



The Monthly Dirt
A monthly newsletter on the California
Construction General Permit

take a break

VACATION & PERIODS OF INACTIVITY

Even construction sites get a break from time to time

Are you thinking about getting away this summer for a much needed break? You should. You deserve it! How about scheduling a trip to view some amazing examples of erosion? For this edition of **The Monthly Dirt**, we want to pitch to you with some tempting destinations to get away from it all and maybe earn some PDHs (*professional development hours*) while you are recreating and resting. In this edition, we will also cover a new option for projects having a break from construction activity and the monitoring reductions as allowed by the Water Board.

The Monthly Dirt Top 5 Erosion Destinations:

1) Bryce Canyon National Park

Located approximately 80 miles east of Interstate 15 in Southwest Utah, this gem of a National Park is only 8 hours from Los Angeles and 11.5 hours from Sacramento. The colorful hoodoos are a product of the deposition of sedimentary rock, uplift of the land, and erosion. *Hoodoos* form because their tops are less erodible and protect the underlying strata. Erosion of surrounding material is continually carving out these, sometimes very odd looking, pillars and towers. Bryce Canyon sits at about 8,000–9,000 feet above sea level and most of the park can be viewed from above. Numerous trails descend from the top into slot canyons and through these fascinating erosional features.



2) Zion National Park

If you are going to Bryce, you might as well also stop at Zion National Park which is located less than two hours to the south. However, at this



park, erosion is viewed from the bottom of the canyon. A very unique and popular hike is the *Virgin River Narrows*. But, if you do this hike, wear water shoes and shorts, you will most likely be walking through ankle-deep water as the river flows through this beautiful slot canyon. You can observe for yourself the erosion of the sandstone as you

look up the canyon walls that are at times only 30 feet apart but 1,000 feet high.

3) Grand Canyon National Park

Alright, you might as well make a week of it and stop by the grandest of all erosion features for a few days because you can be at the North Rim in another 3 hours. This unparalleled example of erosion causes nearly all visitors to ask “*How did it happen?*” Was it a little water over long periods of time or was it lots of water over a relatively short period of time? You should ponder the evidences for yourself. My favorite hike is the *Hermit Trail* on the South Rim. I particularly enjoy viewing the fossils in the Kaibab limestone and Coconino sandstone layers. Of course the views of the canyon are amazing too! You don’t have to hike far to get to the Kaibab

fossil beds. For those wanting a little longer hike, check out the fossilized footprints in the Coconino layer. If you really want an adventure, do what I did last year—get a wilderness permit, a backpack, and some friends and hike the 10 miles / 5,200-foot elevation change to the bottom of the Canyon.



4) Point Reyes National Seashore

If you don’t have time to travel to Utah and Arizona this year, try a closer destination. There are many local places you can go to see erosion happening in real time—one of the best being the beach! Coastal erosion is constantly happening and is one of the reasons we have nice sandy beaches. A personal favorite destination is Point Reyes National Seashore. There are nearly 150 miles of hiking trails and

roadways to discover on this 100 square mile preserved area. In addition to the fascinating geology largely shaped by erosion, the famous San Andreas Fault passes under Tomales Bay which borders the park to the north. It is interesting to visualize what the area looked like in the past. Did the fault rip the park away from the coastline and form Tomales Bay? What kind of erosion resulted from that action?



Periods of Inactivity:

People are not the only ones who take a break from time to time. Projects can also have down time. Sometimes it is planned; such as for a surcharge project, or to avoid doing work during the winter or when endangered species might be present. Other times the inactivity is due to something unexpected or outside of our control like permits or supply issues. But regardless the reason, for projects permitted under the new 2022 Construction General Permit (CGP), if all construction activities will be suspended for 30 days or more, the discharger may be eligible to suspend sampling and reduce monitoring and inspections during the period of inactivity. This is huge and a real cost saver! Sites that are not manned will definitely benefit from the monitoring reduction. It is a feature that is not in the 2009 CGP but something that many projects wished they had. Under the 2009 CGP, the only way to get out of monitoring an inactive project was to fully stabilize the site, get a Notice of Termination (NOT) accepted by the Regional Board using the basis of “suspension”, and to file a new Notice of Intent (NOI) when the project was ready to restart. Although this is a new feature of the 2022 CGP, it is not automatic and must be approved by the Regional Water Board. For projects wanting to take advantage of this opportunity to reduce monitoring, they must have a Qualified SWPPP Developer (QSD) submit on SMARTS as a Change-of-Information (COI) a revised site map depicting the current status of construction and photographs showing the temporary stabilization BMPs that were implemented. (This is another significant difference between the 2009 and 2022 permits. As previously mentioned, under the 2009 CGP, the only way to “suspend” a project was to achieve final

permanent stabilization and file a NOT. Under the 2022 CGP, temporary stabilization, such as erosion control mats or sprayed-on hydraulic mulch, may be used to meet the suspension requirements.) The local Regional Board will then review the COI and, upon approval, sampling may be suspended and monitoring requirements will reduce to the following:

- ⇒ A QSD must visit the inactive project within 14 days of the Regional Board’s approval of the COI. The QSD site visit is to verify that the SWPPP is being implemented accordingly for the period of inactivity as depicted on the amended SWPPP map.
- ⇒ A Qualified SWPPP Practitioner (QSP) or a trained delegate inspector must visit the inactive project at least once every calendar month and prior to any weather pattern that is forecasted to have a 50 percent or greater chance of 0.5 inches or more of precipitation within a 24-hour period. The inspector needs to verify that the specified BMPs are in place and functioning properly. If any corrective action is needed, then the QSP must note it on the inspection report. As with active projects, corrective action must be initiated within 72 hours of identification of the deficiency and completed as soon as possible.



As with any CGP projects, inspections and monitoring are not required during dangerous weather conditions or when access to the site is infeasible (e.g., due to snow accumulation or icy conditions).

When it is time to resume construction activities, the QSD needs to prepare and submit another SWPPP amendment / COI on SMARTS. The SWPPP amendment must include a revised site map showing the site conditions and BMPs for the resumed construction activities. Upon approval of the COI by the Regional Board, construction may then recommence.

5) Death Valley National Park

California’s playground for the erosion professional is Death Valley. It is just under 4 hours from Los Angeles and 8 hours from

Sacramento and makes for an easy weekend get away. However, with daytime temperatures often exceeding 120°F and nighttime temperatures not much cooler, unless you are part reptile, you may want to consider waiting to go to the park until after the summer is over. I have found December to be a great month for a visit. Because of the lack of vegetation and harsh weather conditions, various forms of erosion are quite notable. A favorite location to explore the erosional work of rushing water is Mosaic Canyon where high velocity water carved a path through metamorphic marble rock (dolomite). Pieces of which were subsequently deposited to form a mosaic-like surface on the downstream canyon wall.



So, if you need a period of inactivity (at least from work), grab a daypack, pull on your hiking boots, and head out to one of these destinations. If you take along a geology guidebook, a journal, and a camera; and spend some time studying the erosional features, you can most likely count the trip towards your PDHs. See you on the trail!



FIND YOUR PARK

Please contact us if you have any questions ...

The Monthly Dirt

Newsletter Editor:

John Teravskis, QSP/QSD, CPESC, WPCM, ToR
jteravskis@wgr-sw.com (209) 334-5363 ext. 110
 or (209) 649-0877

Rebekah Teravskis, Acting Editor
rteravskis@wgr-sw.com, (209) 334-5363 x118

Technical Questions about Environmental Compliance? Call ...

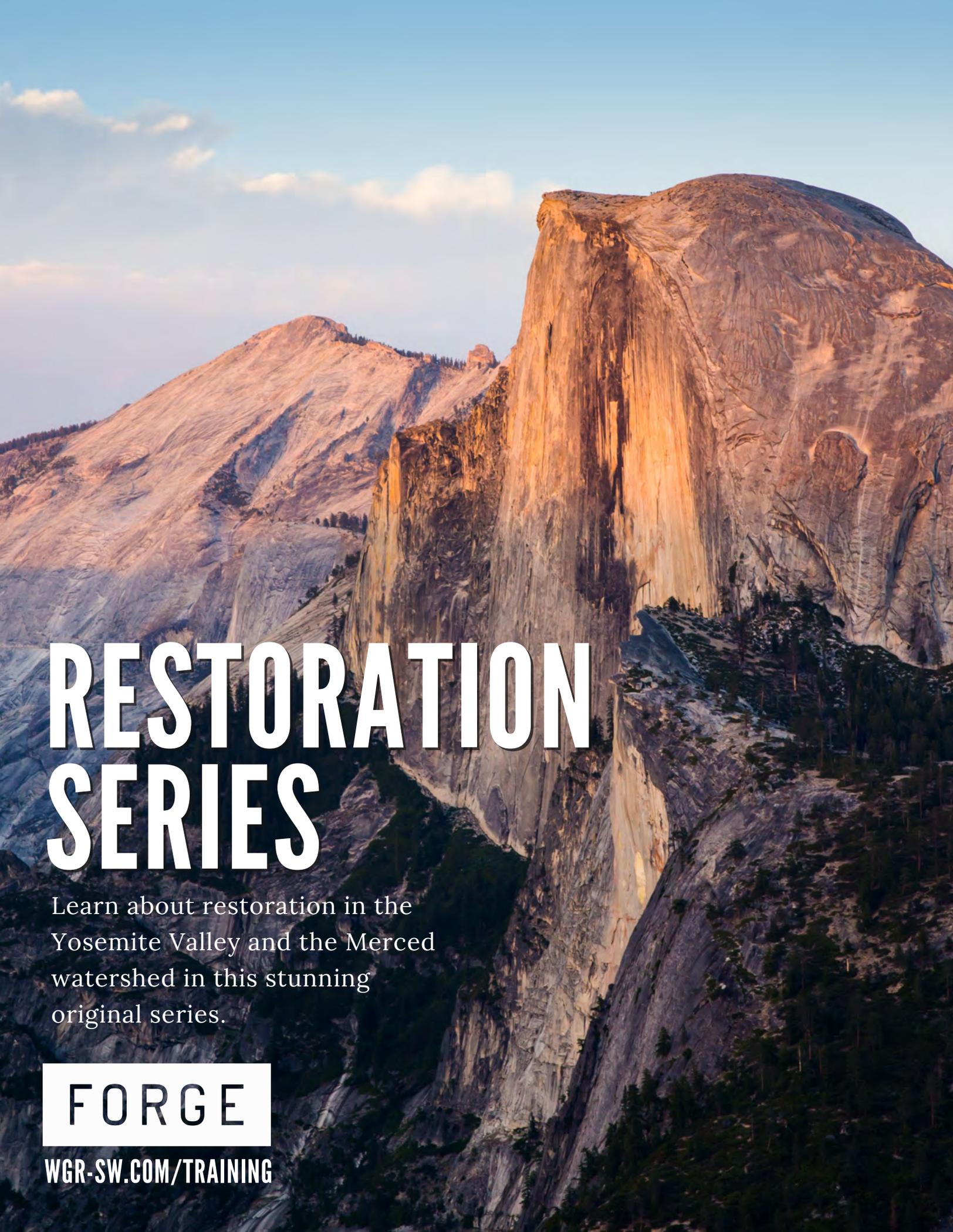
Mike Lewis, QSP, CESSWI, WPCM
 (Northern California) mlewis@wgr-sw.com,
 (209) 334-5363 ext. 116

FORGE

Erosion Theory

it's like a summer vacation & work trip all rolled into one!

wgr-sw.com/training



RESTORATION SERIES

Learn about restoration in the Yosemite Valley and the Merced watershed in this stunning original series.

FORGE

WGR-SW.COM/TRAINING



PERMIT PREVIEW

WGR's unofficial preview of the new 2022
Construction General Permit.

One day of online training on June 28, 2023

\$100/person

STORM WATER AWARENESS WEEK PRESENTS

THE

Voices

OF STORM WATER

SEPTEMBER 25-29, 2023





QSP SERVICES

providing QSP services & oversight for southern, central, and northern California.



contact us for a quote.

jteravskis@wgr-sw.com | 209.334.5363 x110 | wgr-sw.com

Hot August Nights in the National Parks

Thursday Evenings | August 3, 10, 17, & 24, 2023 | 7:00 – 9:00 PM



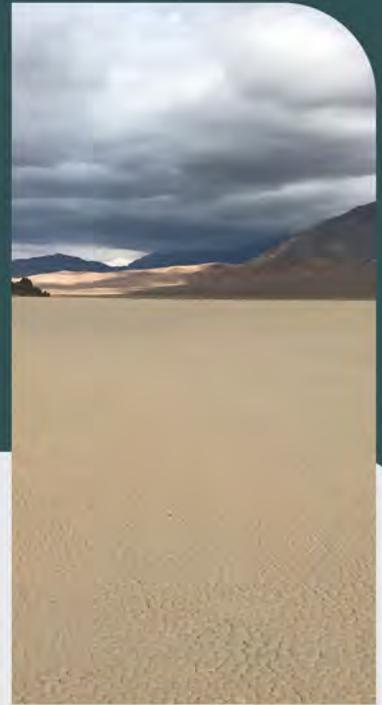
Yellowstone



Yosemite



Grand Canyon



Death Valley

Join John Teravskis for this free event on Thursday evenings in August at the [WGR Southwest, Inc. office](#). The seminar series will present some of the testimonies God has placed in the National Parks regarding the truths in His Word. Each night, held in a comfortable air conditioned presentation room, will feature a different National Park and a National Park-themed ice cream dessert.

Register Now

The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein. ---Psalm 24:1

www.faithandscienceintersect.org/faith-and-science-class