

May 2013

The Monthly Dirt

A Monthly Newsletter on the California Construction General Permit
By WGR Southwest, Inc.

Measuring the Rain



A question often asked is, “*Do we really need a rain gauge on our project?*” If a project is subject to the California Construction General Permit, the answer is a definite “yes”. That is because the permit contains the following references:

- ☁ Annual Reports must include rain gauge data (Order, page 39).
- ☁ According to Attachment A (p. 36), Type 2 & 3 LUP dischargers shall install a rain gauge on-site at an accessible and secure location with readings made during all storm water inspections. For LUP projects, the permit has a clause that states, “*When [rain gauge] readings are unavailable, data from the closest rain gauge with publicly available data may be used.*”
- ☁ According to Attachments C, D, and E, dischargers shall record the time, date, and rain gauge readings of all qualifying rain events. Note that for traditional projects there is no similar clause like LUPs have about using nearby publicly available data.

Besides the permit requiring a rain gauge, there are other good reasons why a project should maintain one of its own. First, the on-site rain gauge is used to establish whether or not a “qualifying rain event” has occurred. Remember, a qualifying event is one that produces 0.5 inches or more of precipitation with a 48 hour or greater period between rain events. Rainfall amounts can be very sporadic and vary significantly even over short distances. It is possible to have a qualifying event at a nearby location, but at the project location not to have yet reached 0.5 inches. A project-dedicated rain gauge may actually help to reduce the number of sampling events by closely tracking qualifying events. Another reason to have a rain gauge at each project is to provide site-specific data that can be used if an agency or a third party environmental group accuses you of not performing the required sampling. It is hard for them to argue against good on-site precipitation data. Measuring rain at your project is not optional and a wise QSP will be equipped with the tools to do it.

What Kind of Rain Gauge?

Rain gauges come in all sorts of styles, features, and price ranges. You can buy a plastic cone-shaped model at the dollar store or pay more than \$10,000 for a sophisticated weather station; and find almost anything in-between. The Construction General Permit allows for any of these options. But questions you should consider before making your choice include: 1) Do you have personnel to empty the gauge or do you need a self-emptying model? 2) Will someone read and record the data daily or do you need the data stored within the unit for a period of time? 3) Do you have power available for the weather station? 4) What are the chances of theft or vandalism? 5) Should there be a back-up gauge? The economics of rain measurement includes not only the device, but also labor to read, record, and maintain the gauge.

Your Own Online Weather Station

How would you like to have your project's rain gauge online so that you could access current or past data from the internet at anytime or in any place? That would be pretty cool ... but, probably very expensive. But it is not as much as you may think! Weather Underground and RainWise have come up with an affordable option. Not only is it a fully automated weather station with online reporting, but it has other features such as solar power, wireless data transmissions up to one mile, data updates every 3 to 5 seconds, and data stored on a cloud server. That is awesome! And only costs about \$1,000 (currently it is on sale!). The RainWise weather station will interface with Weather Underground, which will allow you to view not only your own station, but other nearby weather stations.

Check it out at:

www.wunderground.com/weatherstation/RainWise.asp?MR=1

Also take a look at their tutorial video:

Videos



RainWise PWS Tutorial

View the step by step process for setting up a RainWise MK-III weather station and uploading your weather data to Wunderground.com.

Wunderground Productions

www.wunderground.com/video?video=1993317020001&npid=1668017856001

The RainWise weather station can be moved to your next project and re-registered with Underground Weather. So, it is your choice ... walk out to the fence post to read, record, and empty your plastic rain gauge everyday or surf the internet inside a dry office. For more information, check out www.wunderground.com and look for *The Monthly Dirt*'s coming soon weather station.

Upcoming Training ...

- Got SWPPP? QSP/QSD Class
 - ✓ Lodi – July 9 - 11, 2013
- CPESC Review Class – August 6
- CPESC Math Review – May 23 and August 7
- CPESC Exam – August 8
- If you are interested in taking a CESSWI review class in Lodi, contact John Teravskis at jteravskis@wgr-sw.com. If there is enough interest, we will coordinate an event taught by an EnviroCert Intl.-approved instructor.
- For more information about these classes, go to www.gotswppp.com.

Coming May 20 - 24



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UNITS
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- ✓ Workshops that count towards PDUs / CDHs for CPESC, CESSWI, or CISEC
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Please contact us if you have any questions ...

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Technical Questions about Environmental Compliance?

Call ...

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Call 1-800-762-5723 and contact our sales staff for details.

For more information or to order, please go to
www.rainwise.com

Be sure to let them know that you read about their weather station in The Monthly Dirt!





May Special

\$105.00 Oakton® Waterproof pHTestr™ 30 Pocket pH Tester



Versatile, compact design works in a field or laboratory setting

- ±0.01 pH accuracy along with dual pH and selectable °C or °F temperature display
- A complete meter with key features at an economical price
- Replaceable, double-junction electrode sensors save time and money
- IP67-rated housing sits flat on the table and floats in water

Meter includes: protective plastic storage case, lanyard, and batteries.

Wireless Rain Gauge with Indoor/Outdoor Thermometer

\$99.95

Special Features:

Automatic self-emptying rain collector.

Measures daily and cumulative rainfall.

Nine day rainfall history.

Long range compatibility allows the canister and sensor to be placed up to 300-ft from the main unit.

Displays indoor and outdoor temperature

High daily rainfall alarm

Alkaline batteries included: 2 AA (main unit); 2 AA (raincup); 2 AAA(sensor).



Contents:

RGR126 Wireless Rain Gauge

Self-emptying raincup

THN122N temperature sensor

User manual

4 AA batteries

2 AAA batteries

BMP OUTLET'S Product Spotlight

Silt Sifter® Bag



Silt Sifter® is the ultimate solution! The patented dual-component, bag-within-a-bag design, Silt Sifter® Bag is the original cushioned sediment control device incorporating materials specifically chosen for both 'filtration' and 'high-flow' performance. Squared on one end to better hug the curb, the Silt Sifter® Bag comes either pre-filled with 30 pounds of 1" natural rock or empty. The sewn-in Heavy Duty 2" Velcro enclosure makes it a snap to fill and provides a solid barrier to prevent any rock from escaping making for a cleaner and tidier job site.

Product Specifications:

- Outer Material High density polyethylene
 - Poly thread (4) lock stitching
 - Filtering Media Pine Wood Excelsior*
 - Rock Bag High density polyethylene - Poly thread (4) lock stitching
 - Stabilization 1" rock (filled)
 - UV Rating 85% with 364° flammability point
 - Dimensions 30”L x 16”W x 6”H
 - Weight (Dry) Approximately 30 lbs. (filled)
 - Durability 500 lb. burst strength
 - Maintenance Clean with power wash or strong hose
- *Pine wood excelsior acts as a filter for capturing silt, sediment and soils. Also a cushioning agent to substantially reduce product damage under normal conditions.
- *****This product ships empty (No rock)***** Available filled for local pick up only.

NOW PLAYING

