



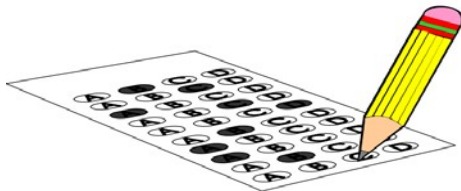
**Examination Frequency
Change Proposed**

The Office of Operator Certification (OOC) is proposing a combined Drinking Water Operator Certification Program (DWOCP) Distribution, Treatment, and Wastewater operator examination. The examination will be administered on the same date and location(s). The examination would be offered three times per calendar year in January, May, and September of each year.

For Wastewater examinees Grades I and II, there will be three opportunities per calendar year. (January, May, and September). For Grades III-V, the examination would be administered only in January and September. Only one exam (Wastewater, DWOCP Treatment, and/or DWOCP Distribution) could be taken per exam cycle.

This proposed change would begin in September 2020. The WWOCP and DWOCP are requesting feedback, in the form of your opinion/thoughts on combining the Drinking Water Treatment and Wastewater Operator examinations.

Please provide written feedback by May 15, 2019 by submitting an email with the subject line listed as 'combined exam schedule' to the following email addresses: wwopcert@waterboards.ca.gov or dwopecert@waterboards.ca.gov.



Advisory Committee

The last Advisory Committee meeting was held on 12/5/2018 at the California EPA building in Sacramento at 1001 I St. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 6/5/2019. The meetings are open to the public and announced by electronic email communication (Lyris Blasts) at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

For more information regarding the Advisory Committee, please review the WWOCP website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/program/s/operator_certification/advisory_com/

Update to Advisory Committee Membership

There were five advisory committee members whose term ended on 6/30/2018. To increase public involvement and transparency, WWOCP requested nominations from wastewater operators and member associations.

WWOCP received several qualified nominations for each open position. After careful consideration the positions were offered to:

- Jeff Carson (representing statewide organization representing wastewater treatment plant operators),
- Levi Fuller (representing statewide organizations representing municipalities, including counties or private utility wastewater treatment plants),
- Josh Vieira and Michael Melady (representing statewide organizations representing local sanitation agencies, other than agencies which represent municipalities)
- Steve Krai, P.E. (representing Professional Engineers).

For a list of the Advisory Committee Members please visit the following link: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/program/s/operator_certification/advisory_com/docs/adcom_members.pdf.

Advisory Committee Resignations

- Victoria Conway completed her four year term. She represented professional Engineers.
- Lawrence Dimock served on the Advisory Committee since 7/1/2012. He provided assistance with regulatory and program changes. He represented organized labor who represented Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators.

- We are thankful for their years of service, loyalty, and dedication to the WWOCP.

Are you Interested in Becoming an Advisory Committee Member?

There is a vacant position on the Wastewater Operator Certification Program (WWOCP) Advisory Committee for a person who is a member of an organized labor union that represents Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators. If you are interested in the position or if you would like additional information, please contact Christa Beck at (916) 341-5648 or wwopcertprogram@waterboards.ca.gov. Deadline for nominations should be submitted and received no later than February 15, 2019.

Office of Enforcement and WWOCP

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 siu@waterboards.ca.gov.

Designated Operator-In-Charge (DOIC)

What is a designated Operator-In-Charge?

The DOIC acts as the Chief Plant Operator (CPO) when the CPO is unable to carry out the responsibilities of the position

Who appoints the DOIC?

The CPO must appoint a qualified DOIC pursuant to Section 3680 (b) of the *California Code of Regulations, Title 23 Waters, Division 3 of the State Water Resources Control Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards, Chapter 26*. DOIC appointments must be properly documented in the Standard Operating Procedures, organization charts, and duty rosters. The DOIC work details including timeframe for coverage at the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) should be documented in the WWTP's logbooks.

It is the CPO's responsibility to determine proper staffing levels, hours of plant operation, the need to appoint a DOIC, and all other aspects of the overall operation of the WWTP.

When the CPO has not appointed a DOIC, the CPO must be available to make any needed operational decisions either directly or through consultation with operators and to provide assistance to ensure the safe and proper execution of operational duties.

Please see the chart listed below for minimum grade levels of DOIC's and WWTP Classifications.

WWTP Classification	Minimum Grade Level of CPO	Minimum Grade Level of DOIC
I	I	I
II	II	I
III	III	II
IV	IV	III
V	V	III

What is a Contract Operator?

A contract operator is an individual or entity that enters into a contract with an owner to operate one or more WWTP's. Contract operators may be utilized to staff an entire WWTP. Alternatively, they may be utilized solely for supervisory or consulting use, or for staffing operator vacancies at a WWTP as needed.

How to add WWTP's or Operator's to An Existing Contract Operator Registration

Within 30 days after a registered contract operator contracts with additional WWTP(s), the contract operator must submit an Application for Additional Contract Operator Credential. There is a \$50.00 fee for each new WWTP. This application is available at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/operator_certification/docs/forms/conop_credential.pdf.

Renewal of Contract Operator Registration

Contract operator registrations are issued for a one- year period. At least 60 days prior to the expiration of the registration, the WWOCP will send a written notification advising the contract operator of their registration expiration date. Renewal applications in order to avoid a \$100.00 late fee must be received 30 days prior to the expiration date in order to avoid a \$100.00 late fee.

New Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Examination Dates

The next Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Operator examination is scheduled for April 13, 2019. The final filing date for completed applications and applicable fees is February 12, 2019. Please note that we must receive the application in the office by the Final Filing Date in order to accept the application.

Deadline Date	Exam Date
February 12, 2019	April 13, 2019
August 13, 2019	October 12, 2019
February 18, 2020	April 18, 2020

For more examination information go to:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/operator_certification/docs/exam_info.pdf

Exam Notes:

Mechanical pencils are NOT allowed. Examinees are required to place their identification on their exam table for the duration of the examination.

Examination Results from Spring 2018

For the April 2018 Examination, 873 individuals were approved to participate in the examination. Eight hundred and eleven (811) examinees completed the exam.

April 2018 Examination Statistics		
Grade	Examinees	Percent Passed
I	212	68%
II	242	51%
III	214	57%
IV	60	53%
V	83	52%
Total	811	57%

Examination Results from Fall 2018

For the October 2018 Examination, 840 individuals were approved to participate in the examination. Seven hundred and thirty-four (734) examinees completed the exam.

October 2018 Examination Statistics		
Grade	Examinees	Percent Passed
I	180	69%
II	254	64%
III	169	57%
IV	52	23%
V	79	66%
Total	734	61%

Current Number of WWOCP Operators

OIT's	641
Grade I	785
Grade II	1442
Grade III	1756
Grade IV	469
Grade V	1002
Total: OIT - V	6095

Innovative Uses of Recycled Water

The recent drought has brought into the forefront California's demand for water and its finite supply. As municipalities and governments look for new water sources, there is an available source, recycled water. According to the California Water Code Section 13050(n), "Recycled water means water which, as a result of treatment of waste, is suitable for a direct beneficial use or a controlled use that would not otherwise occur and is therefore considered a valuable resource." California has many innovative uses for treated wastewater. Please see a couple of examples and note this is not a comprehensive list:

- **Beer** - The Stone Brewing Company utilized water from the City of San Diego's Demonstration Pure Water Facility to make a beer, Stone Full Circle Pale Ale.
- **Recharge Water Basins and Seawater Barrier** - The Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) in the Orange County Water District injects 35 million gallons per day of treated wastewater into a seawater intrusion barrier and 65 million gallons per day of recycled water is pumped into recharge basins that percolate into Orange County Groundwater basin. Water is injected into the Talbert Gap by injection wells that creates a barrier for intruding seawater, effectively keeping the seawater separate from fresh water.
- **Biogas** - The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) uses wastewater solids mixed with food scraps and grease to produce biogas. Enough energy is created to power the facility and save EMBUD around 3 million dollars per year.

- **Wetlands** - The Arcata Wastewater treatment plant utilizes wetlands in the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife sanctuary (land that was previously a city dump and logging pond). Effluent wastewater, as part of the secondary treatment process, goes from oxidation ponds into treatment and enhanced Canal via pipelines.
- **Cooling Towers** - The City of Woodland Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) sends treated recycled wastewater to the Woodland Biomass Power Inc. company for its cooling towers. The fuel comes from wood waste that would have gone to a landfill. The WPCF's recycled water went online in February 2017.



Staff Changes

Debbie Zuccala, former Certification Analyst, retired at the end of August 2018. She was an integral member of the Wastewater Operator Certification team for over ten years and will be missed. Neal Funston will be processing certification applications.

Jaime Marotte, former Examination Analyst, accepted the position as the Distribution Examination Analyst with the Drinking Water Operator Certification Program. He moved to his new position at the end of September 2018. Sarah Miller joined the WWOCP team in early October as the team's Seasonal Clerk assisting with organizing operator files and database entries.

Valerie Gregory accepted the Examination Analyst position in November 2018. She was the Examination Analyst from 2008-2012 and rejoined the WWOCP team after working in other areas of the Waterboard.

Janice Chang was hired as a Staff Services Analyst for the WWOCP team. Her first day was in mid-December and she will be processing operator renewals, operator payment processing, changes of address, processing requests for duplicate, replacement and reinstatement of certificates as well as other duties.

How to Reach Us

WWOCP staffs are 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

Email: 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 Services Manager I	(916) 341-5131
Christa Beck	Lead Analyst - Website/Advisory Committee/Newsletter/Enforcement Liaison/Refunds/Newsletter/OIT's Regulations/	(916) 341-5648
Janice Chang	Analyst - Renewals/Reinstatements/ Change of Address/Duplicate Certificates/Replacement Certificates	(916) 341-5639
Neal Funston	Analyst - Plant Classification/ Certifications/ Contract Operators/ Chief Plant Operator Acknowledgment Forms	(916) 341-5909
Valerie Gregory	Analyst -Exams/Exam Waiver (Reciprocity)/ Mailing List	(916) 341-5741
Sarah Miller	Seasonal Clerk - Data Entry/Filing	(916) 341-5691
Annette Caraway	Office of Operator Certification- Staff Services Manager II	(916) 449-5620