

# Certification Examiner

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The *Certification Examiner* is a quarterly newsletter for CWEA certificate holders and wastewater industry employers.



**CWEA**

## July '08 Marks the Last Paper-and-Pencil Tests *Computer-based Testing (CBT) Is on the Horizon*

Now that the January Certification exams have taken place, there will be only one more paper-and-pencil exam on July 26, 2008. All future Certification exams will be computer based. The first opportunity you will have to officially test with the new computer-based testing (CBT) system is in January 2009. Throughout 2008 we will be providing you with updates on how to apply and register for a CBT exam.

### CBT Benefits

The major difference between the traditional paper-and-pencil exam and CBT is that CBT is available on a *continuous* basis. That means once you're approved to take a Certification exam, you can schedule to take it anytime as opposed to only in January or July. This new system will make it much more convenient for you to decide what is the best time for you to test, and to plan in advance when to order study guides and take advantage of study sessions.

### Get a Sneak Preview of CBT at AC '08

If you're wondering when you'll have a chance to experience the "look and feel" of CBT, we are planning to have a "live" demo of a test for each vocation at the Annual Conference this April 14 and 15. Following the Conference, the demo will be made available on the CWEA website.

We are also planning to have volunteers at conferences and local section meetings prepared to share the demo with you and answer any questions you may have about CBT.

In the meantime, if you would like to share any questions or comments about CBT with us, please contact us at [tcp@cwea.org](mailto:tcp@cwea.org). Stay tuned for more details about CBT in the coming months.

### Test Question Writers Needed

Now that computer-based testing (CBT) is quickly approaching, we need help from certified wastewater professionals to develop and review test questions before May 2008. People holding certificates from all vocations and grades can play a key role in ensuring that our CBT launch in January 2009 is a resounding success. And if you are planning to attend the Annual Conference this April, you will be able to submit a question on the spot. Plus, you can earn contact hours for your efforts. For more information, please contact us at [tcp@cwea.org](mailto:tcp@cwea.org) or call us at (510) 382-7800, ext. 128.

Don't forget to visit us on the Web at:  
[www.cwea.org/cert](http://www.cwea.org/cert)

## CWEA's New Certification Team Benefits from a Solid Core of Experience

Not only do we have a larger and more functional space as a result of the CWEA staff move in early December, but the Technical Certification Program (TCP) Team has also ushered in the new year with some changes as well: two new members, a recently returned member, a member with a new title, and a leader *emeritus*. On December 3, 2007 **Brian Pedell** joined the team as Director of Certification, enabling **Chris Lundeen**, the former Director of Certification, to embark on his new role as CWEA's Director of Member and Leader Services. In early January, **Leslie Cariño**, who first served on the CWEA staff as Certification Services Specialist from November 2006 to May 2007, rejoined our team in January 2008 as Certification Services Coordinator. And recently, **Vivien Malig** was promoted from Certification Services Testing Coordinator to Certification Supervisor. To round out our new team, **Teresa Montano** has joined us this January to assist Leslie in providing Certification services to our members. We look forward to working together with you in a year where we will all be focusing on some very exciting milestones, like the transition to computer-based testing.

## Renew Your Certificate Online—the Fastest and Easiest Way to Renew!

We thought it would be a good time to remind you that you can renew your CWEA certificate online with a credit card on CWEA's website. And you are able to do this up to three months before your actual renewal date. The real advantage of renewing online is that processing is one to two weeks faster than if you were to mail your renewal in. And you don't need to wait for us to process your credit card information; you can take advantage of our easy-to-use online form to enter all the necessary information.

The online renewal process has been designed with ease of use in mind. All certificate holders are sent reminders that include instructions on how to log in to our secure web site. Once you're logged in, the average renewal process takes less than five minutes, and after the transaction is complete, your renewed certificate is immediately updated in our certification database.

### Don't Forget to Send Us Your Contact-Hour Documentation First

Remember, to begin the certificate renewal process, your contact hour documentation has to be up to date.

If your renewal notice indicates that you have a contact-hour requirement to fulfill, you need to first send your contact-hour documentation to CWEA for approval. As soon as we receive copies of your documentation and approve your contact hours, you can proceed with renewing your certificate online.

### You Can Still Renew with a Check or Money Order

As always, certificate holders still have the option to pay for renewals by check or money order. Just mail in your payment along with copies of your contact-hour documentation.

### CWEA Technical Certification Program Executive Committee (2007–2008)

#### Chair

Michael Creel      CSDLAC

#### Vice Chair

Jody Allen      South Placer MUD

#### Southern CA Liaison

Simon Watson      Orange County SD

#### Northern CA Liaison

Lenny Rather      Oro Loma SD

## Certification and Training Calendar

### April 13-16

**CWEA Annual Conference “Stepping Up to the Challenge”**  
Sacramento, CA

*Don't forget to stop by the CWEA TCP booth in the Exhibition Hall to take the CBT demo.*

Also choose from 50 technical sessions (that's more than 150 presentations!), and earn up to 34.9 contact hours. You will also be able to attend specialty workshops on Collection Systems, Methyl Mercury, Plan/Blueprint Reading, Sanitary Sewer Overflow/Waste Discharge Requirements, and Sewer System Management Plans. For those who want to get an early start in preparing for the July Certification tests, don't miss out on the Collections Math Workshop on Sunday, April 13, from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. This session will cover all levels of math theory and practice for CSM.

### April 30

Technical Certification Exam Application Deadline  
(for last paper-and-pencil exam on July 26)

### July 26

Technical Certification Examinations  
(Next Certification exams will be computer based and start in January 2009.)

### September 7-9

Northern Regional Training Conference  
Sparks, NV

### September 25-27

Tri-State Seminar  
Primm, NV

### CWEA Staff

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## Wondering about Your January TCP Exam Results?

If you took a Certification exam on January 26, 2008, you may have already received your results. If you haven't, be assured that all test score report letters for these exams will be mailed no later than Saturday, March 8. To find out if your report letter is on its way, you can access mailing status information directly on our website via the following link:

[www.cwea.org/cert\\_howcert\\_testresults\\_scoringcalendar.shtml](http://www.cwea.org/cert_howcert_testresults_scoringcalendar.shtml)

Or, if you happen to be visiting the CWEA home page:

1. Click on the **Certification** tab and select **How to become certified**.
2. On the *How to become certified* page, click on the [Test Scoring Status](#) link. The Results Status table will be displayed, and you can see in the Result Letter Mailed column if reports have been mailed for your vocation and grade.

If you would like to check the actual mailing dates for report letters, click on the [Results Mailing Calendar](#) link on the *How to become certified* page.

The test results calendar will be updated twice a week, so don't hesitate to check it regularly.

**Remember:** If your mailing address has changed recently, please contact us at [tcp@cwea.org](mailto:tcp@cwea.org) or call us at (510) 382-7800, x119 with your updated information.



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