

July 2013

The Monthly Dirt

A Monthly Newsletter on the California Construction General Permit

By WGR Southwest, Inc.

QSD ALTERNATIVE

For some time now, there has been an on-going debate as to whether or not professional civil engineers, geologists, and engineering geologists licensed by and in good-standing with the California Board of Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists (CBPELSG) need to obtain a separate certification. This debate has not only been surfacing in discussions about the Construction General Permit's QSP and QSD certifications but also with the Industrial General Permit's proposed Qualified Industrial Storm Water Practitioner (QISP) certifications. In early 2011, Assembly Bill 1210 (Garrick) was proposed stating that the existing law, the Professional Engineers Act, requires all civil engineering plans, calculations, specifications, and reports to be prepared by, or under the responsible charge of, a licensed civil engineer. The bill would have required all civil engineering activities performed in the preparation of Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans to be performed under the responsible charge of a licensed civil engineer. AB 1210 was unanimously passed through the State Assembly and, subsequently, through the State Senate. At that time, many anticipated it would pass and result in a reversal of the State Water Board's new QSP/QSD program. However, on October 9, 2011, the unexpected happened. Governor Edmund Brown, Jr. vetoed the bill stating that the bill would exempt licensed civil engineers from training requirements related to the preparation of Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans. The Governor went on to explain that many storm water plans are found to be deficient and those preparing them need a much better understanding of the necessary elements of a solid plan. He wrote, "The current process depends on a training education program for all professionals who prepare storm plans – engineers, geologists, hydrologists, and landscape architects." In the veto, Governor Brown directed the State Water Board to "review the entire program and evaluate compliance alternatives that are more efficient and workable for all professionals." This month, on July 2nd, the Water Board revealed their QSD alternative for these professional licensees. Licensees may now register with the State Water Board's Storm Water Monitoring and Report Tracking System (SMARTS) online database. The SMARTS registration process must include submittal of the license number, review of posted QSD training materials, and certification that all information submitted is true, correct and current. No fee is currently required by the State Water Board for this registration. The SMARTS system will make the CBPELSG licensee QSD information available to the public but it will not be listed with the other QSDs listed through the California Storm Water Quality Association (CASQA) process. According to CASQA, the CBPELSG QSD alternative does not certify the licensee as a QSP. To practice as a QSP, the licensee will still need to attend the two-day CASQA-sponsored training, pass the on-line exam, and pay the \$125 two-year fee.

Professional Licensee Training Program

CBPELSG licensees will conduct self-directed QSD training using resources provided by the State Water Board and the most current "CGP (Construction General Permit) Review" developed by Office of Water Programs. These resources will include materials covering:

1. Overview and Regulations
2. Risk Determination
3. SWPPP Development and Permit Registration Documents
4. Erosion Theory
5. SWPPP Implementation
6. Construction Site Monitoring & Reporting
7. Post Construction Runoff Control Calculator
8. Project Close Out
9. CGP Review (available at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/docs/training/cgp_review_issue.pdf)

LRP Video Primer

Also this month, the State Water Board released a new video resource that will greatly assist legal responsible persons (LRPs) in understanding their role and responsibilities in applying for coverage under the Construction General Permit. This video will especially be useful for new LRPs and those who have not had previous experience with the storm water construction permit or with the State's SMARTS system.

The new video can be viewed at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QXXwHDugl98>



While the video is a great new resource, and we applaud the Water Board for its effort; the video primarily focuses on the very basic roles, responsibilities, and permitting procedures of the LRP. We would like to encourage the State to make additional follow-up videos. There is so much more that an LRP needs to understand. A few more videos would go a long ways in helping LRPs to better understand the permit. We would suggest, an overview video of the inspection, monitoring, and reporting requirements; another video on mandatory best management practices; one on risk determination, waivers, and exemptions; and one on final site stabilization and Notices of Termination.

Upcoming Training ...

- CPESC Review Class and Exam – August 6-8, 2013
Last day to register is Monday, July 22nd.
- Got SWPPP? QSP/QSD Class
✓ Lodi – Oct. 8-10, 2013

For more information about these classes, go to www.gotswppp.com.



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WWW.STORMWATER.AWARENESS.ORG

Please contact us if you have any questions ...

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Technical Questions about Environmental Compliance?

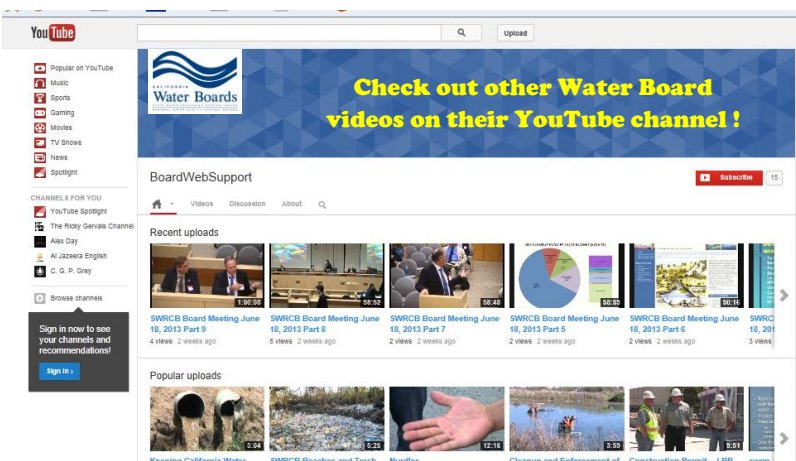
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<http://www.youtube.com/user/BoardWebSupport?feature=watch>

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