



Guidance

Criteria for Recommending Additional Qualified Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan Developer and Practitioner Prerequisite Courses

***For the 2022 Construction Stormwater General Permit
(Order 2022-0057-DWQ, 2022 CGP)***

Purpose

As set forth in the 2022 CGP, licensed professional engineers or geologists may self-certify eligibility to serve as a Qualified SWPPP Developer (QSD) and/or Qualified SWPPP Practitioner (QSP). Otherwise, prospective QSD and QSPs must possess at least one of the prerequisites set forth in Section V.F.5. Additionally, Section V.H. allows the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) Division of Water Quality Deputy Director to approve additional prerequisite courses for QSD or QSP certification.

This document sets forth recommended guidelines for prerequisite courses that are submitted for approval. If approved, the prerequisite course will be one of the options that may be completed by prospective QSPs and QSDs prior to taking the QSP and QSD exams.

Background

With the adoption of the 2009 Construction Stormwater General Permit (2009 CGP), the State Water Board created the California QSD and QSP certifications to ensure consistent development and implementation of Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) to comply with the permit requirements. The 2009 CGP established several prerequisite options for the QSD and QSP certification, ensuring individuals pursuing certification have fundamental knowledge of construction stormwater management. Since the adoption of the 2009 CGP, some of the prerequisite options were discontinued. The remaining prerequisites rely heavily on years of experience preventing new stormwater professionals from obtaining the necessary QSD or QSP prerequisites.

Due to the limited number of approved prerequisites for QSD and QSP certification, the 2022 CGP includes a provision (Section V.H.) to allow for the consideration of additional training courses as valid prerequisites. Additional approved prerequisites will provide more pathways for new stormwater professionals to obtain QSD and QSP certifications and consequently, support the expanded construction stormwater QSD and QSP responsibilities in the 2022 CGP.



Minimum Prerequisite Criteria

Contact Hours: Provide the number of contact hours (time spent with the trainer and prerequisite training material). To cover the relevant topics, it is expected that a minimum of 16 hours for QSPs and 24 hours for QSDs will be necessary.

Content: Submit the course syllabus, teaching notes, or other supporting documentation and describe how the following topics are addressed in the course or series of courses:

Hydrology

- Hydrologic cycle including rainfall patterns, depths, intensities, and seasonality
- Runoff characteristics based on slope and land cover/soil characteristics

Erosion Control

- Water and wind erosion processes
- Selection of best management practices (BMPs)
 - Erosion control BMPs include: compost blankets, earth dikes and drainage swales, fiber rolls, geotextiles and mats, hydraulic mulch, hydroseeding, non-vegetative stabilization, slope drains, soil binders, soil preparation and roughening (track walking), straw mulch, streambank stabilization, velocity dissipation devices, and wood mulch.
- Design of erosion control BMPs
- Proper installation
- Inspection and evaluation
- Maintenance and repair

Sediment Control

- Sediment transport and settling processes (QSP) and analysis (QSD)
- Selection of BMPs
 - Sediment control BMPs include: active treatment systems, berms, check dams, compost socks, fiber rolls, gravel bag berms, passive treatment technologies, sandbag barriers, sediment basins, sediment traps, silt fences, storm drain inlet protection, straw bale barriers, and street sweeping and cleaning
- Design of sediment control BMPs
- Proper installation
- Inspection and evaluation
- Maintenance and repair

Good Housekeeping

- Tracking/street sweeping
- Liquid and solid waste management and awareness of:
 - Construction and demolition materials
 - Contaminated soil

Additional QSD Topics

- Hydraulic calculations
- Soil delivery calculations
- Topsoil management considerations
- Project phasing impacts on post-construction treatment BMP locations
- BMP selection based on site topography, soils, etc.
- BMP sizing (water and sediment storage)
- BMP erosion control application rate calculations
- BMP deployment with construction phases
- Implementation and assessment of active/passive chemical treatment technologies to enhance sedimentation

Student Identification and Enrollment Tracking: Describe the procedure of how student enrollment and successful completion of training is verified (e.g., online, transcript, or certificate). The training entity should be able to describe the process by which the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) can quickly verify student enrollment and completion of the course.

Learning Assessment: Describe how student engagement and learning is evaluated; formal testing is optional. At a minimum, the training entity should be able to demonstrate how an individual completing the training program meets the minimum standards of being a qualified person able to:

- Conduct construction site inspections using personal knowledge in the principles and practices of erosion and sediment control and pollution prevention;
- Possess the appropriate skills and training to assess conditions at the construction site that can impact stormwater quality; and,
- Possess the appropriate skills and training to assess the effectiveness of any stormwater controls selected and installed to comply with 2022 CGP.

Trainer Qualifications: Reviewers expect trainers to describe their training experience in the construction stormwater management industry by providing the following information:

- Years of experience in construction stormwater management;
- Years of experience training and approximate number of course(s) taught;
- Years of experience training as a CASQA-approved QSD/QSP Trainer of Record (if applicable); and,
- Approximate number of students taught and their range of experience.

Submission to the State Water Board

To submit an alternative QSD or QSP prerequisite course for consideration, individuals must email the required supporting documentation to the Stormwater Help Desk, copying the administrator of the prerequisite course as applicable. Please indicate that the submission pertains to a QSD or QSP prerequisite course in the email subject line. State Water Board staff will confirm receipt of the submission and review the supporting documentation before providing it to Division of Water Quality Deputy Director for consideration. State Water Board staff will respond to the request with their determination following the review. If approved, the course will be listed on the State Water Board's Construction Stormwater Program website as an approved prerequisite course.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can any individual submit a collection of material to qualify for a prerequisite course?

Yes, but the training entity that offers the prerequisite course must agree that they want the State Water Board to consider their training as an eligible QSD or QSP prerequisite. The training entity must verify that their training meets the minimum criteria above.

Can an individual submit completed training certificates to be approved individually as QSD or QSP prerequisite?

No, the additional prerequisite course approval is not intended for individual approvals, but for approval of training programs or courses.

Does the submitted prerequisite course need to provide annual continuing education?

No. QSDs and QSPs may satisfy the required six hours of continuing education required by Section V.F.6 of the Permit through other training programs and courses.

Does the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Construction Inspection Course qualify as a prerequisite for the California QSP certification?

No. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's course, as of 2023, does not have sufficient contact hours, does not have a tracking system to verify completion, and does not adequately cover the required content.

Where is additional information available?

Additional information on the 2022 Construction Stormwater General Permit (Order 2022-0057-DWQ) can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board's [Construction Stormwater Program webpage](#).