in section 3677, and shall include:
- (1) the name, mailing and business addresses, and telephone number of the owner of the wastewater treatment plant;
 - (2) the name, business address, and telephone number of the wastewater treatment plant;
 - (3) an employee organization chart;
 - (4) the original signature of the owner of the wastewater treatment plant or the owner's authorized representative;
 - (5) the name of the Regional Water Board overseeing the wastewater treatment plant and a copy of the current waste discharge requirements issued by the State Water Board or Regional Water Board;
 - (6) a description and schematic of the wastewater treatment plant showing all wastewater treatment and solids handling processes including a flow diagram showing design flows and present flows for all wastewater treatment processes and a solids balance diagram for the solids handling processes;
 - (7) an evaluation of the operations of the wastewater treatment plant signed and stamped by a California registered professional chemical, civil, or mechanical engineer. The engineer shall identify potential operator errors, evaluate the potential effects of the identified operator errors on the operation of the wastewater treatment plant, and determine whether the operator errors could cause the wastewater treatment plant to violate water quality objectives; and
 - (8) additional information, evidence, statements, or documents to support the

application for exemption as requested by the Office of Operator Certification.

- (b) A non-refundable application fee of \$~~1,458~~1,968 shall accompany each application for exemption.
- (c) The applicant for exemption shall provide a copy of the application for exemption to the appropriate Regional Water Board.

Authority cited: Sections 1058, 13625.1 and 13628, Water Code.

Reference: Section 13625.1 and 13628, Water Code.

§ 3677.5. Application for Exemption Renewal for a Class I Wastewater Treatment Plant

- (a) An application for exemption renewal shall include all of the information required for an application for exemption in section 3677.1(a) and a \$~~547~~738 application for exemption renewal fee.
- (b) (1) The application for exemption renewal shall be received by the Office of Operator Certification no later than 30 days before the expiration of the exemption.
- (2) If the renewal application is not received by the Office of Operator Certification at least 30 days before the expiration of the exemption, the owner of the wastewater treatment plant shall pay a late fee of \$~~182~~245 in addition to the renewal fee.
- (c) The applicant for exemption renewal shall provide a copy of the application for exemption renewal to the appropriate Regional Water Board.
- (d) Within 30 days of the receipt of a complete application for exemption renewal, the Office of Operator Certification shall renew the exemption for four years in accordance with section 3677.2 or shall inform the applicant of the reason the exemption shall not be renewed.
- (e) If an application for exemption renewal is denied, the owner shall, within 365 days from the date of the denial, staff the wastewater treatment plant with certified operators of the appropriate grade level as set forth in sections 3680 and 3680.1.

Authority cited: Sections 1058, 13625.1 and 13628, Water Code.

Reference: Section 13625.1 and 13628, Water Code.

Article 10. Fees

§ 3717. Operator, Provisional Operator, and Operator-In-Training Fees.

- (a) Except for examination fees that are refundable pursuant to section 3700(e), all fees

are nonrefundable.

(b) Application fees for an examination are:

Operator Examination Application Fee Schedule

Grade	Application Fee	Re-examination Application Fee
I	\$128 172	\$63 85
II	\$165 222	\$82 110
III	\$238 321	\$119 160
IV	\$255 344	\$128 172
V	\$255 344	\$128 172

(c) Examination fees are:

Operator Examination Fee Schedule

Grade	Examination Fee
I	\$92 124
II	\$119 160
III	\$301 406
IV	\$410 553
V	\$410 553

(d) The provisional operator certification fee is \$125. Except as provided in subdivision (e), the operator and operator-in-training certification fees are:

Fee Schedule for Operators and Operators-in-Trainings With a Single Certificate

Grade	Certification Fee	Triennial Renewal Fee
I	\$228 307	\$274 370
II	\$311 419	\$274 370
III	\$410 553	\$274 370
IV	\$464 626	\$274 370
V	\$464 626	\$274 370

(e) Notwithstanding subdivision (d), the certification fees for those operators who are applying for, or hold, two or more valid, unexpired certifications issued by the State Water Board as a water treatment operator, distribution operator, or wastewater treatment plant operator are:

Fee Schedule for Operators and Operators-in-Training With Multiple Certificates

Grade	Certification Fee per Certificate	Triennial Renewal Fee per Certificate
I	\$ 173 <u>233</u>	\$ 201 <u>271</u>
II	\$ 228 <u>307</u>	\$ 201 <u>271</u>
III	\$ 311 <u>419</u>	\$ 201 <u>271</u>
IV	\$ 347 <u>468</u>	\$ 201 <u>271</u>
V	\$ 347 <u>468</u>	\$ 201 <u>271</u>

- (f) The reinstatement fee for all grades levels is \$~~182~~245.
- (g) The fee for replacing a lost, stolen, damaged, or destroyed certificate is \$~~92~~124.
- (h) Applicants for an examination waiver shall pay an examination waiver fee of \$~~182~~245 in addition to the certification fee.

Authority cited: Sections 1058 and 13628, Water Code.

Reference: Sections 13627 and 13628, Water Code.

Article 12. Wastewater Treatment Plant Contract Operators

§ 3719.16. Wastewater Treatment Plant Contract Operator Registration Fees

- (a) The initial contract operator registration fee is \$~~639~~862. For each operator employed in California by the contract operator, the contract operator shall pay a fee of \$~~136~~183 up to a maximum of \$~~2,734~~3,691 in combined contract operator registration fees and employee registration fees.
- (b) The annual renewal fee is \$~~639~~862 plus \$~~136~~183 for each operator employed in California by the contract operator up to a maximum of \$~~2,734~~3,691 in combined contract operator registration renewal fees and employee registration fees.
- (c) If the renewal application is not received by the Office of Operator Certification at least 30 days before the expiration of the contract operator registration, the contract operator shall pay a late fee of \$~~182~~245 in addition to the renewal fee.
- (d) The fee for replacing a lost, stolen, damaged, or destroyed contract operator registration or contract operator credential or for issuing an additional contract operator credential pursuant to section 3719.6 is \$~~92~~124.

Authority cited: Sections 1058, 13627.3 and 13628, Water Code.

Reference: Section 13627.3 and 13628, Water Code.