

# QUALIFYING STORM EVENTS

a quick refresher

It's October – the leaves are turning all shades of red, yellow, and brown, and the first rain drops of the season have already fallen. Since most of our rain in California falls during the period between October and May, this is the beginning of the “sampling season” for many industrial facilities. But wait – remember, you don't need to go out and grab a sample every time it rains! The Industrial General Permit (2014-0057-DWQ) only requires industrial dischargers to collect samples during a “qualifying storm event.” Unsure what that is? Well, as we usually do at this time of year, we're going to give you a quick refresher on qualifying storm events.

### **FLOW FROM AT LEAST ONE OUTFALL**

The first aspect of a qualifying storm event (or QSE) is that it produces a discharge from at least one drainage area at your facility. Keep in mind that there is not a specified rainfall amount that automatically classifies as a qualifying storm event. Each industrial site is different, and the same amount of rainfall at two different sites does not necessarily mean they are both discharging. However, for facilities that are mostly impervious, we usually go by the tenth-of-an-inch rule of thumb – that is, a tenth of an inch of rainfall will generally produce a discharge on impervious surfaces. But again, remember that your facility may be different, so don't rely too heavily on a tenth of an inch.

### **48 HOURS WITH NO DISCHARGE**

Another aspect of a qualifying storm event is that it occurs after a period of 48 hours with no discharge – which doesn't necessarily mean 48 hours without precipitation. Remember, a QSE requires flow from at least one outfall, so it could drizzle on and off for two days before enough rain falls to cause a discharge, which would trigger the start of the qualifying storm event. And while California usually only gets rain during October-May, industrial permittees are required to collect samples regardless of the time of year. Thunderstorms in July could be classified as qualifying storm events if they cause storm water to discharge from your site. This would be a good time to remind everyone that industrial permittees are on the hook for collecting four storm water samples

each year – two during July-December, and two during January-June.

### **NOT DURING DANGEROUS CONDITIONS**

There's one more important thing to remember. Even if a rain storm creates flow from at least one outfall, and occurs after 48 hours of no discharge, it doesn't necessarily mean you can safely go out and sample. Section XI.C.6 of the Permit allows exceptions for dangerous conditions. During flooding conditions, electrical storms, or non-business hours, you are not required to collect samples. Use your best judgment to determine if the conditions are safe enough to sample – but also, don't stretch the rules just to save some money, or because you don't want to go out in the rain. You will need to explain in your Annual Report why you didn't go out and collect samples, and if the State doesn't buy your alibi, you could be in big trouble.

Finally, now's a good time to go and double-check the sample kits you received from the lab. Make sure you have all the bottles you need, along with the correct Chain of Custody form. Check and prepare your sampling equipment and PPE, and keep it all together in a place that is readily accessible. And keep an eye on the weather – don't let a qualifying storm event sneak up on you! ☔

## Calibrating pH Meters

Does the calibration process for pH meters confuse you? You're not alone – sometimes calibrating these finicky devices seems more like an art than a science. We recorded a video explaining the calibration process on an Oakton pH pen, and by following a few simple steps, you can learn how to accurately calibrate your pH meter. Don't worry, even though we use an Oakton pen in the video, the principles are the same for other brands of pH meters.



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_J8lxf1wUAE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_J8lxf1wUAE)

## Can I use Litmus Paper?



Some industrial dischargers are wondering if there is another, less expensive way to test for pH. Well, there is, but it depends on your pH results from last year, and whether your facility has entered Level 1 status for pH. If you recorded two or more pH results that were less than 6.0 or greater than 9.0, this year your facility will have entered Level 1 status for pH, which means (among many other things) that you will be required to use a "calibrated portable instrument," as the Permit says, to monitor pH. See Permit section XI.C.2 for more details about requirements for pH methods. And when you calibrate your pH meter, it's a good idea to keep a calibration log. Even though the new Industrial General Permit no longer explicitly requires dischargers to maintain calibration logs for five years, we still recommend it.

Need help with your facility's Level 1 Evaluation and Report?

Give us a call at (209) 334-5363, ext. 114

## "To Do List" for October:

- ☁ Perform the October monthly inspection
- ☁ If you haven't done so, perform your Fall storm water training for facility personnel.
- ☁ Complete the Level 1 ERA Evaluation (due on Oct. 1) and start working with your QISP to prepare the Technical Report (due on Jan. 1, 2017).

## Storm Water Awareness Week 2016

To all of you who participated in this year's Storm Water Awareness Week, we want to say a huge

## THANK YOU!

We couldn't have done it without you. In case you haven't heard, here are the final numbers for this year's event:

# 52

WORKSHOPS

# 737

REGISTRATIONS

Also, if you haven't seen them already, don't forget to watch the keynote videos that we shot at SeaWorld San Diego. Check out the full-page ad below.

*Please contact us if you have any questions ...*

## The Rain Events

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Technical Questions about Environmental Compliance?

Call ...

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# STORM WATER AWARENESS WEEK



## KEYNOTE SESSIONS

FILMED AT SEAWORLD SAN DIEGO



SeaWorld  
San Diego



### WATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS ON A THEME PARK LEVEL

Water treatment systems come in all sizes - from something as simple as a compost sock, to as large as a tow-behind trailer. But a theme park full of marine animals that depend upon clean water demands a much more advanced treatment system. In this exciting keynote session, you will get a rare look behind the scenes at the water quality system at SeaWorld's San Diego theme park.

[WATCH THE KEYNOTE >>](#)

### WATER POLLUTION'S SILENT VICTIMS

Sometimes it's hard to step back and see the big picture. When it seems like the storm water regulations are getting a little carried away, it's good to remember the reason why we protect our water quality. In this keynote session, we are going to spend some time with the SeaWorld animal rescue team, and hear their perspective on the impact of pollution on marine wildlife, and why it's important to protect water quality.

[WATCH THE KEYNOTE >>](#)



### PATHOGEN POLLUTION IN MARINE ANIMALS

You may have noticed that many of the waterways in the Industrial General Permit's 303(d) list are impaired for "pathogens." These harmful little microorganisms can cause a boatload of trouble for human and animal health. In this keynote session, Dr. Pam Yochem with the Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute will be discussing the impact of parasites and pathogens in storm water runoff on marine animals.

[WATCH THE KEYNOTE >>](#)



WGR SOUTHWEST, INC. PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH SEAWORLD PARKS AND ENTERTAINMENT "STORM WATER AWARENESS WEEK 2016 KEYNOTES"

JOHN TERAVSKIS BRYAN WILLIAMS MICHAEL TUCKER JOEY WESTBERG DR. PAMELA YOCHEM

MANAGED BY BOOKER T. CRENSHAW, JR. PRODUCED BY JOHN TERAVSKIS EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JOHN RIPLEY AND GRAY MARTZ DIRECTED BY ANDREW TERAVSKIS

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# PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Are you ready to perform field pH tests? The new Industrial General Permit requires dischargers to analyze pH **within 15 minutes of collecting storm water samples**. Grab your pH quickly and accurately with the **Oakton Waterproof pHTestr 30**, a necessary tool for all storm water samplers. This handy device is completely waterproof, and is designed to float in case it gets dropped in water. The device analyzes to +/- 0.01 pH accuracy, and has a quick and simple calibration process. The **pHTestr** also measures the temperature of your sample, allowing you to record both results simultaneously. Also, the pH sensor can be easily removed and replaced to ensure years of accurate operation.

## Product Specifications:

- Accuracy: +/- 0.01 pH accuracy
- Range: -1 to 15 pH
- Temperature Range: 32° to 122° F
- Batteries: (4) 1.5V button batteries
- Battery Life: 500 hours under normal conditions
- Dimensions: 6.5" Long x 1.5" Diameter

ONLY  
\$120.00



## Are you stocked up for the storm season?

## We are.

Come and get your storm water supplies at our BMP Warehouse. We have Filtrix® SiltSoxx, drain inlet filters, fiber rolls, rock bags, field testing equipment, and more!

Come check us out!

**11780 N Highway 99**

**Lodi, CA 95240**

**(916) 918-0408**

## Storm Water Contest...

Each month, we invite our readers to participate in a contest to test their knowledge of the Industrial General Permit and their storm water compliance program. We enter all submittals to our monthly newsletter question into a drawing, and one person is selected at random to receive a \$25 gift card. Last month's question was:

**What is the closest Storm Water Awareness Week workshop to your location?**

Congrats, Sylvia Marson - you won the drawing! The closest workshops to Sylvia's location were the ones held at the Orange Training Center. Enjoy your meal at Rubios!

Sylvia wins \$25 to Rubio's Coastal Grill.

## This Month's Contest Question:

**It's raining, but when you go out to sample, there is heavy forklift traffic around the discharge location. Does the Permit allow an exception for this safety hazard?**

By November 11, 2016, submit your response to the above question by sending an email to [jteravskis@wgr-sw.com](mailto:jteravskis@wgr-sw.com). All persons submitting the correct answer will be placed in a drawing. The winner will receive a \$25 gift cart to Macaroni Grill.



SAVE THE DATE!

# QISP TRAINING CLASS

TUESDAY DECEMBER 13, 2016 (8:00 AM - 4:30 PM)

### MEET THE TRAINERS



**JOHN TERAUSKIS**

ToR, QISP, CPESC, QSD/QSP

John is WGR's lead trainer for many different storm water-related classes, and is a part of the Industrial General Permit Training Team, a collaboration that assisted the State with developing the QISP training program.



**AARON ORTIZ**

ToR, QISP

Aaron is WGR's in-house expert on the Industrial General Permit, and one of the senior editors of The Rain Events. Aaron has extensive experience with storm water training, and also assisted with the Industrial General Permit Training Team.

In order to take this one-day training class, each QISP candidate will need to register for and complete the state-approved online QISP training course from CASQA. To take this course, visit the QISP page on CASQA's website:

<https://www.casqa.org/resources/qisp-qualification>

**RESERVE YOUR PLACE NOW!**

REGISTER ONLINE AT

[www.gotswppp.com/QISP](http://www.gotswppp.com/QISP)

**LOCATED AT**

WGR SOUTHWEST, INC.

11780 N HWY 99, LODI CA 95240