Environmental Design RFI Questions and Responses

Record Number	Submitted By	Date Submitted	Reviewed By	Date Reviewed	Attachments (Yes/No)	Question	Response	Comments
37	UCI	1/29/2026	Giselle Sandoval	2/9/2026	No	Is the system being constructed before PSWS and if so does the system have to be fully dry at PSWS if we are implementing plants in our design?	Yes, teams are allowed and encouraged to contruct and pre-operate (pre-mature) their system prior to PSWS, including establishing plants and microbial activity. (Sections 1-2) The system does not need to be full dry upon arrival at PSWS. It is acceptable for the wetland to contain water to support plants or biolofical maturation, provided that the five gallons of provided influent are treated during the designated 20-minute operation window on Competition Day. (Section %)	
38	UCI	1/29/2026	Giselle Sandoval	2/9/2026	No	Does the 50 cm height constraint include the inlet and outlet? Can the entire system be raised such that the outlet is below the system and not included in the 50cm constraint?	Yes, the 50 cm maximum system height includes the contructed wetland structure and all plumbing or hardware required for treatment, including inlet and outlet componenets (Section 5). The system may not be raised in a way that excludes the outlet from the height consttraint. Any supports, legs, or structural elements used to elevate the system for operation or effluent collection are considered part of the system and must be included within the 50 cm height limit. Vegatation may extend about 50 cm, provided the system remins stable and safe.	
39	UCI	1/29/2026	Giselle Sandoval	2/9/2026	No	Do we need to submit a cost analysis for the small system?	No. A cost analysis for the small-scale system is not required. Designs will be evaluated based on performance, engineering rationale, and applicability to constructed wetland systems under municipal conditions. Material selections should reflect practical and scalable implementation considerations (Section 8). Cost estimation is not listed as a required deliverable in the rules or Q&A, but designs that demonstrate high performance with minimal resource intensity are particularly encouraged.	
40	SDSU	1/29/2026	Giselle Sandoval	2/9/2026	No	Does the maximum height of 50 cm include the legs the system will sit on)if any) in order to make effluent collection easier?	Yes, the 50 cm maximum system height applies to the constructed wetland structure and all components required for treatment, including any legs, supports, inlet, or outlet hardware used to position the system for operation or effluent collection (Section 5). Vegetation may extend above 50 cm, provided the system remains stable and safe.	
41	UCLA	1/30/2026	Giselle Sandoval	2/9/2026	No	Section 4 of the competition rules states that teams will be provided with a standardized RO-reject feedwater representative of municipal conditions, with approximate characteristics including TDS ≈ 9,000 mg/L, TOC ≈ 50 mg/L, pH ≈ 7.5, and TSS < 5 mg/L. To ensure that teams are accurately designing and testing their bench-scale systems prior to competition, please clarify whether there is a specific list of contaminants or constituent compounds that teams may use to mock the influent during pre-competition testing. Reference Section 3-4	No, beyond the bulk characteristics, the competition rules do not procide a prescreibed list of specific contaminants or constituent compounds for teams to use when mocking influent during pre-competition testing. For bench-scale preparation, teams may define and justify a representative municipal RO-reject composition using literature or municipal RO-concentrate data, provided their mock influent is consistent with the stated bulk targets and assumptions are clearly documented (Sections 3–4). The standardized feedwater used on competition day will be prepared by the organizers to meet the published bulk characteristics, but its detailed formulation may vary within realistic municipal ranges. Teams should therefore focus on sound engineering logic and system robustness, rather than designing to a single fixed influent recipe.	
42	UCLA	1/30/2026	Giselle Sandoval	2/9/2026	No	Additionally, can the organizing committee provide guidance on the expected ionic or chemical composition of the Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) (e.g., relative contributions of chloride, sulfate, sodium, calcium, etc.), or confirm whether teams may define and justify their own representative TDS composition based on literature or municipal RO-reject data? Reference Section 3-4	The organizing committee will not provide a prescribed ionic or chemical breakdown of the TDS. As outlined in Sections 3-4, teams are expected to define and justify a representative TDS composition based on literature values or municipal RO-reject data for the purposes of system design and analysis. The standardized feedwater used on competition day will be prepared by the organizers to meet the published bulk characteristics, but its detailed formulation may vary within realistic municipal ranges.	
43	CSULB	1/5/2026	Estefania Ayala	2/9/2026	No	Our understanding is that the maximum team size for the competition is 5 members. Aside from this set number, can the team have additional non-competing students who contribute to the project prior to competition? If so, can we include the name of the contributors along with the 5 offical members on the design report and poster board, or list the contributors seperately?	Per Section 11, the official competition team is limited to four competing members plus one optional Project Manager (maximum of five total official members). Only these offical memebers may construct, operate, and represent the team during the competition and judge discussion session. The rules do not prohibit additional non-competing contributors from assisting prior to competition. However, only the offical members constitute the competition team. Teams may acknowledge additional contributors seperately in the report or poster (e.g. in an acknowledgement section), but they are not considered official team members under the competition rules.	