



International Erosion Control Association

Serving Erosion Control Professionals in Arizona, California, Nevada, and Hawaii

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Western Chapter Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you, your families, and colleagues safe and healthy.

Spring is virtually here; and I, for one, am excited about the longer days and opportunities that lie ahead. We as a Chapter, have so much to be thankful for and to look forward to. As we look back on the challenges and disruptions that we all faced in 2020 in terms of how we communicate with each other in our businesses, I think there are many positives and lessons learned that everyone could build on both professionally and personally. For example, virtual technology platforms have

continued advancing our learning and education. Our Chapter board meetings have successfully stayed on task because of these virtual technology platforms, aiding in our planning and discussions. They have also been a key driver in how we deliver education and training for our members. On a personal note, the more time spent out of the office has allowed me greater family time and opportunities to find new hobbies.

The IECA Annual Conference and Expo was held last month on February 22-25, 2021 and was a co-located event with the Geosynthetics Conference. Due to the current pandemic, this was an all-virtual event. The training and education that was delivered by IECA during the Conference was exceptional. A big thank you to all those who organized and planned the event and to all the speakers who participated in delivering so many outstanding educational topics. The great news is that if you missed any of the educational sessions, as a Western Chapter member, you could still access them through the [IECA website](#). All sessions will remain active through May 1, 2021.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who attended this year's Chapter meeting during the IECA Conference. We had a packed "virtual" house and enjoyable interaction. Our board members put together some fun games that made the virtual Chapter meeting one to remember. We also had a special guest attend, former IECA President Adam Dibble, who announced during our Chapter meeting that the Western Chapter had been awarded the Chapter "Leadership Award" for its work on our strategic planning development and implementation. This framework will allow the Chapter to continue to grow and help improve our leadership for its members. A very heart-felt thank you to our board members, both past and present, for your leadership and commitment to the Chapter's future and success. The WCIECA is committed to providing quality member services and relevant education; and is a conduit to the marketplace for products and services and regulatory information that affects our industry.

Sincerely,
Danny Reynaga, CPESC, QSD
President – Western Chapter IECA



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THE NPDES CONSTRUCTION GENERAL PERMIT RENEWAL PROCESS

The National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) was created in 1972 by the Clean Water Act (CWA), and one way to aid in addressing water pollution is by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants to waters of the United States through the issuance of Construction General Permits (CGP) for stormwater and some non-stormwater discharges.

The NPDES regulations at 40 CFR 122.41 and 122.42 require that certain “standard conditions” be placed in all NPDES permits. The regulations allow States to change or omit these standard conditions only if the change or omission results in more stringent requirements. State-issued permits do not have to be same as the EPA-issued requirements. State-issued permits do not have to be same as the EPA-issued permits for stormwater discharges from construction activities if the requirements under the CWA are met. States may adopt requirements that may be more appropriate to address discharges in their state. Although states may issue CGP requirements that differ from EPA’s, many states CGPs include the same requirements and content issued in the EPA’s permit. The CWA limits the length of CGPs to five years. The NPDES administrative procedures require that the public be notified and allowed to comment on Permit reissuances. Taking an active role in the renewal and of your State’s NPDES Permit may play a vital role in how you and your industry are regulated. Typically, every State will follow the EPA issue and renewal process. The following includes information available on the EPA permit website that applies to State permitting processes also.



Kim Aldrich, CPESC
Regional Env. Manager
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Step #1: Notice and Comment of Proposed Permit Action

Once the permit writer(s) finishes drafting the Construction General Permit (CGP), the permitting authority initiates a public notice period (of at least 30 days) during which any interested person may submit written comments on the draft CGP and accompanying fact sheet and/or request a public hearing on the draft CGP. It is important as an industry; we get involved in the public notice and comment period and NPDES permitting process. Renewal involvement is one of the most significant opportunities for the regulated community to help shape the terms of the CGP.

Step #2: Permit Review, Approval, and Renewal Process:

Following the notice and comment period, the permitting authority reviews all comments and based on an evaluation of the comments, decides whether to renew the permit as is or to modify language. Following the notice and comment period and prior to permit renewal, the permitting authority is required to respond to all significant comments and explain any changes made to the draft permit. Responses to comments are publicly available from the offices of the permitting authority.

Process for Requesting a Public Hearing:

Anyone may request a public hearing on a draft permit during the public comment period by submitting a written statement, to the State permitting department, that describes the issues proposed to be raised at the hearing. A public hearing will be held if the State finds that there is significant public interest. The permitting authority may also decide to hold a public hearing at its discretion. A public hearing must be given at least 30 days before the hearing takes place and may be combined with the public notice of the draft permit. The comment period will be automatically extended until the close of the hearing or longer.

Step #3: Permit Renewal Appeals Process:

A final permit can be challenged by submitting an appeal to the permitting agency. Generally, to appeal a permit, the person appealing the permit must have either submitted comments on the draft permit or participated in a public hearing on that permit. Once an appeal has been resolved, the Agency’s final decision may be challenged in court.

THE NPDES CONSTRUCTION GENERAL PERMIT RENEWAL PROCESS CONTINUED

How Can I Find Information on Draft Permits?

Members of the public may review agency public notices that include a copy of the CGP. By becoming involved early in the permitting process, you can have a greater opportunity to prepare and to provide comments on the draft permit either in writing or at public hearings.

How Can I Submit Public Comments on an NPDES Permit?

Check the permitting agency's website for contact information (it may be listed under stormwater program, construction general permit, NPDES etc.). Most states receive comments by online comments, email, or regular mail. In addition, the EPA NPDES website includes state program contact information. Your local Building Industry Association may have resources and organized stakeholder groups who participate in the CGP review and you can become involved with their process.

The table below outlines the CGP durations and renewal dates within the WCIECA Region. If you take an active role in the issuance of your NPDES Permit will ensure your voice is heard and help determine the future of stormwater compliance for you individually as well as the entire construction industry.

Permit Expiration Dates and Status

State	Permit Issued	Permit Expires	Status	Contact
Arizona	03/27/2020	06/30/2025	Effective 07/01/2020	Permit Liaison: 602-771-4416 Christopher Henninger, henninger.christopher@azdeq.gov
California	2009	2014	Preliminary Staff Draft Released and workshops started 12/2020	Brandon Roosenboom, Water Resource Control Engineer brandon.roosenboom@waterboards.ca.gov
Hawaii	02/09/2019	02/08/2024	Effective 02/09/2019	Clean Water Branch - CleanWaterBranch@doh.hawaii.gov (808) 586-4309
Nevada	01/05/2015	01/04/2020	2015 CGP administratively continued- awaiting renewal draft.	Bureau of Water Pollution Control Peter Lassaline - Stormwater Permit Writer plassaline@ndep.nv.gov 775-687-9569

More information:

AZ: <https://www.azdeq.gov/AZPDES/CGP>

CA: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/construction/general_permit_reissuance.html

HI: <https://health.hawaii.gov/cwb/permitting/general-permits/>

NV: <https://ndep.nv.gov/water/water-pollution-control/permitting/stormwater-discharge-permits/construction-sites-greater-than-1-acre>

LONG-TERM MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: JULIE ETRA

Julie Etra graduated in 1978, Magna Cum Laude, from the University of Colorado, Boulder with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Biology and a minor in Geology. She continued her education at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, where she graduated in 1983 with a master's degree in Crop and Soil Science. In 1985, Julie founded and managed Tahoe Native Plants (TNP). TNP provided landscape design and installation, emphasizing the use of native plants. Concurrent with running TNP, Julie worked for the U.S. Forest Management Unit, from 1984 to 1987 as a Botanist, Revegetation Specialist in the Watershed Department. Building on her experience at TNP, Julie designed and implemented revegetation projects, and subsequent monitoring programs to evaluate the degree of success achieved.



Julie is currently the President of Western Botanical Services, Inc. (WBS), which she founded in 1994 in Reno, Nevada. Julie has received 15 Tahoe Regional Planning Agency 'Best of Basin' Awards, several from both the International Erosion Control Association (IECA) and Washoe County. She is bi-lingual (English and Spanish) and has authored numerous publications in both languages.

With this wide breadth of experience, Julie found the most interesting and difficult job to design and oversee was the Upper Truckee Marsh Restoration Project, which is currently under construction. Also, as a fun fact about her, Julie thought she would be a musician, and started college as a Music and Fine Arts Major. Julie played fiddle and sang backup for a rockabilly band in Boulder, Colorado, as "Barb" of the band "Barbed Wire and the Fence Posts".

Western Chapter would like to thank Julie for her continued support of Western Chapter IECA as one of our long-term members.



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REGIONAL NEWS FROM IECA

Top News

[3 CA dams seen as imminent hazards](#)

Millions of Southern Californians could face severe flooding if any of three dams judged structurally unsafe should fail, according to federal engineers. The dams -- Whittier Narrows, Prado, and Mojave River -- were built 50 to 80 years ago and are now deemed "high urgency structures," in part because their designs did not take into account 21st century weather extremes due to climate change. **Full Story:** [Los Angeles Times \(tiered subscription model\)](#) (2/10)

[Plans to restore Los Angeles' wetlands advance](#)

California plans to restore the ecological function of a complex of coastal wetlands between Playa del Rey and Marina del Rey in Los Angeles County. Pending final design and associated approvals, the project will cover 566 acres in a wetland area that once spread over 2,000 acres of marshes, mud flats, salt pans and sand dunes. **Full Story:** [The Associated Press](#) (12/31)

POLICY & REGULATION

[EPA withdraws CA salt pond protection challenge](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency has reversed course and withdrawn an appeal that challenged whether salt ponds in Redwood City, CA, are protected under the federal Clean Water Act. Although the EPA will no longer appeal a federal ruling that the salt ponds qualify for protection as "waters of the United States," property owner Cargill has proposed to develop the area and will not withdraw its appeal. **Full Story:** [KTVU-TV \(Oakland, CA\)](#) (2/27)

[House bill focuses on San Francisco's environment](#)

A bill introduced in Congress would allocate \$50 million annually for five years for environmental work in the San Francisco Bay Area. The bill would set up a local program office in the Environmental Protection Agency whose mission would focus on the health of wetlands, estuaries, wildlife, and water quality in the Bay Area. **Full Story:** [KNTV-TV \(San Francisco\)](#) (1/30)

[Cost estimate soars for Honolulu flood project](#)

The US Army Corps of Engineers now estimates the cost of Hawaii's Ala Wai flood prevention project at \$650 million, nearly double the original estimate. The rising cost is attributed in part to redesigns to reduce the effects on residential properties and natural streams. **Full Story:** [KHNL-TV/KGMB-TV \(Honolulu\)](#) (1/22), [The Associated Press](#) (1/24)

[Development near CA wetlands clears one hurdle](#)

A judge has rejected a lawsuit to block a residential development near wetlands in Newark, CA. Two environmental groups will now turn to regional regulatory agencies in hopes of halting the project. **Full Story:** [San Jose Mercury News \(CA\) \(tiered subscription model\)](#) (12/29)

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REGIONAL NEWS FROM IECA

EROSION/SEDIMENT CONTROL

Measure sought to deter pool drainage into AZ washes

The flood control district in Maricopa County, AZ, wants the city to pass an ordinance that would forbid releasing water from pools and spas onto the Santa Rosa Wash and other city washes. Repairing the damage from such releases is costly because of the equipment and materials required, and diverts money from projects such as trash removal, says Executive Director David Alley. **Full Story:** [InMaricopa \(AZ\)](#) (3/2)

Plantings proposed to secure CA beach bluff

A project to use native plants to secure the bluff along California's Beacon's Beach will be reviewed by the Encinitas Planning Commission this week. "The overall goal of the restoration program is to create a self-sustaining, native southern coastal bluff scrub habitat that will stabilize soils, lessen erosion along the bluff and trail and enable continued access to Beacon's Beach along the existing trail," the project file says. **Full Story:** [The Coast News \(Encinitas, CA\)](#) (2/10)

Watershed project finished in Hawaii

More than 15,000 feet of fencing for grazing and a new water trough for cattle have been installed with the completion of the PelekaHne Watershed project in Hawaii. The work included the designation of photo points to monitor vegetation and virtual events to educate members of the community. **Full Story:** [Big Island Video News \(Hawaii\)](#) (2/1)

Researchers look for insight on wildfires, mudslides

Researchers from the University of California, San Diego, are performing both terrestrial and extraterrestrial soil experiments to develop new tools for the fight against mudslides. "Gravity plays a big role in mudslides, but we do not understand it," UCSD structural engineer Ingrid Tomac said. **Full Story:** [The Stormwater Report \(Water Environment Federation\)](#) (1/6)

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2021 Annual Meeting of the Members Recap

The 2021 IECA Annual Meeting of the Members took place during the IECA Virtual Annual Conference on February 24. The outgoing IECA President of IECA Region 1, CEO and new President of the newly reunified IECA, discussed exciting new opportunities for members, in addition to taking a look at the past, present and future of the association. Please click [here](#) to view this year's meeting.

2020 IECA Annual Report

The 2020 IECA Annual Report is available for download to learn more about the highlights of the last year.

[Download Report](#)

REGIONAL NEWS FROM IECA

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

[Stormwater project strikes discord in CA county](#)

Los Angeles County Public Works and five local cities are planning a stormwater project that would use up to four acres of the 127-acre Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden for groundwater recharge ponds and a pump station. The group hopes to break ground within the next couple of years, but arboretum officials and supporters have pushed back against the plan. **Full Story:** [Los Angeles Times \(tiered subscription model\)](#) (1/17)

[Federal funds to benefit 11 NV water projects](#)

Eleven water quality projects across Nevada stand to benefit from \$1 million in Clean Water Act grant funds. Projects that will receive funding include those designed to curb pollution in Lake Tahoe when rain, snowmelt, and irrigation water rushes over developed or otherwise disturbed land. **Full Story:** [The Tahoe Daily Tribune \(CA\)](#) (1/8)

WETLANDS & COASTAL RESTORATION

[Environmental report cleared for CA wetland project](#)

Plans to restore California's Los Cerritos Wetlands advanced with the LCW Authority's approval of an environmental impact report. Another study will be required before work can proceed on the project, which has raised some concerns over the possible destruction of some types of wetland habitat and the cultural rights of indigenous people. **Full Story:** [Gazette Newspapers \(Long Beach, CA\)](#) (1/8)

MS4 MANAGEMENT

[Court turns away CA city's MS4 challenge](#)

An appeals court recently turned away a challenge by the city of Duarte, CA, regarding MS4 costs. The city argued that the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board had not fully taken compliance costs into account before issuing permits, but the court held that water boards aren't required to provide detailed compliance costs analysis for permittees. **Full Story:** [JD Supra/Perkins Coie](#) (3/9)

Check out the [IECA Resource Library](#) and [eHub](#) for all your educational needs!

You did not miss out – our past webinar can be viewed on-demand.



Continuing Education: 4 PDH
Cost: FREE to Members | \$45 Nonmember
Go to <https://ehub.ieca.org/p/Western2020> for info!

UPCOMING WEBINARS, TRAININGS, DATES, & MEETINGS

March 24, 2021 **Performance-Based Design & Installation Standard for Sediment Basins. Virtual** 12:00PM - 1:00PM Central Time, Free to Members. [Register here!](#)

March 24, 2021 **Virtual Dust Workshop** 8:30 AM MST to 12 PM MST (Arizona). Join the Arizona Department of Transportation, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, NOAA National Weather Service offices in Phoenix and Tucson along with other local, state, and federal safety agencies for this virtual meeting. [Register](#) as there is a Google Meet 250 participant limit. The workshop [agenda](#) is now available. Google Meet: meet.google.com/vbu-ibht-zqy.

May 13, 2021 **Tentative Date! Stormwater and Air Quality Compliance on Construction Sites - Through Teamwork – Virtual.**

June 4, 2021 **[Deadline for Abstract Submissions.](#)** 2022 IECA Annual Conference and Expo. February 15-18, 2022 | Minneapolis Convention Center | Minneapolis, Minnesota.



IECA PARTNERS FOR EXCELLENCE PROGRAM WINNER!

The purpose of the IECA Partners for Excellence Program is to recognize and reward IECA chapters that have taken the initiative to better serve not only the members of their chapters, but also the public in general. Innovation, chapter involvement, measurable results and application are key criteria. We are looking for both process improvements and best practice or model programs to award and recognize. Read through these best practice programs and apply them at your chapter!

2021 Winner for Outstanding Leadership

Development: Western Chapter

[Leadership Development: Western Chapter](#)
(Adobe PDF File)

Leadership Development: Activities which encourage strong leadership at a chapter level, including volunteer recruitment, developing new leaders, and chapter succession planning would be included in this category.

THANK YOU TO OUR VIRTUAL CONNECTION SPEAKERS!



Michael Harding -
Environmental Scientist

Todd Thalmer, PE -
CalRecycle

Radley Ott, P.E., M.S. -
Assistant Director, Butte
County Department of Public
Works

Pete Cafferata - Watershed
Protection Program Manager,
California Department of
Forestry and Fire Protection

Logan Moore - Landscape
Architect, DOT District 2

Brandon Coppedge and **Jay
Selby** - Selby's Soil | SSEC
APEX



PROFESSIONAL LISTINGS

Dirttime.tv is an affiliated brand of [Salix Applied Earthcare LLC](#), formed in 1996 by John McCullah. John has been involved in Watershed Management for 30 years, becoming a certified erosion specialist in 1986. The firm's work involves consulting, training, design/build of stream restoration, bioengineering, education, and awareness. Salix published design guidance manuals, books, popular and technical articles, and informative case studies. Dirttime.tv has produced over 40 Dirt Time videos. Selecting and watching the clips of your choice then taking tests online is a popular way to earn CEUs. Visit www.dirttime.tv regularly for 'how to' info, tips, and blogs.

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Kelley Erosion Control, Inc. established in 1983 is recognized throughout Nevada and California as a leader in the industry. KEC has an excellent reputation known for quality, competency, solutions, innovative ideas, cutting edge technology, excellence, and client satisfaction. Services include: Hydroseeding, site preparation, dust control applications, BMP's, revegetation and project maintenance, site winterization, wetland mitigation, stream channel stabilization, planting and irrigation, mining reclamation, soil stabilizer applications, biotechnical applications, and fire restoration/rehabilitation. Phone (775) 322-7755 Fax (775) 322-6606. Contact – Claudia Chambers CPESC, CISEC, QSP Claudia@kelleyerosioncontrol.com. Visit us at www.kelleyerosioncontrol.com.

Linwood Supply, Inc. distributes the tools you need for Erosion Control and Storm Water Management including Erosion Control Blankets, TRM and HP-TRM, HydroFiber™, Coir products, organic fertilizers, native and grass seed, plus, for oil spill remediation, Rubberizer booms, mats, and filters. Other services include written pesticide recommendations and soil testing. We will always provide you with the level of service and professionalism you deserve. Linwood Supply, Inc. is a certified small business based in California. ***If Your Storm Water is as Clear as Mud™*** – Please call us at 707 678-5087 or visit us at www.linwoodsupply.com.

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Nedia Enterprises manufactures a complete line of erosion control, sediment control, and bioengineering products made primarily from natural fibers. Committed to the conservation of the environment, we are constantly striving to develop products that contribute to its enhancement and protection. Our products are subject to stringent quality control measures that meet or exceed industry standards. **Nedia** offers sound technical advice on product selection and installation with a thorough understanding of the benefits and limitations of the products. A large inventory of products in several distribution centers across the country facilitates cost-effective and timely delivery of our products. Contact 888-725-6999 or email info@nedia.com.

Rocky Mountain Bio Products supplies organic bio-fertilizers, natural soil conditioners and soil amendments. Biosol Forte is an organic fungal and bacterial biomass from the penicillin production, with a unique, stable, and long-lasting nutrients for rebuilding all types of soil for revegetation. Menefee Humate is a natural soil conditioner for plant cell and root development. MycoApply mycorrhizae fungus is the amendment that aids in expanding the plant's root mass 100 to 1000 times larger which helps plants be healthier and handle environmental stress. Our PermaMatrix is a Biotic Soil Amendment, is a topsoil replacement/alternative. **Visit:** www.WEFIXDIRT.com for product and distributor information.

PROFESSIONAL LISTINGS CONTINUED

Pacific Coast Seed is Northern California's premier supplier of CA native grasses and wildflowers, turf grass seed, and other erosion control materials such as fertilizers, mulches, and soil amendments. We provide seed and other materials for diverse applications including restoration, reclamation, revegetation, ornamental landscaping, and erosion control. We offer specialty seed collection from site-specific sources. For more information check out our website www.pcseed.com or contact us at 925-373-4417 or info@pcseed.com.

Filtrexx is the leader in sustainable products for erosion & sediment control in industries like commercial construction, homebuilding, post-fire remediation, power & utility, solar, municipalities, DOT, and more. SiltSoxx™ compost filter socks are a high-performance, passive filtration BMP that comply with most state and federal agencies including USEPA, AASHTO, USDA NRCS and US ACE. Also available in two 100% natural, biodegradable mesh materials, eliminating the need for field removal – SiltSoxx NATURAL ORIGINAL and SiltSoxx NATURAL PLUS. Visit www.filtrexx.com for free design & installation specifications, CADs, submittal forms, and webinar training.

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NV5 is a multi-disciplinary engineering company that is a one stop for most of your development and engineering needs. Engineering and Professional Services include (but not limited to): Civil, Environmental, Construction, Mechanical, Survey, Building Inspection, Geophysical and Geospatial Surveys. With offices in Arizona, Nevada, California, and throughout the country, we are here to serve all your environmental and engineering needs. In the Erosion and Sediment Control Industry we focus on SWPPP compliance services (CA QSDs and QSPs, owner representation, inspection services, LID/WQMP engineering designs, etc.). Contact the Long Beach, California office for more specific details. 562-495-5777 Matthew.Renaud@nv5.com.

HEADS UP! [2022 IECA Annual Conference and Expo](https://www.ieca.org/conference) February 15-18, 2022 | Minneapolis Convention Center | Minneapolis, Minnesota

2023 – Pacific Northwest