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Gray Davis
Governor

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website at www.swrcb.ca.gov.

Dear Wastewater Colleague:

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

As you are aware, the California economy has been seriously impacted by the events of the last year. At the state level, we have had to examine our budgets and make tough decisions with regards to spending cuts. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is not exempt from this difficult process. One of the cuts the SWRCB has had to make concerns the Operator Certification Program.

Effective immediately, the Operator Certification Program is being discontinued. Please rest assured that anyone who took the October 5, 2002, examination will have their tests graded and receive their results in accordance with our past practices. For anyone who submitted a certification fee and has not received a certificate, our Division of Administrative Services will send you a refund check. Any fees and applications still in the mail to the Operator Certification Program will be returned to you.

It is my hope that another state agency or an industry association may consider taking over the program. The Operator Certification Program has been an important part of the SWRCB for almost 30 years. It is only the difficult financial situation we are facing that makes this decision necessary.

We will sponsor legislation in the 2003-2004 session of the Legislature to repeal Water Code sections 13625-13633, which establish the Operator Certification Program at the SWRCB. Repeal of those sections will also delete sections 3670-3919.19, Title 23, of the California Code of Regulations.

Sincerely,

Celeste Cantú
Executive Director