

The Monthly Dirt

a monthly newsletter on the California Construction General Permit
by WGR Southwest, Inc.

New Training Requirements for Water Pollution Control Managers

Just when you thought you were up to speed on your storm water credentials—guess what? There's more training needed! At least if you are working on a Caltrans project you will need to obtain two new additional training certificates. This new requirement was issued by Caltrans in its revised specifications when many of us were distracted adjusting to life under the COVID-19 pandemic. The new training is required for anyone who occupies the Water Pollution Control Manager (WPCM) role or is overseeing or performing water pollution control tasks such as inspections, BMP repairs and maintenance, collection of water quality samples, and recording water quality data. The new specification also introduces a new player—the Water Pollution Control Assistant. In this edition of *The Monthly Dirt*, we will take a closer look at these new training requirements.

NEW SPECIFICATIONS The new training requirement was included in the January revision of the Caltrans specifications but it began to show up in job specs a few months later. According to the Caltrans website, projects advertised after April 17, 2020 include this training requirement. The revised section of the specification is Section 13-1.01D(4)(b) which can be downloaded by clicking [here](#).

Replace the 1st paragraph of section 13-1.01D(4)(b) with:

04-17-20

The WPC manager must:

1. Comply with the requirements provided in the Construction General Permit for QSP
2. Comply with the requirements described under "WPC Manager Training," including:
 - 2.1. Obtaining a certificate by completing the 8-hour training
 - 2.2. Reviewing updates, revisions, and amendments to the training

For the requirements, go to the Construction Storm Water and Water Pollution Control website.

Although it is not a new requirement, Section 14-11.01 of the Caltrans specifications requires that a WPCM also hold a certificate of completion for the **Title 22 Hazardous Waste Training** if hazardous waste is or will be generated on the job site.

NEW JOB TITLES AND ROLES – Before the most recent revision to the Caltrans Water Pollution Control specifications, only a Qualified SWPPP Developer (QSD) could fill the role of a WPCM on a Caltrans SWPPP project. The new specification changes that and introduces two new players—the Alternate WPCM and Assistant WPCM.

WPCM: With the changes, now a Qualified SWPPP Practitioner (QSP) or QSD who has completed the 8-hour Caltrans WPCM Training and the 4-hour Title 22 Hazardous Waste Training can operate as a WPCM on a project.

Alternate WPCM: Anyone acting as a backup to the WPCM must meet the same credentials and training as a WPCM. It is recommended that consultants name in a project SWPPP multiple Alternate WPCMs so that the firm has maximum flexibility during the project.

Assistant WPCM: This is a new role and position included in the revised specifications. Anyone who is performing inspections, sampling, training, or oversight of BMP installations, maintenance, or repair must be an Assistant WPCM, which requires attending the 8-hour WPCM training. Caltrans has clarified that this is not required for personnel who are performing the labor of trenching, pounding stakes, spraying hydraulic mulch, or installing other BMPs; but only to those supervising their efforts.

NEW CLASS Those of you who have been in this industry for more than ten years may remember that Caltrans once had another similar requirement. It was called the Caltrans 24-hour training. But, with the advent of the State Water Board's QSP and QSD training, Caltrans dropped this requirement and accepted the QSP/QSD certifications. The problem Caltrans encountered was that, although QSPs and QSDs had good knowledge of the Construction General Permit and erosion and sediment control measures, they still lacked knowledge about the Caltrans way of doing things. This knowledge could only be gained through experience and, many times, "trial & error". The State agency is hoping that this new class will lessen the learning curve; help demystify the Caltrans lingo, forms, and processes; effectively communicate the water pollution control specifications; and help standardize how their program is implemented State-wide.

Unfortunately, Caltrans timing for the rollout of this new training requirement was not the greatest with the pandemic accelerating just as it took effect. Only five companies have been authorized to provide this training. Click [here](#) for a list of organizations offering the 8-hour class. Caltrans further hampered the rollout by insisting that the classes be taught in-person stating that there was too much value with live hands-on training which could not be adequately substituted with online training. (However, *The Monthly Dirt* staff has taken the course and failed to find any of the training that could not have been just as effectively taught online. In fact, we believe that it

would have been easier to view the report forms, videos, and site photographs online rather than on a projector screen.) The 8-hour training covers the new training requirements and revised specifications; the duties of the Water Pollution Control Manager, the Alternate WPCM, and the Assistant WPCM; identifies storm water program management resources that Caltrans maintains on its website; discusses the SWPPP and Water Pollution Control Plan (WPCP) templates and preparation requirements; sampling and analysis plan and best practices; and reporting of data and inspections. Demonstrations of sampling and field analytical parameters are also provided. Although we felt that the 8-hour class was beneficial and our instructor was very knowledgeable and willing to answer all of our questions, we felt that the class curriculum fell short of providing us with a more thorough understanding of how Caltrans manages their storm water program. It would have been nice to have included a more in-depth explanation of how the Caltrans storm water program is organized explaining and showing the Caltrans districts, introducing the storm water coordinators, their staff, and consultants working for Caltrans, as well as, how Caltrans on-site project staff (e.g. resident engineer) interrelate with the storm water management program. It would have also been good to cover expectations for attending and responding to Caltrans site inspections, Construction Compliance Evaluation Plan (CCEP) reports, and photolog reports. Since in-water work and 401 Water Quality Certification tasks often are performed or supervised by WPCMs, an explanation of the various water quality monitoring reports and the in-water testing protocols would have been beneficial. In short, we learned a lot, but walked away with more questions. But, since the 8 hours was already filled with good information, this might have made it a 16-hour class—leaving some things to still be learned by “trial & error”. **MD**

Watch the recorded Storm Water Awareness Week Workshop on the new Caltrans training requirements.



Winterization Plans

Another surprise change was included in the recent Caltrans specification revisions. It was the deletion of the annual compliance certification and its replacement with the new winterization plan requirement. The winterization plan is actually a SWPPP amendment to be signed by the WPCM. It is to be prepared based on a field visit, is due to Caltrans by September 15, and to be implemented by the contractor no later than November 1. According to Caltrans specification 13-3.01C(2)(a), the winterization plan must describe the preparation for the upcoming rainy season including the following:



1. Updated schedule
2. Materials and labor
3. Management of storm water through the job site including:
 - Run-on
 - Run-off
 - Conveyance downslope
4. Management of areas within the job site including:
 - Areas where work is suspended
 - Areas of soil stabilization
 - New disturbed soil areas
5. Changes to monitoring locations
6. Slope stabilization

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Need to get some PDHs? See what's new on FORGE!



Upcoming Live Online Events:

Jan. 26 - 28, 2021: Online QSP/QSD Class

Register at <https://secure.wgr-sw.com/training/live-courses/>



Did you miss Storm Water Awareness Week? Check out what more than 500 other viewers were able to watch for free. 25 workshops are still online and still free!

stormwaterawareness.org

Meet Brandon

He is the person drafting the new Construction General Permit. Check out what he has to say.



**Need a WPCM on your jobsite?
Call us for a free quote.**

Please contact us if you have any questions ...

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IT'S NOT ABOUT THE BIRD.

IT'S ABOUT GIVING THANKS.

WE'RE THANKFUL FOR YOU OUR READERS, OUR FAMILIES, OUR JOB,
OUR CLIENTS, OUR COUNTRY, AND ALL OF GOD'S MANY OTHER BLESSINGS.

what are you thankful for?



DON'T USE DAVE.

You need a QSP, and Dave would do a great job, right? Not when he's already the Project Superintendent, and oversees a 20-person crew and six contractors. He's got a meeting at 8:00 with the architect. And at 9:00 with a vendor. Oh, and the owner is stopping by the site at 10:30. And somehow by the end of the day he needs to get a budget and schedule update to the Project Manager.

**Dave can't handle any more jobs.
So let WGR take care of your QSP inspections.**

And what about when it rains? Dave can't really skip the City building permit inspection to collect storm water samples. But WGR has a team of QSPs that can inspect your site, collect samples, take pictures, and fill out the paperwork. **WGR will be there when you need us, and not when you don't.**

WGR Southwest, Inc. We can work with your budget.
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NEW CALTRANS WPCM TRAINING REQUIREMENT

On January 21, 2020, Caltrans issued a Revised Standard Specification (RSS) 13-1.01D, detailing the requirements for Water Pollution Control Managers (WPCM) to complete required training prior to working on Caltrans projects. All projects awarded after July 5, 2020 include this RSS.

To become a WPC manager, alternate WPC manager, or Assistant WPC manager for Caltrans construction projects, you must submit a certificate of completion of an 8-hour Water Pollution Control Manager training course.

Training classes are available now!

www.veruxinc.com

Click on “Book Training Class” to sign-up.

Please call or email Bob Shults for additional details and training availability in your area.

info@veruxinc.com

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PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Filtrex® SiltSoxx™ is a compost-based sediment control device designed to help stop silt and sediment from leaving your jobsite.

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Rock Bags

Rock bags are a great all-purpose sediment control device. Use them to slow down water, re-route runoff flows, hold down other BMP materials, or reserve your favorite parking spot in the dry season. We have a variety of rock bags to choose from, including high-visibility rock bags, standard 40-lbs rock bags, empty rock bags for filling at your site, and Snake Bags. All of these can now be purchased online and picked up at our warehouse. Unfortunately, due to the weight of these bags, it is not cost-effective to ship them to your site.

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Quick QSP Quips

Required Inspections

Risk 1, 2 & 3 – Traditional Projects:

- Weekly BMP inspections
- Pre-storm (within 48 hours before)
- Post-storm (within 48 hours after)
- During storms (every 24 hours)
- Quarterly for non-storm water flows

Risk 2 & 3 – Traditional Projects:

- Daily inspect immediate access roads for sediment and track out

LUP Types 1, 2 & 3 Projects:

- Daily visual BMP inspections and ensure that photographs of the site are taken before, during, and after storm events are taken during inspections, and submitted through the State Water Board's SMARTS website once every three rain events.

LUP Types 2 & 3 Projects:

- Pre-storm (within 48 hours before)
- Post-storm (within 48 hours after)
- During storms (every 24 hours)

Risk 3 & LUP Type 3 Projects:

- *If triggered*, receiving water or bioassessment observations

Sampling Requirements

Risk 1 – Traditional Projects:

- Only for non-visible pollutants if triggered

Risk 2 & 3 – Traditional Projects:

- Discharge monitoring (pH and turbidity) at least 3 times per day when there is a discharge
- Non-visible pollutants *if triggered*.

Risk 3 – Traditional Projects:

- Upstream and downstream receiving water testing *if triggered*.
- Bioassessment *if triggered*.

LUP Type 1 Projects:

- Only for non-visible pollutants if triggered

LUP Types 2 & 3 Projects:

- Discharge monitoring (pH and turbidity) at least 3 times per day when there is a discharge
- Non-visible pollutants *if triggered*.

LUP Type 3 Projects:

- Upstream and downstream receiving water testing *if triggered*.
- Bioassessment *if triggered*.

Non-visible sampling – All Risk and Type Levels:

- Triggered by a breach, malfunction, leakage, or spill observed during a visual inspection.
- Collected during the first 2 hours of discharge.
- Two samples one at the affected discharge point and another at an unaffected area

RAIN EVENT ACTION PLANS

- ☁️ Required of Risk 2 & 3 traditional projects only. LUPs are not required to prepare REAPs.
- ☁️ Are triggered by a 50% or greater possibility of rain per the NOAA weather forecast at www.weather.gov
- ☁️ Must be prepared within 48 hours of the predicted storm event.
- ☁️ Must be implemented and a paper copy on-site within 24 hours of the predicted storm event.
- ☁️ Must be prepared by a QSP.

Qualifying Rain Events

A qualifying rain event is “any event that produces 0.5 inches or more precipitation with a 48 hour or greater period between rain events.” In other words, it is a period of rain that is “bookended” by dry weather that is at least 48 hours long.

Sampling Exemptions

1. It is not a “qualifying rain event”.
2. During dangerous weather conditions such as flooding and electrical storms.
3. Outside of scheduled site business hours.

Remember to document if any of these exemptions are applicable to your project.

Numeric Action Levels

Prepare a NAL exceedance report within 10 days if either of the following is true about your project's daily average:

pH is <6.5 or >8.5
Turbidity is >250 NTU

- ✓ NALs are daily averages of monitoring data from all discharge points for the entire day.
- ✓ pH must be averaged logarithmically. Averaging tool is at www.wgr-sw.com/pH
- ✓ NAL exceedance reports must be uploaded onto SMARTS.

Rules of Engagement for Sampling

The following are helpful guidelines that have been extracted from the permit to assist you in knowing when to sample:

1. If there is no discharge, then no sample is required.
2. Collect a minimum of 3 samples per day for the entire site.
3. Each day, collect at least one sample from each point of discharge.

Best Management Practices

- ❑ Risk 1 mandatory BMPs are found in Attachment C.
- ❑ Risk 2 mandatory BMPs are found in Attachment D.
- ❑ Risk 3 mandatory BMPs are found in Attachment E.
- ❑ LUP mandatory BMPs are found in Attachment A.
- ❑ The QSP must use a checklist for inspections and include a description of the BMPs evaluated and the deficiencies noted.
- ❑ Corrective action must begin within **72 hours** of identification and be completed as soon as possible.
- ❑ Inactive areas of soil disturbance that are not scheduled to be disturbed for at least 14 days must have effective soil cover.
- ❑ Projects must establish and maintain effective perimeter controls and stabilize all construction entrances and exits to sufficiently control erosion and sediment discharges from the site.
- ❑ Risk Levels 2 & 3 and LUP Types 2 & 3 projects must apply linear sediment controls along the toe of the slope, face of the slope, and at the grade breaks of exposed slopes to comply with the table shown at the right.

Slope Percentage	Sheet flow length not to exceed
0-25%	20 feet
25-50%	15 feet
Over 50%	10 feet

Questions? Call the QSP Help Hotline:
(209) 649-0877 or email at
jteravskis@wgr-sw.com

Quick QSP Quips copyrighted October 2013
By WGR Southwest, Inc.
www.wgr-sw.com



stormwater HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



Need Christmas shopping ideas? Check out these awesome finds!

1. Waterproof Rainslicker Jacket - [HIS](#) & [HERS](#)
2. WGR's Customizable Storm Water Inspection App (contact jteravskis@wgr-sw.com for more information)
3. Frogg Toggs Water-Resistant Pants - [HIS](#) & [HERS](#)
4. Free Storm Water Newsletter Subscriptions
5. [FORGE](#) - Online Learning Subscription
6. Flannel Lined Work Jeans - [HIS](#) & [HERS](#)
7. Rain Boots - [HIS](#) & [HERS](#)
8. Bullard 4 Point Pinlock Suspension Hard Hat
9. Leather Briefcase - [HIS](#) & [HERS](#)
10. Company Logo Blazer - [HIS](#) & [HERS](#)
11. [Water/Tea/Cold Brew Coffee Insulated Infuser Bottle](#)
12. [Safety Vest](#)
13. Fleece Lined Flannel Shirt - [HIS](#) & [HERS](#)
14. [pH Meter](#)
15. Rite In The Rain Waterproof [Notebook](#) and [Pen](#)
16. [Deerskin Work Gloves](#)
17. [HydroFlask Insulated Coffee Mug](#)