Environmental Design RFI Questions and Responses

Record Number	Submitted By	Date Submitted	Reviewed By	Date Reviewed	Attachments (Yes/No)	Question	Response	Comments
44	UCI	2/19/2026	Estefania Ayala	3/1/2026	No	"The 50 cm maximum system height included the constructed wetland structure, and all plumbing or hardware required for treatment, including inlet and outlet components.": Would an inlet reservoir connected to the beginning of our treatment system (to contain our influent) count towards the system height and footprint? Would the height of the inlet reservoir count towards our system height, or just the height of the inlet plumbing?	Yes. If the inlet reservoir is connected to and functions as part of the team's treatment system, it is considered part of the system and therefore counts toward both the maximum footprint and the 50 cm system height limit. The height limit applies to the entire assembled system, including the wetland unit, reservoirs, and any associated plumbing or hardware.	
45	UCI	2/19/2026	Estefania Ayala	3/1/2026	No	RFI #1 mentions "Teams are not required to have all 5 gallons fully pass through the system within the 20-minute window... The primary goal is to obtain sufficient, represenatitve effluent", so what quantifies a "sufficient" sample size?	While higher recovery of influent is encouraged, teams are not required to have all 5 gallones of water pass through the system within the 20-minute operation period. In general, greater effluent recovery is preferred, and may result in stronger performance scoring. However, teams should produce at least 500 mL of effluent to allow the required water quality testing.	
46	UCI	2/19/2026	Estefania Ayala	3/1/2026	No	Does droppping the water from a tall height immediately before effluent collection qualify as passive aeration?	Yes. Allowing water to fall through air (e.g., dropping from a height) immediately prior to effluent collection can be considered passive aeration, provided it relies solely on gravity and system geometry.	
47	UCI	2/19/2026	Estefania Ayala	3/1/2026	No	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." Does this mean that our system height is measured starting from the bottom of our effluent collection basin?	Yes. The 50 cm system height is measured from the lowest structural point of the team's assembled system to the highest point of the system. Any supports, legs, frames, or structural components used to elevate the treatment unit or facilitate effluent collection are considered part of the system and must be included within the 50 cm height limit. Effluent collection containers themselves are not considered part of the system unless they are structurally integrated into the design.	
48	UCI	2/19/2026	Estefania Ayala	3/1/2026	No	Does the design report's 5-page limit include space occupied by figures/tables? And is so, should all figures and tables be placed within appendices to allot the full 5 pages of the report to text-based content?	The 5-page limit applies to the main body of the design report, including all primary figures and tables that are necessary to present the design and results. The page count does not include the cover page, table of contents, appendices, or list of references. Appendices may be used only for supporting or supplementary information, and not to move key figures or tables out of the main report to extend the page limit.	
49	CSULB	2/23/2026	Estefania Ayala	3/1/2026	No	Will team's be provided with an effluent collection bucket at competition or can we bring our own?	Effluent collection buckets will be provided at the competition, so teams do not need to bring their own. You are welcome to bring one if you prefer to use your own bucket.	
43	CSULB	2/23/2026	Estefania Ayala	3/1/2026	No	If an effluent collection bucket will be provided, how tall will it be?	If provided, the effluent collection container will be a standard bucket-type container. However, teams should design their systems with some flexibility, as exact dimensions may vary.	
44	CSULB	2/23/2026	Estefania Ayala	3/1/2026	No	Will the standardized RO-reject feedwater contain sucralose as a measure for TOC?	The standardized RO-reject feedwater will include an organic carbon source to achieve the target TOC concentration (prepared using a standard laboratory TOC compound such as potassium hydrogen phthalate)	
45	UCI	3/4/2026	Estefania Ayala	3/4/2026	No	Will the format of the presentation be more similar to a poster session, where teams are stationed in an area and judges move around each booth for teams to do a presentation and discussion? Or is it going to be a presentation with a visual aid (poster/slideshow), then a Q&A at the end?	The presentation format will be similar to a poster-style session. Teams will remain at their treatment system while judges circulate between teams during the treatment period. Each team's Project Manager(s) will present the design, operation, and potential scale-up of their system and respond to questions from the judges. Project Manager(s) may involve members of the construction team during the presentation with no point deduction. Teams must display a poster (maximum 36" × 24") or another visual aid next to their work site that summarizes the key elements of their design. **Teams are responsible for bringing their own poster stands, laptops, tablets, or any other equipment needed to display their materials.**	
46	UCI	3/4/2026	Estefania Ayala	3/4/2026	No	Is there going to be a time limit the presentation and judge discussion, if so, are you able to provide the expected duration?	There is no strict time limit for the presentation and discussion. The format will be similar to a poster-style interaction, where judges circulate among teams during the treatment period. Teams should plan for approximately 10–15 minutes to present their system and discuss key aspects of the design, and operation followed by questions from the judges. However, the exact duration may vary depending on judge interaction and event timing.	