

Construction BMP Handbook Web Portal Training

June 23, 2010 Webcast Response to Questions

Questions about the Webinar

1. Q: Will a copy of the PowerPoint be available at the end of the presentation?
A: Yes, a copy of the [presentation and the recording of the webcast](#) is available on the CASQA website.
2. Q: Will the slide presentation be available for downloading?
A: We will post the [presentation](#) after the event and will provide all the details needed to retrieve the recording, as well as the documents.
3. Q: Will there be any other webinars in the future?
A: We are considering the value of this training; what will you pay?

Technical Questions

1. Q: Are there sample specification sections that we can use?
A: No, the handbook does not provide standard specifications. The handbook and Fact Sheets are [available by subscription](#). Fact Sheet SE-2 Sediment Basin is available as a [free download](#).
2. Q: Please discuss the design storm, and how to prepare for large storms and flooding.
A: The design storm, for purposes of assessing Numeric Effluent Limit (NEL) compliance, is 5-year, 24-hour. The Qualified SWPPP Developer (QSD) is responsible for designing a comprehensive system of best management practices (BMPs) to handle anticipated storm events. Maps depicting the depth of design storm in your area are available from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
3. Q: Is there any information on a design storm size, or do these BMPs have to work regardless of the storm size (e.g., "Katrina to drizzle")? Storm size has a huge impact on cost. A standard chemical treatment system can easily cost up to millions of dollars.
A: 5-year, 24-hour, and for Active Treatment Systems (ATS), it is 10-year, 24-hour.
4. Q: Can you talk about costs for Risk Level (RL) #1 weekly monitoring anticipated added cost estimates? Are there forms available?
A: Yes, field logs are available in the Field Monitoring appendix. Labor costs are not addressed in the handbook.
5. Q: Was any consideration made into the fact that some BMP materials can impact pH? Carbon, for example, in a treatment train can impact pH.
A: Dischargers must assess construction materials, which could potentially include BMPs, to determine whether they will alter runoff pH and plan for monitoring appropriately.

Questions about the Construction BMP Handbook / Portal

Scope

1. Q: Is this handbook only geared to traditional projects?
A: Yes.
2. Q: Does the handbook cover post-construction BMPs?
A: Refer to the New Development BMP Handbook. Although it was last updated in 2003, it is still viable and useful at this time.
3. Q: When will the New Development Handbook be updated to address the post-construction BMPs as defined in the new CGP?
A: Currently, it is not being updated. CASQA will be discussing available funding to updating this handbook in the coming months.
4. Q: How do CASQA BMPs relate to Caltrans Manual BMPs?
A: CASQA BMPs have been updated more recently, and Caltrans is evaluating its handbook for an update.

Format

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6. Q: Can you talk about costs for Risk Level (RL) #1 weekly monitoring anticipated added cost estimates? Are there forms available?
A: Yes, field logs are available in the Field Monitoring appendix. Labor costs are not addressed in the handbook.
7. Q: How are the hyperlinks within the handbook supposed to work? When I click on the blue text, nothing happens.
A: The hyperlinks will work when the entire Construction Handbook (the full PDF file) is downloaded.
8. Q: Are the appendices searchable, i.e., if you download an appendix to find out about NELs, can you then search for that term within the document?
A: Yes, the PDFs are fully searchable (need to download the entire document).
9. Q: Is CASQA going to publish a BMP Handbook?
A: No, the Construction BMP Handbook / Portal is a switch from a paper-based handbook format to an interactive web portal format for the Construction BMP Handbook. CASQA is not commercially printing the new 2009 version of the Construction Handbook / Portal. Commercially printed copies of the other three CASQA BMP Handbooks – Industrial, Municipal, and New Development and Redevelopment can still be purchased through the [CASQA website](#) .
10. Q: When do I get my copy in the mail?
A: CASQA's 2009 BMP Construction Handbook Portal is available only through an electronic subscription. After your purchase was completed, access to the portal was immediately granted to the login used to make your purchase. To access the portal, simply login at www.CASQA.org and click on the portal tab on the left hand side. Click [here](#) for additional details.

SWPPP Template / Outline

11. Q: When will the new SWPPP template booklet that will include the new risk sections be ready?

A: The handbook and SWPPP outline include risk sections.

12. Q: Where is the SWPPP template? Is there a new template for 2009?

A: According to the State Water Board staff, they are de-emphasizing the SWPPP. CASQA characterizes this as de-emphasizing the SWPPP as a compliance tool and the Construction General Permit itself will be used as the compliance tool. The SWPPP will remain the key documentation of the site-specific implementation of the Construction General Permit requirement and the one-stop location for the compliance documentation. CASQA has not provided a new SWPPP template in the updated Construction BMP Handbook / Portal. This decision was primarily made because of the difficulties users had with the template format restrictions. In lieu of a template, CASQA has included a suggested SWPPP outline that has been significantly annotated to provide handbook / portal users with guidance on the development of SWPPPs under the 2010 Construction General Permit. Additionally, CASQA is providing subscribers the ability to download Word versions of the SWPPP outline, REAP template, and the Field logs.

Use rights

13. Q: Can I get the password to unlock the Fact Sheets? The BMP Fact sheets are secured and cannot be combined for upload onto the SMARTS system as a part of the SWPPP document. How can we include this part of the PRDs?

A: Unfortunately, Adobe's page extraction and page editing protections are linked; one cannot have one on or off without the other similarly on or off. CASQA protects its documents from editing for obvious reasons – CASQA needs to protect against a change being made to a page with CASQA's name on it. Using a CASQA page is not much of an issue with paper as one can simply print out the CASQA pages and use them in whole however one wants. Until Adobe changes its document protection options to de-link editing from extraction, I am afraid the only answer for your situation may be to print and create scans of the pages you want to reuse.

14. Q: Can the BMP fact sheets be used in our clients' SWPPPs?

A: Yes, see the copyright language in the Handbook / Portal for more information.

Subscriptions / Access

15. Q: Is there a way to obtain access to the handbook portal without paying the membership fee?

A: Yes, one may pay the subscription fee for non-members.

16. Q: How can I get additional logins for other members of my organization? Can a developer obtain a subscription that can be used by multiple employees at one business location, or would each person need their own individual subscription, even if they were working for the same company? Will there be an agency or group subscription available at some time?

A: Annual subscriptions to the portal are only available on an Individual Subscription basis. [Each purchaser must have his or her own login, which can easily be created by clicking on "Register" on the top right hand corner of the screen. Once they have created their login, they can proceed to the CASQA Store to make their purchase. Once the purchase is complete, the system will immediately grant portal access to the login used to make the purchase.](#)

In general, users should purchase as many subscriptions as they have paper copies of the 2003 Construction Handbook, which could be fewer than the actual number of users of a paper copy. Although we do not offer a multi-user or organizational subscription, we recognize that just like magazines, subscriptions do get shared. We are on an honor system in terms of asking that organizations purchase as many subscriptions as they have paper copies of the 2003 Handbook. Please also recognize that as updates to the portal content are made and announced, CASQA will only be able to communicate that news to official purchasers of portal access subscriptions.

Regulatory Questions

1. Q: Is the Rain Event Action Plan (REAP) submitted before the onset of construction?

A: The REAP does not need to be submitted before construction starts; however a template could be included in the SWPPP. Developing and implementing the REAP is the responsibility of the Qualified SWPPP Practitioner (QSP), who will be developing and updating REAP based on the phase of construction and rain event predicted. The REAP must be developed 48 hours in advance of a rain event and implemented 24 hours in advance of the rain event.

2. Q: The requirement to sample within the first two hours of discharge seems to not take into account safety for the sampler in remote areas such as the example shown. Why is there not an "or as soon as safe" condition?

A: The 2-hour requirement is only for non-visible pollutants, and the Construction Site Monitoring Plan (CSMP) should assess the safety of the situation and plan for safe sampling.

3. Q: Will the fact sheets be a part of the SWPPP uploaded into SMARTS?

A: A complete copy of the SWPPP must be uploaded into SMARTs. The discharger should review the PRD requirements of the CGP and SMARTS guidance. It is generally recommended to include them.

4. Q: Is use of an Active Treatment System (ATS) ever a requirement, or is it always a choice?

A: The ATS is a user choice (choice of the discharger), and it is not mandatory.

5. Q: Where can I find information regarding training requirements for preparation of SWPPPs?

A: The QSD and QSP training requirements are identified in the Construction General Permit and are effective September 2, 2011. There is also a tab on the CASQA website regarding training requirements and the availability of Trainers of Record. Approved Trainers of Record will set their own course schedules.

6. Q: In the case of a construction site that operates 24-7, what is the requirement for covering waste containers at the end of a "day"?

A: The requirement is that you cover waste at the end of a day or prior to the onset of rain, so prior to the onset of rain would apply for 24-7 projects. If the project is truly 24-7, then you would not have to cover the containers on a daily basis; however, there may be sites that are 24-7 that are actually 24-6 (that shut down on Sunday), in which case you would have to cover the dumpster at the end of the last shift.

7. Q: Is there a prohibited level of change in macro-invertebrate abundance or Standard Special Provisions (SPP) due to a construction site? What if the receiving water is already stressed (i.e., initial bioassessment indicates severe sediment impairment)?

A: No

8. Q: The construction end date may not be known prior to construction. Should the end date be assumed? What do you do if the end date is exceeded?
A: Check with SWRCB for the current interpretation.
9. Q: If my ongoing project is grandfathered as a Risk Level 1, do I still need to prepare a CSMP, even if the original SWPPP had a monitoring program already developed?
A: Yes
10. Q: What is a CSMP? What format does it take?
A: Construction Site Monitoring Plan, a required component of every SWPPP. It details required inspections for each Risk Level. The CSMP can be a separate chapter.
11. Q: How does the new CGP permit apply to cities that have a combined sewer system?
A: Check with your Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)
12. Q: Is there a new NOI form?
A: The NOI is part of the SMARTS system.
13. Q: If QSD/QSP courses are not available yet, when will this aspect of the new permit be enforced?
A: They will be available end of summer/beginning of Fall 2010. QSDs/QSPs have until September 2011 to receive training.

Acronyms:

ATS	Active Treatment System(s)
BMP	Best Management Practice
CGP	Construction General Permit
CASQA	California Stormwater Quality Association
CSMP	Construction Site Monitoring Plan
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
NEL	Numeric Effluent Limit
NOI	Notice of Intent
PRD	Project Registration Document
QSD	Qualified SWPPP Developer
QSP	Qualified SWPPP Practitioner
REAP	Rain Event Action Plan
RUSLE	Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation
SMARTS	Stormwater Multi-Application and Reporting Tracking System
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board