

February 2012

The Monthly Dirt

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

Professional Development

Are you a CPESC or CESSWI? Many QSDs and QSPs are. EnviroCert International, Inc. is the company who has developed and manages the CPESC and CESSWI certification programs. One of the requirements to maintain the certification is to achieve and document a certain amount of professional development. Now that many QSDs and QSPs have held these certifications in California for more than a year, we are frequently getting questions at our Got SWPPP workshops and via email asking how the professional development thing works. To find answers to these questions, I spent some time on the telephone with Gina Burleson of EnviroCert International who explained the intent and process of the professional development program to me. She stated the intention of the professional development program is for CPESCs and CESSWIs to continue to grow professionally and not become stagnant. The program is designed to encourage certified individuals to learn and pass on their learning to the general public. The requirement to obtain professional development units (PDUs) in different categories encourages a CPESC or CESSWI to expand their horizons.

So how does it work? A CPESC is required to obtain 60 PDUs over a three year period from two of the following four categories: 1) Continuing Education; 2) Authorship of Publications, Presentations, Reports, and Courseware; 3) Professional Organization Activities and Community Extension; and 4) Other Professional Activities. On their website, EnviroCert lists the acceptable activities for each category, the number of credits for each activity, and the total number of PDUs that can be taken for each activity. Activities include attending a training workshop, seminar or other presentation related to erosion and sediment control. Under the Authorship category, PDUs can be gained by being a presenter at a seminar, or authoring a report or other publication. PDUs are also achieved by being active in a professional organization such as CASQA or the International Erosion Control Association (IECA). Not only can you attend the annual IECA conference, which this year will be in Las Vegas February 26-29, but you can also use their online courses and pod casts to get PDUs. For more information, go to www.ieca.org. For you CPESCs, if you recently became one, EnviroCert is giving you a push-start towards professional development by giving you 50 of the 60 required PDUs, just for taking and passing the CPESC exam. Attending the 3-day QSD class will give you 1 PDU/hour for a total of 24 PDUs. However, you will still need to get 10 more units in another category. Gina Burleson stated that for CPESCs, EnviroCert expects the PDUs to be obtained outside of your "normal everyday activities" or "daily job duties", which underscores EnviroCert's desire for you to grow professionally and not just be "doing your job".

- ✓ Become a CESSWI
- ✓ Become a QSP
- ✓ Get 10 PDUs

The process for a CESSWI is similar, but there are some differences. A CESSWI is required to obtain 10 PDUs per year from two of the four different categories. For a CESSWI, work experience can be used to obtain credit. Taking and passing the CESSWI exam will earn you 5 PDUs for the first year. The 2-day QSP class will earn you another 1 PDU/hour, but there is a maximum credit of 5 PDUs. But, don't get too excited yet! You have to earn at least one more PDU in a different category; so either I would teach a class or write a report on BMPs, join a professional membership like IECA or CASQA, or do one of the other activities listed in Categories B-D.

Professional Development continued ...

During my last CPESC renewal, I was surprised to see that all I had to complete was a certification statement verifying I had met the professional development requirements. No forms, itemization, or backup was required to be submitted; only my signature. That is because EnviroCert uses an audit system to track compliance with the professional development requirements. Their by-laws require them to annually audit at least 1% of their existing eligible membership. The audited members are selected at random. If you are a "lucky" winner, you will be contacted and asked to submit the Professional Development Worksheet and supporting backup within 30 days of being notified. So, it is important to keep accurate records of the PDU activities. EnviroCert has posted on their website a worksheet form for tracking PDUs and additional information about the professional development requirements. You can access this information by going to either:

www.cpesc.org/cc-policy/pdu-reqs.asp or

www.cesswi.org/ci-policy/pdu-reqs.asp

CESSWI and CPESC Exams Offered by the State

CASQA recently announced in their newsletter that if QSD or QSP candidates still need an underlying certificate to become a qualified QSD or QSP, the Office of Water Programs (OWP) will be offering opportunities to take EnviroCert exams. Exams for the following three EnviroCert certifications will be available:

- Certified Erosion, Sediment and Storm Water Inspector (CESSWI)
- Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC)
- Certified Professional in Storm Water Quality (CPSWQ)

All three exams will be offered on the campus of the California State University, Sacramento, on each of the following dates:

- ✓ February 17, 2012
- ✓ March 16, 2012
- ✓ April 20, 2012
- ✓ May 18, 2012
- ✓ June 15, 2012
- ✓ July 20, 2012

To take an exam you must first gain approval through the appropriate EnviroCert certification program. Information about the EnviroCert process is available at www.envirocertintl.org. For more information about taking the exams through OWP, including the downloadable exam registration form, go to ...

www.owp.csus.edu/specialized/envirocert-exams.php

Upcoming Training ...

- Got SWPPP? QSP/QSD Classes
 - ✓ Fairfield – February 7-9, 2012
 - ✓ Lodi – March 6-8, 2012
 - ✓ Merced – April 10-12, 2012
- Customized training ... bring WGR to your facility or project site. Call us for more info.
- If you are interested in taking a CESSWI review class in the Lodi or Fresno area, contact Lisa Smith at lsmith@wgr-sw.com. If there is enough interest, she will coordinate an event taught by an EnviroCert Intl.-approved instructor.



Find a QSP

FINDaQSP.com

Do you need a QSP for your jobsite? Go to our new on-line QSP networking website. We will put you in touch with a reputable QSP in your area. Why pay for all that travel time? FINDaQSP in your area and use local talent!

Would you like to join our QSP network and get job referrals? Go to www.FINDaQSP.com and join the network. If you have the experience we are looking for we will include you in our State-wide network and will send you project opportunities for your region.

Coming soon ... on-line QSP cost quotes.

Please contact us if you have any questions ...

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