



Take Your Career to the Next Level



TECHNICAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

WELCOME TO THE



TECHNICAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

CWEA is the trusted organization advocating for and empowering wastewater professionals like you to **protect California's most critical resource**. As your go-to source for professional growth, CWEA is dedicated to providing the most valuable industry certifications, training, and networking opportunities.

Our extensive **CWEA Technical Certification Program** is built around your major career milestones, serving as a roadmap to achieving your professional goals. Trusted by more than 6,000 wastewater professionals across California, CWEA's certification program provides assurance of professional competency,

training, and safe work practices. The program is available to both CWEA members and nonmembers. Learn more at **cert.cwea.org**.



Photos by Joe Zumbo, Central San

Why Become Certified?



Prove your **competency**

“Certification helps assure regulators and the public alike that those in the industry possess the skills and expertise necessary to manage public assets efficiently, effectively, and in the best interest of the public and the environment.”

- **KEVIN STREET**
Manager, Wastewater Operations
City of Riverside



Accelerate
your career

“My experience volunteering for CWEA pulled me out of my comfort zone and forced me to overcome my fears. All in all, this role helped me grow personally and professionally. So much so, I recently accepted the nomination of Vice Chair for the TCP Executive Committee.”

- **ABIGAIL GOMEZ**
Supervisor, Environmental Control
City of Fontana



Advance
your industry

“I enjoy being a CWEA volunteer for the opportunity to meet and compare job specs with fellow wastewater professionals and the sense of pride that I get being able to help out with projects that are moving our profession forward.”

- **DAVE ALASKIN**
Senior Technician, SacSewer
City of Long Beach



Meet industry **standards**

“Since CWEA certification is widely accepted as the industry standard for Collection Systems, I know that it is something that will benefit me throughout my career.”

- **JENNIFER ROJAS**
Superintendent, Sewer Operations
City of Long Beach



Become an
expert

“I have found CWEA certified workers are safer, smarter, and more creative in developing solutions. CWEA plays a huge role.”

- **PHIL SCOTT**
General Manager (retired)
West Bay Sanitary District

Certification Options for a Diverse Industry

CWEA is proud to offer certification programs for wastewater professionals across California's vast wastewater industry. Each program includes increasingly advanced Grade options that demonstrate your mastery of new skills to unlock new opportunities. Many wastewater professionals collect multiple certifications to demonstrate to employers they are willing to master new skills and are ready for a promotion. Explore our five core CWEA certification tracks below.



COLLECTION SYSTEM MAINTENANCE (CSM)

Certifies wastewater collections operators employed by municipal agencies and city public works departments. CSM professionals perform skilled tasks in the construction, maintenance, and repair of sewer systems and storm drains.



LABORATORY ANALYST (LAB)

Certifies laboratory analysts who perform hands-on work in water and wastewater laboratories. LAB professionals analyze water quality, biological activity, and check for pollutants to optimize the treatment process and meet regulatory requirements.



MECHANICAL TECHNOLOGIST (MT)

Certifies mechanics performing preventive, routine, and emergency maintenance, as well as repair for a variety of components and systems. MT professionals use complex tools and equipment and train in specialized technical skills.



**ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPLIANCE
INSPECTOR (ECI)**

Certifies compliance inspectors overseeing industrial, commercial, and municipal activities. ECI professionals ensure compliance with EPA, State Water Board, Regional Water Board, and local regulations and ordinances.



**ELECTRICAL/
INSTRUMENTATION
TECHNICIAN (EIT)**

Certifies technicians who install and maintain various electronic monitoring and communication equipment. E/I professionals are responsible for systems at treatment plants, pump stations, power generating facilities, and electrical substations.



**ADVANCED WATER
TREATMENT OPERATOR™
(AWTO™)**

Offered in Partnership with CA-NV AWWA. AWT Operators protect public health by ensuring a supply of safe and high-quality drinking water from advanced water reuse facilities. The future of water is here - get AWTO™ certified! Learn more at awtoperator.org.



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Find the full list of CWEA certifications at cert.cwea.org/certifications.

GRADE 1



Entry-level

GRADE 2



Journey

GRADE 3



Lead

GRADE 4



Manager

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Meet CWEA's Certificate Holders



Being able to save the day for a consumer by fixing a broken pipe or clearing a line for them is always rewarding. - Alondra Soto, Long Beach Water Department CSM 2



I realized that I had the opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way to the public sector. This is an important industry filled with really great people. - Howard Brewen, City of San Luis Obispo CSM 2



It is nice to realize there are people like us giving back by delivering clean water and preventing pollution. - Amber Baylor, South Orange County, Lab 4



I am thankful to have the opportunity to work in a great environment with talented people. - Theodore Higgins, Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation ECI 1

Get Started Today on Your Path to Certification

Wherever you are in your wastewater career, now is the perfect time to keep growing your skills and qualifications. No matter the vocation, your certification journey with CWEA will follow this simple path:

1
STEP

Explore your options and decide which certification and Grade are right for you. Your selection should fit within your vocational track and you must meet the program's minimum qualifications regarding professional experience.

2
STEP

Submit your application. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis year - round. The application deadlines and exam windows for each certification can be found at cert.cwea.org/apply.

3
STEP

Pass the exam, which is experience-based and will measure your knowledge of the job. Use our vocation-specific CWEA handbooks to prepare. After you pass, you're officially certified!

Specific program details and policies, qualifying criteria, fees, exam logistics, and all application materials are available at cert.cwea.org/apply.

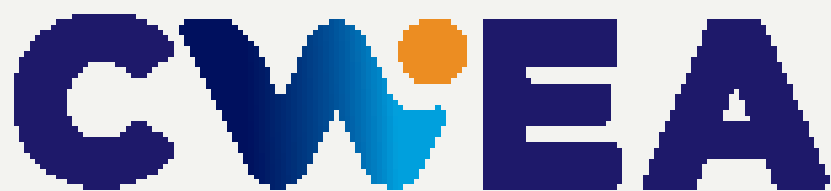
**For additional support or questions,
contact our team:**

CWEA CERTIFICATION TEAM

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**TECHNICAL
CERTIFICATION
PROGRAM**

**PROTECTING CALIFORNIA'S MOST
CRITICAL RESOURCE**