



Fact Sheet

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD | 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 | Mailing Address: P. O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100 | www.waterboards.ca.gov

Qualified Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan Developer (QSD) Training Program for Professionals Licensed by the California Board of Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists

Background:

The State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Land Disturbance (Construction General Permit) includes training and certification requirements for individuals developing and implementing Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans. The Construction General Permit requires that a QSD possess underlying professional licenses or certifications¹ and, effective September 2, 2011, have attended a State Water Board-sponsored or approved QSD training course. Three of the required licenses are administered by the California Board of Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists at the Department of Consumer Affairs.² The Construction General Permit provides two routes for QSDs to comply with the training requirements: State Water Board-*sponsored* or State Water Board-*approved* training. Professional civil engineers, geologists, and engineering geologists in good standing with the California Board of Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists are hereinafter referred to licensees (CBPELSG) and, effective July 1, 2013, may obtain their required QSD training in an alternative manner. A flowchart illustrating the alternatives and steps required for a licensee candidate to obtain their QSD training is included in this fact sheet on page 4.

The State Water Board has approved the California Stormwater Quality Association to provide³ training. With input and oversight by State Water Board staff the California Stormwater Quality Association has trained over a hundred Trainers of Record, who in turn have trained thousands of QSDs. The California Stormwater Quality Association also developed a management structure, course materials, testing criteria, and fees commensurable to their costs of administering the training program. The training includes a review of the Construction General Permit requirements and provides common technical guidance to assure all storm water pollution prevention plans are in compliance with the Construction General Permit.

¹ The applicable professional registration or certification requirements for QSDs are set forth in Section VII.B.1. of the Construction General Permit, as follows: California-registered professional civil engineer; California-registered professional geologist or engineering geologist; California-registered landscape architect; professional hydrologist registered through the American Institute of Hydrology; Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) registered through Enviro Cert International, Inc.; Certified Professional in Storm Water Quality (CPSWQ) registered through Enviro Cert International, Inc.; or, professional in erosion and sediment control registered through the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET).

² Professional civil engineer, Professional geologist, and Professional engineering geologist.

³ Qualified SWPPP Practitioner

Licensees are bound by statutes and bylaws to either: (1) know how to perform their professional work, or (2) preclude themselves from doing that work.⁴ The State Water Board has developed a specialized State Water Board-**sponsored** registration and training program (see below) for licensees that choose not to become qualified QSDs through the State Water Board-**approved** training program administered by the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA).

Licensee Registration through SMARTS:

Licensees may choose to either register with the California Stormwater Quality Association or 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 required by the State Water Board for this registration.

The SMARTS system will make the licensee QSD information available to the public but will not be listed with the other QSDs listed through the California Stormwater Quality Association process. If licensees would like to have their information available to the public along with the California Stormwater Quality Association trained QSDs then licensees must register with the California Stormwater Quality Association. There may be a fee collected by the California Stormwater Quality Association to administer this database and reporting program. The State Water Board has no financial connections to fees paid to either Trainers of Record or the California Stormwater Quality Association.

State Water Board-Sponsored CBPELSG Training:

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_is_sue.pdf)

Next Steps for CBPELSG Licensees Choosing Registration through SMARTS:

SMARTS has been updated to allow licensees to create an account and register as licensee QSDs. The State Water Board-sponsored training program for licensees is effective as of July 1, 2013. For more information please contact our Help Desk at stormwater@waterboards.ca.gov or (916) 341-5537.

⁴ Professional Engineers Act, Business and Professions Code §§ 6700-6799 & Geologist and Geophysicist Act, Business and Professions Code §§ 7800-7887.

Licensees Currently Qualified as QSDs Through CASQA:

Licensees currently qualified through the California Stormwater Quality Association, State Water Board-**approved** QSD training program have two options for renewing their qualifications as Construction General Permit QSDs:

- 1) Continue qualification through California Stormwater Quality Association **or**
- 2) Register as a licensee QSD in SMARTS.

The main differences between the two options for renewals of QSD status are:

California Stormwater Quality Association QSD Registration

- Only way to continue to be included in the Look-Up database hosted by California State University at Sacramento, Office of Water Programs (<https://www.owp.csus.edu/qsd-lookup.php>). The database allows location-specific searches.
- Review of the most current “CGP Review” booklet.
- Payment of two-year registration fee required for renewals.

Licensee QSD Registration

- Create an account in SMARTS and register as a licensee QSD.
- Licensee QSD registration information will only be available to the public through SMARTS.
- Conduct self-directed training using resources provided by the State Water Board and the most current “CGP Review” booklet.
- No payment required for renewals (costs paid for by CGP permittees’ permit fees).

QSD Candidate Flow Chart

