

the Rain

events

A monthly newsletter on the California Industrial General Permit
by WGR Southwest, Inc.



Once again, "lights, camera, action," is being announced on another storm water video that is to be added to the QISP training program that was released in 2016. This new video, starring Shuka Rastegarpour and Brandon Roosenboom, both of the State Water Resources Control Board's Industrial and Construction Storm Water Unit, covers a topic of great concern to the Water Board. The video called "Collecting Storm Water Samples: A Field Guide" addresses how to obtain representative samples in somewhat difficult conditions. The State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento State Office of Water Programs (OWP), and the Industrial General Permit Training Team (IGPTT) are again teaming-up with WGR Southwest, Inc. to produce this short training film. With an eight-member film crew, three main actors, and some amazing set pieces with flowing water, this video is going to be a must-see for QISPs! While they were busily getting ready to walk on set, we here at **The Rain Events** got to quickly interview Brandon and Shuka, and their colleague Pushpa Zachariah - on the purpose of the video, and their thoughts on the subject of sampling.

The trio noted that this new film is a "training video to help our discharges know how to sample in different situations. It's important for dischargers to remember that each site is different. We are making a conceptual video – meaning that each site is different, so not all situations a Qualified Industrial Stormwater Practitioner may encounter can be captured on a single video. So, we are trying to present principals for good sampling practices. The training video, when released, will be implemented as part of the online QISP training program. It is meant to coach QISPs on how to correctly sample various situations, even difficult ones. The QISP training program is in the process of being updated to incorporate the new requirements that were just amended in November to the Industrial General Permit which will take affect a year and a half from now. The hope for this video is to give the QISP some guidance and practical tips for collecting representative storm water samples."

When asked why it is important to collect good samples, Brandon, Shuka, and Pushpa responded that "it's important to know how to correctly sample, because the sample results are for quality assurance purposes and are used to evaluate the facility's storm water program. Accurate reporting of data to the State is vital because it represents the actual flow that is occurring from the discharger's facility and can elevate the facility into an ERA Level 1 or 2 category." Bad data from bad sampling can cause some facilities to be elevated erroneously and other to remain at baseline who should be elevated. This means you need to be sampling in the

correct locations and with the correct methods. The lab data of each sample is used for informational purposes, and the State needs to know that this data is as accurate as possible. The video hosts continued to state, "If you are getting a sample incorrectly, and thereby triggering an exceedance, that raises a red flag to the enforcement staff. You want to make sure that your samples are representative of the site. So, if you have a BMP, you want to make sure that you are sampling after the BMP."

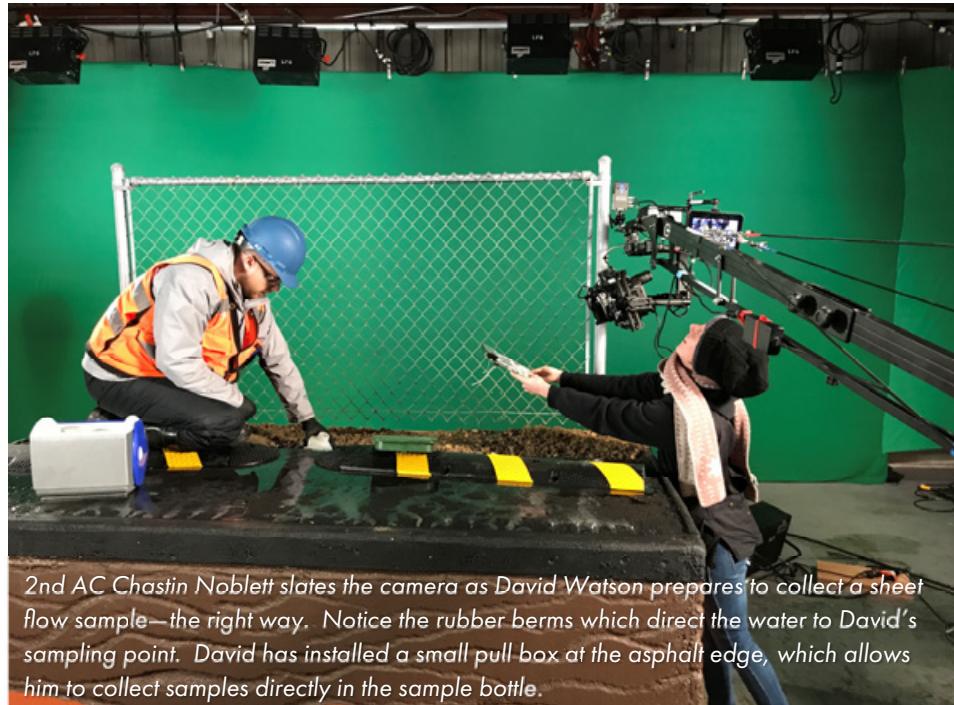
Collecting a representative sample is a combination of good planning and adapting to current conditions. It is also important to know correct sampling methods so that you are not disturbing sediments that have become trapped in your BMPs. The goal of the video isn't to give you a "sampling manual," but rather to share important concepts that will help you think quickly, adapt your plans, and collect a representative sample out in the real world. Every facility is different, so there is no one-size-fits-all approach. One thing to note about this video is that it is not intended to be a storm water sampling crash course – there are a few things the viewers are expected to know, such as a working knowledge of the Industrial General Permit and its sampling requirements.

The video features three common, but often incorrectly sampled, situations. They include sheet flow, drain inlets, and manholes. Each scenario, and set piece, will first be used to show a less than desirable approach to collecting the samples; typical of many similar situations the Water Board has observed at industrial

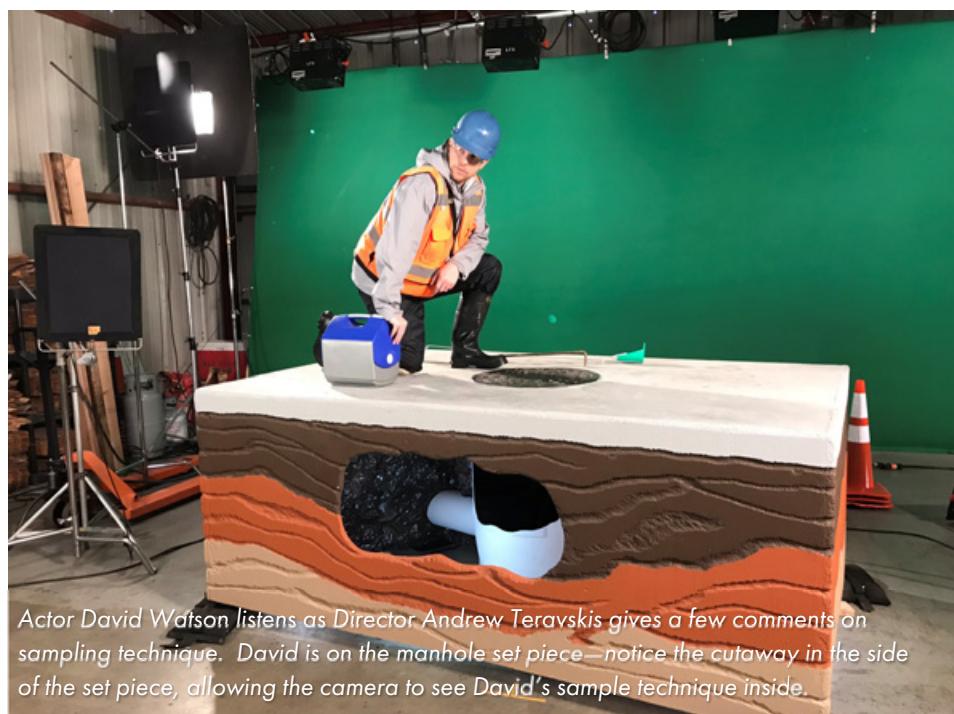
facilities. Subsequently, an improved sampling method will be demonstrated. Again, the point of the video is not to show the only way to collect a sample, but to demonstrate good sampling practices.

The main takeaway of the new video according to Brandon, Shuka, and Pushpa, "is to make sure that QISPs understand the techniques of sampling and understand that every facility will have a different sampling technique – the landscaping and property will be different for every facility, so techniques will have to differ from facility to facility."

The video is scheduled to be released around June 2019 so be watching for an announcement from the State Water Board. We want to acknowledge the hard work and expertise of many volunteers from the IGPTT, OWP, and the Water Board to make this film a reality. ☺



2nd AC Chastin Noblett slatesthe camera as David Watson prepares to collect a sheet flow sample—the right way. Notice the rubber berms which direct the water to David's sampling point. David has installed a small pull box at the asphalt edge, which allows him to collect samples directly in the sample bottle.



Actor David Watson listens as Director Andrew Teravskis gives a few comments on sampling technique. David is on the manhole set piece—notice the cutaway in the side of the set piece, allowing the camera to see David's sample technique inside.

"To Do List" for February:

- Perform the February monthly inspection
- Collect the last two samples for the 2018-2019 year.
- Upload all analytical results to SMARTS (Ad Hoc reports). Ad Hoc reports must be submitted within 30 days of receiving analytical results.

Learn how to sample!

Come to WGR's Lodi training center for a hands-on class, featuring the same working set pieces featured in the SWRCB's sampling video! Check out the flyer on the next page.



**Please contact us if you have any questions ...
The Rain Events**

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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:

Where should you collect samples in relation to your BMPs? Before the BMP? Or after?

Congrats, **Brian Indelicato**, you are correct! **You should always collect samples AFTER the BMP.** Your BMPs are in place to reduce or remove pollutants from your storm water runoff. But by removing your BMPs before you collect a sample or by collecting samples before the BMPs, you're essentially shooting your facility in the foot. If your BMPs are in fact reducing or removing pollutants from your facility's runoff, the samples should reflect that.

This Month's Contest Question:

Can you define a "representative sample" in ten words or less?

Submit your answers by **Friday, March 22nd**. Email your answer to jteravskis@wgr-sw.com. One winner will be selected by a random drawing to receive a **\$25 gift card to Five Guys**.

FIVE GUYS



Director Andrew Teravskis demonstrates the proper way of using a sample boom while Director of Photography Hugh Litfin and 1st AC Josh Montiel look on.



Director of Photography Hugh Litfin adjusts one of the water features on the sheet flow set piece between takes.