

# Certification Bulletin

California-Nevada Section, American Water Works Association • Vol. 1 No. 1 • Spring 2000

A  
Publication  
of the  
CA-NV  
Section,  
AWWA  
Water  
College



Visit our Website at  
[www.ca-nv-awwa.org](http://www.ca-nv-awwa.org)  
for up-to-the-minute  
news on Certification,  
Training, Continuing  
Education Units and  
other issues  
concerning water  
works operators, plus  
certification rules and  
applications, test  
date/location  
schedules, and Water  
College Workshop,  
Seminar and  
Bookstore  
information.

## MANDATORY DISTRIBUTION CERTIFICATION IS HERE!!!!

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) created to develop draft regulations for water treatment and distribution operator certification has been meeting on a regular basis since fall of 1998. This committee, made up of representatives of California Department of Health Services, CA/NV AWWA (Bill Wulff, Bryan Troupe, and Darcy Burke) and other water organizational, utility, academic, and regulatory personnel, has recently completed work on the initial draft regulations. These have been submitted to the State Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for review. Assuming no major revisions are necessary, the current draft regulations will go into effect as soon as July 1, 2000. The following is a list of some of the more important elements of the new regulations that can be covered in this 30 minute presentation:

- SDWA requirements will affect both the current DOHS treatment operator program and necessitate the development of a distribution operator program.
- All treatment plant and distribution systems will need to be classified as T1-T5 and D1-D5 based upon specific criteria outlined in the regulations.

- All treatment operators will continue to need to be certified for their position requirements. Distribution will be slightly different in that each utility will be required to designate those individuals with DOHS who make process control decisions affecting water quality and/or quantity and thus will be required to be distribution certified.
- Those distribution operators whose only "treatment" charge is to apply or maintain chlorine residual in a distribution system (including wellhead maintenance) will not be required to be dual certified. A single distribution certificate will suffice. Treatment plant operators who utilize SCADA control to make operational changes to the system (beyond simple monitoring) will need to be dual certified.
- Operator-in-charge and shift operators will need to be certified at a level related to their plant or system classification as outlined in the regulations.
- CA/NV AWWA certificate holders will be state certified through reciprocity as outlined in the regulations.
- Grand-parenting (transitional certification) will be available for those not currently CA/NV AWWA certified. Specific limitations will be enforced.
- Specialized and continuing education/training requirements will be mandatory. The first Continuing education/training requirements will be mandatory for the July 1, 2003 renewals. There are specific differences between the two.
- Current proposed schedule of continuing education credits are as follows:

### Continuing Education Credits: (Required each 3 year renewal period)

**Grade 1**  
**12 hours**

**Grade 2**  
**16 hours**

**Grade 3**  
**24 hours**

**Grade 4**  
**36 hours**

**Grade 5**  
**36 hours**

# DISTRIBUTION OPERATORS

## *How will this affect me?*

**AWWA CERTIFIED DISTIBUTION OPERATORS:** If you hold a valid Distribution Operator Certificate through the California – Nevada AWWA section, you will be able to send a copy of your current certification to Department of Health Services and receive California state certification (reciprocity). If you are a CA-NV AWWA Grade I Certified Distribution Operator, you will be certified as a Grade 2 through the state of California. The following table outlines the grade and renewal schedule through the California Department of Health Services for current AWWA Certified Operators ONLY:

<i>CA-NV-AWWA Grade</i>	<i>California State Grade</i>	<i>Expiration / Renewal Date</i>
Grade 1	Grade 2	July 1, 2001
Grade 2	Grade 3	July 1, 2002
Grade 3	Grade 4	July 1, 2003
Grade 4	Grade 5	July 1, 2003

**WATER DISTRIBUTION OPERATORS NOT CURRENTLY CERTIFIED:** If you have not been certified by CA-NV-AWWA as a water distribution operator, your utility must apply for an **INTERIM DISTRIBUTION CERTIFICATE**. Unlike traditional “grandparenting,” an INTERIM water distribution certificate will be valid for 3 years and may only be renewed one time. Renewal is contingent on meeting the continued education requirement for the Certificate Grade level (please see page 1). This type of transitional certification is not transferable.

**VERY SMALL WATER SYSTEMS:** If you are an operator of a VERY SMALL WATER SYSTEM, you may be eligible for **RESTRICTED OPERATOR CERTIFICATION** through the California Department of Health Services. Once the eligibility requirements for this type of certification have been met, the operator must pass a performance test. This Certification is also valid for three years and is NOT transferable to other systems or to other operators.

*For complete details on continuing education requirements, fees, and eligibility please refer to the CA-NV-AWWA WebSite ( [www.ca-nv-awwa.org](http://www.ca-nv-awwa.org) ).*

## ***THERE'S STILL TIME to register!***

***CA-NV Section, AWWA's Intermediate to Advanced Water Distribution Workshop  
Thursday Evenings from May 25, 2000 to August 24, 2000 • 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
This course is good for three (3) Continuing Education Units (CEU's).***

***Visit our website at [www.ca-nv-awwa.org](http://www.ca-nv-awwa.org) for a Registration Form,  
or call the Section office at (909) 481-7200.***

***HURRY! WORKSHOPS SELL OUT FAST!***

# CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All California Department of Health Services Certified Operators will be required to meet Continuing Education Requirements (please see page 1). This applies to both Certified Water Distribution Operators as well as Water Treatment Operators. "Continuing education course" means a presentation given by an approved provider to an operator that transmits information related to the operation of a treatment plant and/or distribution system or that meets the definition of specialized training. If you are required to be DUAL certified in both Treatment and Distribution, you will not be required to double the continuing education requirements. As long as the courses you complete fall within the same renewal period, the courses can count for both certificates. You will need to send proof of course completion with your renewal fee.

For details on water courses available through CA-NV-AWWA, please visit the Water College WebSite ([www.ca-nv-awwa.org](http://www.ca-nv-awwa.org)).

## *How do I Get Certified through CA-NV AWWA?*

Currently, CA-NV-AWWA administers both a Distribution ***Operator*** Certification program and a Distribution ***Associate*** Certification program. The Distribution Operator program will end on December 31, 2000. Levels of education and experience have been determined for each Grade. Applications, test schedules, fees, rules, educational requirements and all other related requirements are available at the CA-NV-AWWA WebSite ([www.ca-nv-awwa.org](http://www.ca-nv-awwa.org)) or through the section office. Simply review the requirements, complete the Distribution Certification Application, and forward the application, fee and required documentation to the Section office a **MINIMUM OF 60 DAYS PRIOR TO THE REQUESTED EXAM DATE**. The Program Administrator reviews each application and all submitted documentation. Based on the information provided, eligibility is determined. Upon qualifying for the exam, you will be notified by mail. **The last exam scheduled for this year is December 29, 2000, in Rancho Cucamonga. The final date for all applications to be received into the Section office is October 29, 2000. NO EXCEPTIONS!** If you have not already started the Certification process, start today! Good Luck!



## Become An AWWA Member!



Membership in AWWA offers many benefits , including:

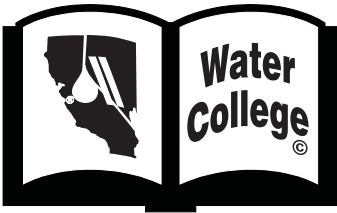
Discounts on training, publications, certification exams, conferences and more.

Information on upcoming events, regulations, and legislation.

SOURCE Magazine, AWWA Journal, and other water-related publications.

For a membership application, visit our website at [www.ca-nv-awwa.org](http://www.ca-nv-awwa.org)

or call the Section office at (909) 481-7200.



# CA-NV Section, AWWA Water College

The California Nevada Section of the American Water Works Association's Board of Directors has founded the CA-NV AWWA Water College. The Water College specializes in water curriculum and instruction. Currently, classes are being offered at the main campus in Rancho Cucamonga, but look for satellite classes to be offered throughout California and Nevada.

The focus of the Water College is to make water education accessible to everyone in the water industry. Unlike other colleges that offer classes only

during traditional semester schedules, the Water College offers classes throughout the year. This is extremely beneficial for those that are preparing to take a certification exam.

As continuing education becomes mandatory for certification renewal, the Water College is seeking out instructors and curriculum to meet the growing demand for water education. Currently, Advanced Water Treatment is being offered in a twelve-week course. Advanced Water Distribution will begin in May. Operator Math, Backflow,

Beginning Water Distribution, required OSHA Safety Courses and Business Management classes are all being scheduled for the near future.

In addition to the water curriculum, the Water College offers a complete bookstore of water and water-related publications. For more information on class schedules, enrollment, bookstore orders, instructors and continuing education units, please visit our website, [www.ca-nv-awwa.org](http://www.ca-nv-awwa.org), or call Darcy Burke, Education Manager, at 909-481-7200.

## CONTACT US

**Website:**

[www.ca-nv-awwa.org](http://www.ca-nv-awwa.org)

**Section Office:**

(909) 481-7200

**Certification Info Line:**

(909) 481-7200 x. 305

**Certification:**

*Shannay Sampson*

(909) 291-2100

[ssampson@ca-nv-awwa.org](mailto:ssampson@ca-nv-awwa.org)

**Water College/Workshop**

**Registration:**

*Nicole Schreuder*

(909) 291-2101

[nschreuder@ca-nv-](mailto:nschreuder@ca-nv-awwa.org)

[awwa.org](http://www.org)

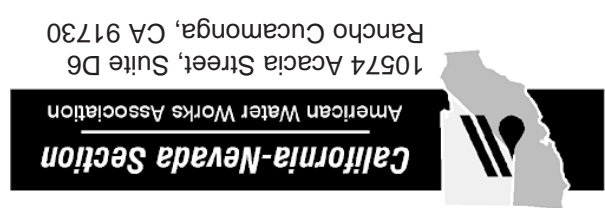
**Education Manager:**

*Darcy Burke*

(909) 291-2102

[dburke@ca-nv-awwa.org](mailto:dburke@ca-nv-awwa.org)

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 251  
Ontario, CA



10574 Acacia Street, Suite D6  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

California-Nevada Section  
American Water Works Association