

APPENDIX A
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS



**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
ORDER NO. 2006-0003**

**STATEWIDE GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
SANITARY SEWER SYSTEMS**

The State Water Resources Control Board, hereinafter referred to as "State Water Board", finds that:

1. All federal and state agencies, municipalities, counties, districts, and other public entities that own or operate sanitary sewer systems greater than one mile in length that collect and/or convey untreated or partially treated wastewater to a publicly owned treatment facility in the State of California are required to comply with the terms of this Order. Such entities are hereinafter referred to as "Enrollees".
2. Sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) are overflows from sanitary sewer systems of domestic wastewater, as well as industrial and commercial wastewater, depending on the pattern of land uses in the area served by the sanitary sewer system. SSOs often contain high levels of suspended solids, pathogenic organisms, toxic pollutants, nutrients, oxygen-demanding organic compounds, oil and grease and other pollutants. SSOs may cause a public nuisance, particularly when raw untreated wastewater is discharged to areas with high public exposure, such as streets or surface waters used for drinking, fishing, or body contact recreation. SSOs may pollute surface or ground waters, threaten public health, adversely affect aquatic life, and impair the recreational use and aesthetic enjoyment of surface waters.
3. Sanitary sewer systems experience periodic failures resulting in discharges that may affect waters of the state. There are many factors (including factors related to geology, design, construction methods and materials, age of the system, population growth, and system operation and maintenance), which affect the likelihood of an SSO. A proactive approach that requires Enrollees to ensure a system-wide operation, maintenance, and management plan is in place will reduce the number and frequency of SSOs within the state. This approach will in turn decrease the risk to human health and the environment caused by SSOs.
4. Major causes of SSOs include: grease blockages, root blockages, sewer line flood damage, manhole structure failures, vandalism, pump station mechanical failures, power outages, excessive storm or ground water inflow/infiltration, debris blockages, sanitary sewer system age and construction material failures, lack of proper operation and maintenance, insufficient capacity and contractor-caused damages. Many SSOs are preventable with adequate and appropriate facilities, source control measures and operation and maintenance of the sanitary sewer system.

SEWER SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLANS

5. To facilitate proper funding and management of sanitary sewer systems, each Enrollee must develop and implement a system-specific Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP). To be effective, SSMPs must include provisions to provide proper and efficient management, operation, and maintenance of sanitary sewer systems, while taking into consideration risk management and cost benefit analysis. Additionally, an SSMP must contain a spill response plan that establishes standard procedures for immediate response to an SSO in a manner designed to minimize water quality impacts and potential nuisance conditions.
6. Many local public agencies in California have already developed SSMPs and implemented measures to reduce SSOs. These entities can build upon their existing efforts to establish a comprehensive SSMP consistent with this Order. Others, however, still require technical assistance and, in some cases, funding to improve sanitary sewer system operation and maintenance in order to reduce SSOs.
7. SSMP certification by technically qualified and experienced persons can provide a useful and cost-effective means for ensuring that SSMPs are developed and implemented appropriately.
8. It is the State Water Board's intent to gather additional information on the causes and sources of SSOs to augment existing information and to determine the full extent of SSOs and consequent public health and/or environmental impacts occurring in the State.
9. Both uniform SSO reporting and a centralized statewide electronic database are needed to collect information to allow the State Water Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) to effectively analyze the extent of SSOs statewide and their potential impacts on beneficial uses and public health. The monitoring and reporting program required by this Order and the attached **Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 2006-0003**, are necessary to assure compliance with these waste discharge requirements (WDRs).
10. Information regarding SSOs must be provided to Regional Water Boards and other regulatory agencies in a timely manner and be made available to the public in a complete, concise, and timely fashion.
11. Some Regional Water Boards have issued WDRs or WDRs that serve as National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits to sanitary sewer system owners/operators within their jurisdictions. This Order establishes minimum requirements to prevent SSOs. Although it is the State Water Board's intent that this Order be the primary regulatory mechanism for sanitary sewer systems statewide, Regional Water Boards may issue more stringent or more

prescriptive WDRs for sanitary sewer systems. Upon issuance or reissuance of a Regional Water Board's WDRs for a system subject to this Order, the Regional Water Board shall coordinate its requirements with stated requirements within this Order, to identify requirements that are more stringent, to remove requirements that are less stringent than this Order, and to provide consistency in reporting.

REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS

12. California Water Code section 13263 provides that the State Water Board may prescribe general WDRs for a category of discharges if the State Water Board finds or determines that:

- The discharges are produced by the same or similar operations;
- The discharges involve the same or similar types of waste;
- The discharges require the same or similar treatment standards; and
- The discharges are more appropriately regulated under general discharge requirements than individual discharge requirements.

This Order establishes requirements for a class of operations, facilities, and discharges that are similar throughout the state.

13. The issuance of general WDRs to the Enrollees will:

- a) Reduce the administrative burden of issuing individual WDRs to each Enrollee;
- b) Provide for a unified statewide approach for the reporting and database tracking of SSOs;
- c) Establish consistent and uniform requirements for SSMP development and implementation;
- d) Provide statewide consistency in reporting; and
- e) Facilitate consistent enforcement for violations.

14. The beneficial uses of surface waters that can be impaired by SSOs include, but are not limited to, aquatic life, drinking water supply, body contact and non-contact recreation, and aesthetics. The beneficial uses of ground water that can be impaired include, but are not limited to, drinking water and agricultural supply. Surface and ground waters throughout the state support these uses to varying degrees.

15. The implementation of requirements set forth in this Order will ensure the reasonable protection of past, present, and probable future beneficial uses of water and the prevention of nuisance. The requirements implement the water quality control plans (Basin Plans) for each region and take into account the environmental characteristics of hydrographic units within the state. Additionally, the State Water Board has considered water quality conditions that could reasonably be achieved through the coordinated control of all factors that affect

water quality in the area, costs associated with compliance with these requirements, the need for developing housing within California, and the need to develop and use recycled water.

16. The Federal Clean Water Act largely prohibits any discharge of pollutants from a point source to waters of the United States except as authorized under an NPDES permit. In general, any point source discharge of sewage effluent to waters of the United States must comply with technology-based, secondary treatment standards, at a minimum, and any more stringent requirements necessary to meet applicable water quality standards and other requirements. Hence, the unpermitted discharge of wastewater from a sanitary sewer system to waters of the United States is illegal under the Clean Water Act. In addition, many Basin Plans adopted by the Regional Water Boards contain discharge prohibitions that apply to the discharge of untreated or partially treated wastewater. Finally, the California Water Code generally prohibits the discharge of waste to land prior to the filing of any required report of waste discharge and the subsequent issuance of either WDRs or a waiver of WDRs.
17. California Water Code section 13263 requires a water board to, after any necessary hearing, prescribe requirements as to the nature of any proposed discharge, existing discharge, or material change in an existing discharge. The requirements shall, among other things, take into consideration the need to prevent nuisance.
18. California Water Code section 13050, subdivision (m), defines nuisance as anything which meets all of the following requirements:
 - a. Is injurious to health, or is indecent or offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property, so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property.
 - b. Affects at the same time an entire community or neighborhood, or any considerable number of persons, although the extent of the annoyance or damage inflicted upon individuals may be unequal.
 - c. Occurs during, or as a result of, the treatment or disposal of wastes.
19. This Order is consistent with State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16 (Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality of Waters in California) in that the Order imposes conditions to prevent impacts to water quality, does not allow the degradation of water quality, will not unreasonably affect beneficial uses of water, and will not result in water quality less than prescribed in State Water Board or Regional Water Board plans and policies.
20. The action to adopt this General Order is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code §21000 et seq.) because it is an action taken by a regulatory agency to assure the protection of the environment and the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15308). In addition, the action to adopt

this Order is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Cal.Code Regs., title 14, §15301 to the extent that it applies to existing sanitary sewer collection systems that constitute "existing facilities" as that term is used in Section 15301, and §15302, to the extent that it results in the repair or replacement of existing systems involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.

21. The Fact Sheet, which is incorporated by reference in the Order, contains supplemental information that was also considered in establishing these requirements.
22. The State Water Board has notified all affected public agencies and all known interested persons of the intent to prescribe general WDRs that require Enrollees to develop SSMPs and to report all SSOs.
23. The State Water Board conducted a public hearing on February 8, 2006, to receive oral and written comments on the draft order. The State Water Board received and considered, at its May 2, 2006, meeting, additional public comments on substantial changes made to the proposed general WDRs following the February 8, 2006, public hearing. The State Water Board has considered all comments pertaining to the proposed general WDRs.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that pursuant to California Water Code section 13263, the Enrollees, their agents, successors, and assigns, in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted hereunder, shall comply with the following:

A. DEFINITIONS

1. **Sanitary sewer overflow (SSO)** - Any overflow, spill, release, discharge or diversion of untreated or partially treated wastewater from a sanitary sewer system. SSOs include:
 - (i) Overflows or releases of untreated or partially treated wastewater that reach waters of the United States;
 - (ii) Overflows or releases of untreated or partially treated wastewater that do not reach waters of the United States; and
 - (iii) Wastewater backups into buildings and on private property that are caused by blockages or flow conditions within the publicly owned portion of a sanitary sewer system.
2. **Sanitary sewer system** – Any system of pipes, pump stations, sewer lines, or other conveyances, upstream of a wastewater treatment plant headworks used to collect and convey wastewater to the publicly owned treatment facility. Temporary storage and conveyance facilities (such as vaults, temporary piping, construction trenches, wet wells, impoundments, tanks, etc.) are considered to be part of the sanitary sewer system, and discharges into these temporary storage facilities are not considered to be SSOs.

For purposes of this Order, sanitary sewer systems include only those systems owned by public agencies that are comprised of more than one mile of pipes or sewer lines.

3. **Enrollee** - A federal or state agency, municipality, county, district, and other public entity that owns or operates a sanitary sewer system, as defined in the general WDRs, and that has submitted a complete and approved application for coverage under this Order.
4. **SSO Reporting System** – Online spill reporting system that is hosted, controlled, and maintained by the State Water Board. The web address for this site is <http://ciwqs.waterboards.ca.gov>. This online database is maintained on a secure site and is controlled by unique usernames and passwords.
5. **Untreated or partially treated wastewater** – Any volume of waste discharged from the sanitary sewer system upstream of a wastewater treatment plant headworks.
6. **Satellite collection system** – The portion, if any, of a sanitary sewer system owned or operated by a different public agency than the agency that owns and operates the wastewater treatment facility to which the sanitary sewer system is tributary.
7. **Nuisance** - California Water Code section 13050, subdivision (m), defines nuisance as anything which meets all of the following requirements:
 - a. Is injurious to health, or is indecent or offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property, so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property.
 - b. Affects at the same time an entire community or neighborhood, or any considerable number of persons, although the extent of the annoyance or damage inflicted upon individuals may be unequal.
 - c. Occurs during, or as a result of, the treatment or disposal of wastes.

B. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. **Deadlines for Application** – All public agencies that currently own or operate sanitary sewer systems within the State of California must apply for coverage under the general WDRs within six (6) months of the date of adoption of the general WDRs. Additionally, public agencies that acquire or assume responsibility for operating sanitary sewer systems after the date of adoption of this Order must apply for coverage under the general WDRs at least three (3) months prior to operation of those facilities.
2. **Applications under the general WDRs** – In order to apply for coverage pursuant to the general WDRs, a legally authorized representative for each agency must submit a complete application package. Within sixty (60) days of adoption of the general WDRs, State Water Board staff will send specific instructions on how to

apply for coverage under the general WDRs to all known public agencies that own sanitary sewer systems. Agencies that do not receive notice may obtain applications and instructions online on the Water Board's website.

3. Coverage under the general WDRs – Permit coverage will be in effect once a complete application package has been submitted and approved by the State Water Board's Division of Water Quality.

C. PROHIBITIONS

1. Any SSO that results in a discharge of untreated or partially treated wastewater to waters of the United States is prohibited.
2. Any SSO that results in a discharge of untreated or partially treated wastewater that creates a nuisance as defined in California Water Code Section 13050(m) is prohibited.

D. PROVISIONS

1. The Enrollee must comply with all conditions of this Order. Any noncompliance with this Order constitutes a violation of the California Water Code and is grounds for enforcement action.
2. It is the intent of the State Water Board that sanitary sewer systems be regulated in a manner consistent with the general WDRs. Nothing in the general WDRs shall be:
 - (i) Interpreted or applied in a manner inconsistent with the Federal Clean Water Act, or supersede a more specific or more stringent state or federal requirement in an existing permit, regulation, or administrative/judicial order or Consent Decree;
 - (ii) Interpreted or applied to authorize an SSO that is illegal under either the Clean Water Act, an applicable Basin Plan prohibition or water quality standard, or the California Water Code;
 - (iii) Interpreted or applied to prohibit a Regional Water Board from issuing an individual NPDES permit or WDR, superseding this general WDR, for a sanitary sewer system, authorized under the Clean Water Act or California Water Code; or
 - (iv) Interpreted or applied to supersede any more specific or more stringent WDRs or enforcement order issued by a Regional Water Board.
3. The Enrollee shall take all feasible steps to eliminate SSOs. In the event that an SSO does occur, the Enrollee shall take all feasible steps to contain and mitigate the impacts of an SSO.
4. In the event of an SSO, the Enrollee shall take all feasible steps to prevent untreated or partially treated wastewater from discharging from storm drains into

flood control channels or waters of the United States by blocking the storm drainage system and by removing the wastewater from the storm drains.

5. All SSOs must be reported in accordance with Section G of the general WDRs.
6. In any enforcement action, the State and/or Regional Water Boards will consider the appropriate factors under the duly adopted State Water Board Enforcement Policy. And, consistent with the Enforcement Policy, the State and/or Regional Water Boards must consider the Enrollee's efforts to contain, control, and mitigate SSOs when considering the California Water Code Section 13327 factors. In assessing these factors, the State and/or Regional Water Boards will also consider whether:
 - (i) The Enrollee has complied with the requirements of this Order, including requirements for reporting and developing and implementing a SSMP;
 - (ii) The Enrollee can identify the cause or likely cause of the discharge event;
 - (iii) There were no feasible alternatives to the discharge, such as temporary storage or retention of untreated wastewater, reduction of inflow and infiltration, use of adequate backup equipment, collecting and hauling of untreated wastewater to a treatment facility, or an increase in the capacity of the system as necessary to contain the design storm event identified in the SSMP. It is inappropriate to consider the lack of feasible alternatives, if the Enrollee does not implement a periodic or continuing process to identify and correct problems.
 - (iv) The discharge was exceptional, unintentional, temporary, and caused by factors beyond the reasonable control of the Enrollee;
 - (v) The discharge could have been prevented by the exercise of reasonable control described in a certified SSMP for:
 - Proper management, operation and maintenance;
 - Adequate treatment facilities, sanitary sewer system facilities, and/or components with an appropriate design capacity, to reasonably prevent SSOs (e.g., adequately enlarging treatment or collection facilities to accommodate growth, infiltration and inflow (I/I), etc.);
 - Preventive maintenance (including cleaning and fats, oils, and grease (FOG) control);
 - Installation of adequate backup equipment; and
 - Inflow and infiltration prevention and control to the extent practicable.
 - (vi) The sanitary sewer system design capacity is appropriate to reasonably prevent SSOs.

(vii) The Enrollee took all reasonable steps to stop and mitigate the impact of the discharge as soon as possible.

7. When a sanitary sewer overflow occurs, the Enrollee shall take all feasible steps and necessary remedial actions to 1) control or limit the volume of untreated or partially treated wastewater discharged, 2) terminate the discharge, and 3) recover as much of the wastewater discharged as possible for proper disposal, including any wash down water.

The Enrollee shall implement all remedial actions to the extent they may be applicable to the discharge and not inconsistent with an emergency response plan, including the following:

- (i) Interception and rerouting of untreated or partially treated wastewater flows around the wastewater line failure;
 - (ii) Vacuum truck recovery of sanitary sewer overflows and wash down water;
 - (iii) Cleanup of debris at the overflow site;
 - (iv) System modifications to prevent another SSO at the same location;
 - (v) Adequate sampling to determine the nature and impact of the release; and
 - (vi) Adequate public notification to protect the public from exposure to the SSO.
8. The Enrollee shall properly, manage, operate, and maintain all parts of the sanitary sewer system owned or operated by the Enrollee, and shall ensure that the system operators (including employees, contractors, or other agents) are adequately trained and possess adequate knowledge, skills, and abilities.
 9. The Enrollee shall allocate adequate resources for the operation, maintenance, and repair of its sanitary sewer system, by establishing a proper rate structure, accounting mechanisms, and auditing procedures to ensure an adequate measure of revenues and expenditures. These procedures must be in compliance with applicable laws and regulations and comply with generally acceptable accounting practices.
 10. The Enrollee shall provide adequate capacity to convey base flows and peak flows, including flows related to wet weather events. Capacity shall meet or exceed the design criteria as defined in the Enrollee's System Evaluation and Capacity Assurance Plan for all parts of the sanitary sewer system owned or operated by the Enrollee.
 11. The Enrollee shall develop and implement a written Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) and make it available to the State and/or Regional Water Board upon request. A copy of this document must be publicly available at the Enrollee's office and/or available on the Internet. This SSMP must be approved by the Enrollee's governing board at a public meeting.

12. In accordance with the California Business and Professions Code sections 6735, 7835, and 7835.1, all engineering and geologic evaluations and judgments shall be performed by or under the direction of registered professionals competent and proficient in the fields pertinent to the required activities. Specific elements of the SSMP that require professional evaluation and judgments shall be prepared by or under the direction of appropriately qualified professionals, and shall bear the professional(s)' signature and stamp.
13. The mandatory elements of the SSMP are specified below. However, if the Enrollee believes that any element of this section is not appropriate or applicable to the Enrollee's sanitary sewer system, the SSMP program does not need to address that element. The Enrollee must justify why that element is not applicable. The SSMP must be approved by the deadlines listed in the SSMP Time Schedule below.

Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP)

- (i) **Goal:** The goal of the SSMP is to provide a plan and schedule to properly manage, operate, and maintain all parts of the sanitary sewer system. This will help reduce and prevent SSOs, as well as mitigate any SSOs that do occur.
- (ii) **Organization:** The SSMP must identify:
- (a) The name of the responsible or authorized representative as described in Section J of this Order.
 - (b) The names and telephone numbers for management, administrative, and maintenance positions responsible for implementing specific measures in the SSMP program. The SSMP must identify lines of authority through an organization chart or similar document with a narrative explanation; and
 - (c) The chain of communication for reporting SSOs, from receipt of a complaint or other information, including the person responsible for reporting SSOs to the State and Regional Water Board and other agencies if applicable (such as County Health Officer, County Environmental Health Agency, Regional Water Board, and/or State Office of Emergency Services (OES)).
- (iii) **Legal Authority:** Each Enrollee must demonstrate, through sanitary sewer system use ordinances, service agreements, or other legally binding procedures, that it possesses the necessary legal authority to:
- (a) Prevent illicit discharges into its sanitary sewer system (examples may include I/I, stormwater, chemical dumping, unauthorized debris and cut roots, etc.);

- (b) Require that sewers and connections be properly designed and constructed;
 - (c) Ensure access for maintenance, inspection, or repairs for portions of the lateral owned or maintained by the Public Agency;
 - (d) Limit the discharge of fats, oils, and grease and other debris that may cause blockages, and
 - (e) Enforce any violation of its sewer ordinances.
- (iv) **Operation and Maintenance Program.** The SSMP must include those elements listed below that are appropriate and applicable to the Enrollee's system:
- (a) Maintain an up-to-date map of the sanitary sewer system, showing all gravity line segments and manholes, pumping facilities, pressure pipes and valves, and applicable stormwater conveyance facilities;
 - (b) Describe routine preventive operation and maintenance activities by staff and contractors, including a system for scheduling regular maintenance and cleaning of the sanitary sewer system with more frequent cleaning and maintenance targeted at known problem areas. The Preventative Maintenance (PM) program should have a system to document scheduled and conducted activities, such as work orders;
 - (c) Develop a rehabilitation and replacement plan to identify and prioritize system deficiencies and implement short-term and long-term rehabilitation actions to address each deficiency. The program should include regular visual and TV inspections of manholes and sewer pipes, and a system for ranking the condition of sewer pipes and scheduling rehabilitation. Rehabilitation and replacement should focus on sewer pipes that are at risk of collapse or prone to more frequent blockages due to pipe defects. Finally, the rehabilitation and replacement plan should include a capital improvement plan that addresses proper management and protection of the infrastructure assets. The plan shall include a time schedule for implementing the short- and long-term plans plus a schedule for developing the funds needed for the capital improvement plan;
 - (d) Provide training on a regular basis for staff in sanitary sewer system operations and maintenance, and require contractors to be appropriately trained; and

(e) Provide equipment and replacement part inventories, including identification of critical replacement parts.

(v) **Design and Performance Provisions:**

(a) Design and construction standards and specifications for the installation of new sanitary sewer systems, pump stations and other appurtenances; and for the rehabilitation and repair of existing sanitary sewer systems; and

(b) Procedures and standards for inspecting and testing the installation of new sewers, pumps, and other appurtenances and for rehabilitation and repair projects.

(vi) **Overflow Emergency Response Plan** - Each Enrollee shall develop and implement an overflow emergency response plan that identifies measures to protect public health and the environment. At a minimum, this plan must include the following:

(a) Proper notification procedures so that the primary responders and regulatory agencies are informed of all SSOs in a timely manner;

(b) A program to ensure an appropriate response to all overflows;

(c) Procedures to ensure prompt notification to appropriate regulatory agencies and other potentially affected entities (e.g. health agencies, Regional Water Boards, water suppliers, etc.) of all SSOs that potentially affect public health or reach the waters of the State in accordance with the MRP. All SSOs shall be reported in accordance with this MRP, the California Water Code, other State Law, and other applicable Regional Water Board WDRs or NPDES permit requirements. The SSMP should identify the officials who will receive immediate notification;

(d) Procedures to ensure that appropriate staff and contractor personnel are aware of and follow the Emergency Response Plan and are appropriately trained;

(e) Procedures to address emergency operations, such as traffic and crowd control and other necessary response activities; and

(f) A program to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to contain and prevent the discharge of untreated and partially treated wastewater to waters of the United States and to minimize or correct any adverse impact on the environment resulting from the SSOs, including such accelerated or additional monitoring as may be necessary to determine the nature and impact of the discharge.

(vii) **FOG Control Program:** Each Enrollee shall evaluate its service area to determine whether a FOG control program is needed. If an Enrollee determines that a FOG program is not needed, the Enrollee must provide justification for why it is not needed. If FOG is found to be a problem, the Enrollee must prepare and implement a FOG source control program to reduce the amount of these substances discharged to the sanitary sewer system. This plan shall include the following as appropriate:

- (a) An implementation plan and schedule for a public education outreach program that promotes proper disposal of FOG;
- (b) A plan and schedule for the disposal of FOG generated within the sanitary sewer system service area. This may include a list of acceptable disposal facilities and/or additional facilities needed to adequately dispose of FOG generated within a sanitary sewer system service area;
- (c) The legal authority to prohibit discharges to the system and identify measures to prevent SSOs and blockages caused by FOG;
- (d) Requirements to install grease removal devices (such as traps or interceptors), design standards for the removal devices, maintenance requirements, BMP requirements, record keeping and reporting requirements;
- (e) Authority to inspect grease producing facilities, enforcement authorities, and whether the Enrollee has sufficient staff to inspect and enforce the FOG ordinance;
- (f) An identification of sanitary sewer system sections subject to FOG blockages and establishment of a cleaning maintenance schedule for each section; and
- (g) Development and implementation of source control measures for all sources of FOG discharged to the sanitary sewer system for each section identified in (f) above.

(viii) **System Evaluation and Capacity Assurance Plan:** The Enrollee shall prepare and implement a capital improvement plan (CIP) that will provide hydraulic capacity of key sanitary sewer system elements for dry weather peak flow conditions, as well as the appropriate design storm or wet weather event. At a minimum, the plan must include:

- (a) **Evaluation:** Actions needed to evaluate those portions of the sanitary sewer system that are experiencing or contributing to an SSO discharge caused by hydraulic deficiency. The evaluation must provide estimates of peak flows (including flows from SSOs

that escape from the system) associated with conditions similar to those causing overflow events, estimates of the capacity of key system components, hydraulic deficiencies (including components of the system with limiting capacity) and the major sources that contribute to the peak flows associated with overflow events;

- (b) **Design Criteria:** Where design criteria do not exist or are deficient, undertake the evaluation identified in (a) above to establish appropriate design criteria; and
 - (c) **Capacity Enhancement Measures:** The steps needed to establish a short- and long-term CIP to address identified hydraulic deficiencies, including prioritization, alternatives analysis, and schedules. The CIP may include increases in pipe size, I/I reduction programs, increases and redundancy in pumping capacity, and storage facilities. The CIP shall include an implementation schedule and shall identify sources of funding.
 - (d) **Schedule:** The Enrollee shall develop a schedule of completion dates for all portions of the capital improvement program developed in (a)-(c) above. This schedule shall be reviewed and updated consistent with the SSMP review and update requirements as described in Section D. 14.
- (ix) **Monitoring, Measurement, and Program Modifications:** The Enrollee shall:
- (a) Maintain relevant information that can be used to establish and prioritize appropriate SSMP activities;
 - (b) Monitor the implementation and, where appropriate, measure the effectiveness of each element of the SSMP;
 - (c) Assess the success of the preventative maintenance program;
 - (d) Update program elements, as appropriate, based on monitoring or performance evaluations; and
 - (e) Identify and illustrate SSO trends, including: frequency, location, and volume.
- (x) **SSMP Program Audits** - As part of the SSMP, the Enrollee shall conduct periodic internal audits, appropriate to the size of the system and the number of SSOs. At a minimum, these audits must occur every two years and a report must be prepared and kept on file. This audit shall focus on evaluating the effectiveness of the SSMP and the

Enrollee's compliance with the SSMP requirements identified in this subsection (D.13), including identification of any deficiencies in the SSMP and steps to correct them.

- (xi) **Communication Program** – The Enrollee shall communicate on a regular basis with the public on the development, implementation, and performance of its SSMP. The communication system shall provide the public the opportunity to provide input to the Enrollee as the program is developed and implemented.

The Enrollee shall also create a plan of communication with systems that are tributary and/or satellite to the Enrollee's sanitary sewer system.

14. Both the SSMP and the Enrollee's program to implement the SSMP must be certified by the Enrollee to be in compliance with the requirements set forth above and must be presented to the Enrollee's governing board for approval at a public meeting. The Enrollee shall certify that the SSMP, and subparts thereof, are in compliance with the general WDRs within the time frames identified in the time schedule provided in subsection D.15, below.

In order to complete this certification, the Enrollee's authorized representative must complete the certification portion in the Online SSO Database Questionnaire by checking the appropriate milestone box, printing and signing the automated form, and sending the form to:

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
Attn: SSO Program Manager
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812

The SSMP must be updated every five (5) years, and must include any significant program changes. Re-certification by the governing board of the Enrollee is required in accordance with D.14 when significant updates to the SSMP are made. To complete the re-certification process, the Enrollee shall enter the data in the Online SSO Database and mail the form to the State Water Board, as described above.

15. The Enrollee shall comply with these requirements according to the following schedule. This time schedule does not supersede existing requirements or time schedules associated with other permits or regulatory requirements.

Sewer System Management Plan Time Schedule

<u>Task and Associated Section</u>	Completion Date			
	Population > 100,000	Population between 100,000 and 10,000	Population between 10,000 and 2,500	Population < 2,500
Application for Permit Coverage Section C	6 months after WDRs Adoption			
Reporting Program Section G	6 months after WDRs Adoption ¹			
SSMP Development Plan and Schedule No specific Section	9 months after WDRs Adoption ²	12 months after WDRs Adoption ²	15 months after WDRs Adoption ²	18 months after WDRs Adoption ²
Goals and Organization Structure Section D 13 (i) & (ii)	12 months after WDRs Adoption ²		18 months after WDRs Adoption ²	
Overflow Emergency Response Program Section D 13 (vi)	24 months after WDRs Adoption ²	30 months after WDRs Adoption ²	36 months after WDRs Adoption ²	39 months after WDRs Adoption ²
Legal Authority Section D 13 (iii)				
Operation and Maintenance Program Section D 13 (iv)				
Grease Control Program Section D 13 (vii)	36 months after WDRs Adoption	39 months after WDRs Adoption	48 months after WDRs Adoption	51 months after WDRs Adoption
Design and Performance Section D 13 (v)				
System Evaluation and Capacity Assurance Plan Section D 13 (viii)				
Final SSMP, incorporating all of the SSMP requirements Section D 13				

1. In the event that by July 1, 2006 the Executive Director is able to execute a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) or discharger representatives outlining a strategy and time schedule for CWEA or another entity to provide statewide training on the adopted monitoring program, SSO database electronic reporting, and SSMP development, consistent with this Order, then the schedule of Reporting Program Section G shall be replaced with the following schedule:

Reporting Program Section G	
Regional Boards 4, 8, and 9	8 months after WDRs Adoption
Regional Boards 1, 2, and 3	12 months after WDRs Adoption
Regional Boards 5, 6, and 7	16 months after WDRs Adoption

If this MOU is not executed by July 1, 2006, the reporting program time schedule will remain six (6) months for all regions and agency size categories.

2. In the event that the Executive Director executes the MOA identified in note 1 by July 1, 2006, then the deadline for this task shall be extended by six (6) months. The time schedule identified in the MOA must be consistent with the extended time schedule provided by this note. If the MOA is not executed by July 1, 2006, the six (6) month time extension will not be granted.

E. WDRs and SSMP AVAILABILITY

1. A copy of the general WDRs and the certified SSMP shall be maintained at appropriate locations (such as the Enrollee's offices, facilities, and/or Internet homepage) and shall be available to sanitary sewer system operating and maintenance personnel at all times.

F. ENTRY AND INSPECTION

1. The Enrollee shall allow the State or Regional Water Boards or their authorized representative, upon presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to:
 - a. Enter upon the Enrollee's premises where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted, or where records are kept under the conditions of this Order;
 - b. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that must be kept under the conditions of this Order;

- c. Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this Order; and
- d. Sample or monitor at reasonable times, for the purposes of assuring compliance with this Order or as otherwise authorized by the California Water Code, any substances or parameters at any location.

G. GENERAL MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. The Enrollee shall furnish to the State or Regional Water Board, within a reasonable time, any information that the State or Regional Water Board may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, or terminating this Order. The Enrollee shall also furnish to the Executive Director of the State Water Board or Executive Officer of the applicable Regional Water Board, upon request, copies of records required to be kept by this Order.
2. The Enrollee shall comply with the attached Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 2006-0003 and future revisions thereto, as specified by the Executive Director. Monitoring results shall be reported at the intervals specified in Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 2006-0003. Unless superseded by a specific enforcement Order for a specific Enrollee, these reporting requirements are intended to replace other mandatory routine written reports associated with SSOs.
3. All Enrollees must obtain SSO Database accounts and receive a "Username" and "Password" by registering through the California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS). These accounts will allow controlled and secure entry into the SSO Database. Additionally, within 30 days of receiving an account and prior to recording spills into the SSO Database, all Enrollees must complete the "Collection System Questionnaire", which collects pertinent information regarding a Enrollee's collection system. The "Collection System Questionnaire" must be updated at least every 12 months.
4. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 5411.5, any person who, without regard to intent or negligence, causes or permits any untreated wastewater or other waste to be discharged in or on any waters of the State, or discharged in or deposited where it is, or probably will be, discharged in or on any surface waters of the State, as soon as that person has knowledge of the discharge, shall immediately notify the local health officer of the discharge. Discharges of untreated or partially treated wastewater to storm drains and drainage channels, whether man-made or natural or concrete-lined, shall be reported as required above.

Any SSO greater than 1,000 gallons discharged in or on any waters of the State, or discharged in or deposited where it is, or probably will be, discharged in or on any surface waters of the State shall also be reported to the Office of Emergency Services pursuant to California Water Code section 13271.

H. CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP

1. This Order is not transferable to any person or party, except after notice to the Executive Director. The Enrollee shall submit this notice in writing at least 30 days in advance of any proposed transfer. The notice must include a written agreement between the existing and new Enrollee containing a specific date for the transfer of this Order's responsibility and coverage between the existing Enrollee and the new Enrollee. This agreement shall include an acknowledgement that the existing Enrollee is liable for violations up to the transfer date and that the new Enrollee is liable from the transfer date forward.

I. INCOMPLETE REPORTS

1. If an Enrollee becomes aware that it failed to submit any relevant facts in any report required under this Order, the Enrollee shall promptly submit such facts or information by formally amending the report in the Online SSO Database.

J. REPORT DECLARATION

1. All applications, reports, or information shall be signed and certified as follows:
 - (i) All reports required by this Order and other information required by the State or Regional Water Board shall be signed and certified by a person designated, for a municipality, state, federal or other public agency, as either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official, or by a duly authorized representative of that person, as described in paragraph (ii) of this provision. (For purposes of electronic reporting, an electronic signature and accompanying certification, which is in compliance with the Online SSO database procedures, meet this certification requirement.)
 - (ii) An individual is a duly authorized representative only if:
 - (a) The authorization is made in writing by a person described in paragraph (i) of this provision; and
 - (b) The authorization specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated facility or activity.

K. CIVIL MONETARY REMEDIES FOR DISCHARGE VIOLATIONS

1. The California Water Code provides various enforcement options, including civil monetary remedies, for violations of this Order.
2. The California Water Code also provides that any person failing or refusing to furnish technical or monitoring program reports, as required under this Order, or

falsifying any information provided in the technical or monitoring reports is subject to civil monetary penalties.

L. SEVERABILITY

1. The provisions of this Order are severable, and if any provision of this Order, or the application of any provision of this Order to any circumstance, is held invalid, the application of such provision to other circumstances, and the remainder of this Order, shall not be affected thereby.
2. This order does not convey any property rights of any sort or any exclusive privileges. The requirements prescribed herein do not authorize the commission of any act causing injury to persons or property, nor protect the Enrollee from liability under federal, state or local laws, nor create a vested right for the Enrollee to continue the waste discharge.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Clerk to the State Water Board does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of general WDRs duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on May 2, 2006.

AYE: Tam M. Doduc
Gerald D. Secundy

NO: Arthur G. Baggett

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None



Song Her
Clerk to the Board

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
ORDER NO. WQ 2013-0058-EXEC

AMENDING MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM
FOR
STATEWIDE GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR
SANITARY SEWER SYSTEMS

The State of California, Water Resources Control Board (hereafter State Water Board) finds:

1. The State Water Board is authorized to prescribe statewide general Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for categories of discharges that involve the same or similar operations and the same or similar types of waste pursuant to Water Code section 13263(i).
2. Water Code section 13193 *et seq.* requires the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) and the State Water Board (collectively, the Water Boards) to gather Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) information and make this information available to the public, including but not limited to, SSO cause, estimated volume, location, date, time, duration, whether or not the SSO reached or may have reached waters of the state, response and corrective action taken, and an enrollee's contact information for each SSO event. An enrollee is defined as the public entity having legal authority over the operation and maintenance of, or capital improvements to, a sanitary sewer system greater than one mile in length.
3. Water Code section 13271, *et seq.* requires notification to the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), formerly the California Emergency Management Agency, for certain unauthorized discharges, including SSOs.
4. On May 2, 2006, the State Water Board adopted Order 2006-0003-DWQ, "Statewide Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems"¹ (hereafter SSS WDRs) to comply with Water Code section 13193 and to establish the framework for the statewide SSO Reduction Program.
5. Subsection G.2 of the SSS WDRs and the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) provide that the Executive Director may modify the terms of the MRP at any time.
6. On February 20, 2008, the State Water Board Executive Director adopted a revised MRP for the SSS WDRs to rectify early notification deficiencies and ensure that first responders are notified in a timely manner of SSOs discharged into waters of the state.
7. When notified of an SSO that reaches a drainage channel or surface water of the state, Cal OES, pursuant to Water Code section 13271(a)(3), forwards the SSO notification information² to local government agencies and first responders including local public health officials and the applicable Regional Water Board. Receipt of notifications for a single SSO event from both the SSO reporter

¹ Available for download at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2006/wqo/wqo2006_0003.pdf

² Cal OES Hazardous Materials Spill Reports available Online at:

[http://w3.calema.ca.gov/operational/mal haz.nsf/\\$defaultview](http://w3.calema.ca.gov/operational/mal haz.nsf/$defaultview) and <http://w3.calema.ca.gov/operational/mal haz.nsf>

and Cal OES is duplicative. To address this, the SSO notification requirements added by the February 20, 2008 MRP revision are being removed in this MRP revision.

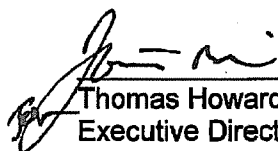
8. In the February 28, 2008 Memorandum of Agreement between the State Water Board and the California Water and Environment Association (CWEA), the State Water Board committed to re-designing the CIWQS³ Online SSO Database to allow "event" based SSO reporting versus the original "location" based reporting. Revisions to this MRP and accompanying changes to the CIWQS Online SSO Database will implement this change by allowing for multiple SSO appearance points to be associated with each SSO event caused by a single asset failure.
9. Based on stakeholder input and Water Board staff experience implementing the SSO Reduction Program, SSO categories have been revised in this MRP. In the prior version of the MRP, SSOs have been categorized as Category 1 or Category 2. This MRP implements changes to SSO categories by adding a Category 3 SSO type. This change will improve data management to further assist Water Board staff with evaluation of high threat and low threat SSOs by placing them in unique categories (i.e., Category 1 and Category 3, respectively). This change will also assist enrollees in identifying SSOs that require Cal OES notification.
10. Based on over six years of implementation of the SSS WDRs, the State Water Board concludes that the February 20, 2008 MRP must be updated to better advance the SSO Reduction Program⁴ objectives, assess compliance, and enforce the requirements of the SSS WDRs.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

Pursuant to the authority delegated by Water Code section 13267(f), Resolution 2002-0104, and Order 2006-0003-DWQ, the MRP for the SSS WDRs (Order 2006-0003-DWQ) is hereby amended as shown in Attachment A and shall be effective on September 9, 2013.

Date

8/6/13


Thomas Howard
Executive Director

³ California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) publicly available at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ciwqs/publicreports.shtml>

⁴ Statewide Sanitary Sewer Overflow Reduction Program information is available at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ssol/

ATTACHMENT A

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORDER NO. WQ 2013-0058-EXEC

AMENDING MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM FOR STATEWIDE GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SANITARY SEWER SYSTEMS

This Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) establishes monitoring, record keeping, reporting and public notification requirements for Order 2006-0003-DWQ, "Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems" (SSS WDRs). This MRP shall be effective from September 9, 2013 until it is rescinded. The Executive Director may make revisions to this MRP at any time. These revisions may include a reduction or increase in the monitoring and reporting requirements. All site specific records and data developed pursuant to the SSS WDRs and this MRP shall be complete, accurate, and justified by evidence maintained by the enrollee. Failure to comply with this MRP may subject an enrollee to civil liabilities of up to \$5,000 a day per violation pursuant to Water Code section 13350; up to \$1,000 a day per violation pursuant to Water Code section 13268; or referral to the Attorney General for judicial civil enforcement. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) reserves the right to take any further enforcement action authorized by law.

A. SUMMARY OF MRP REQUIREMENTS

Table 1 – Spill Categories and Definitions

CATEGORIES	DEFINITIONS <small>[see Section A on page 5 of Order 2006-0003-DWQ, for Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) definition]</small>
CATEGORY 1	<p>Discharges of untreated or partially treated wastewater of any volume resulting from an enrollee's sanitary sewer system failure or flow condition that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach surface water and/or reach a drainage channel tributary to a surface water; or • Reach a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) and are not fully captured and returned to the sanitary sewer system or not otherwise captured and disposed of properly. Any volume of wastewater not recovered from the MS4 is considered to have reached surface water unless the storm drain system discharges to a dedicated storm water or groundwater infiltration basin (e.g., infiltration pit, percolation pond).
CATEGORY 2	<p>Discharges of untreated or partially treated wastewater of 1,000 gallons or greater resulting from an enrollee's sanitary sewer system failure or flow condition that do not reach surface water, a drainage channel, or a MS4 unless the entire SSO discharged to the storm drain system is fully recovered and disposed of properly.</p>
CATEGORY 3	<p>All other discharges of untreated or partially treated wastewater resulting from an enrollee's sanitary sewer system failure or flow condition.</p>
PRIVATE LATERAL SEWAGE DISCHARGE (PLSD)	<p>Discharges of untreated or partially treated wastewater resulting from blockages or other problems within a privately owned sewer lateral connected to the enrollee's sanitary sewer system or from other private sewer assets. PLSDs that the enrollee becomes aware of may be voluntarily reported to the California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) Online SSO Database.</p>

Table 2 – Notification, Reporting, Monitoring, and Record Keeping Requirements

ELEMENT	REQUIREMENT	METHOD
NOTIFICATION (see section B of MRP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within two hours of becoming aware of any Category 1 SSO greater than or equal to 1,000 gallons discharged to surface water or spilled in a location where it probably will be discharged to surface water, notify the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and obtain a notification control number. 	Call Cal OES at: (800) 852-7550
REPORTING (see section C of MRP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1 SSO: Submit draft report within three business days of becoming aware of the SSO and certify within 15 calendar days of SSO end date. • Category 2 SSO: Submit draft report within 3 business days of becoming aware of the SSO and certify within 15 calendar days of the SSO end date. • Category 3 SSO: Submit certified report within 30 calendar days of the end of month in which SSO the occurred. • SSO Technical Report: Submit within 45 calendar days after the end date of any Category 1 SSO in which 50,000 gallons or greater are spilled to surface waters. • "No Spill" Certification: Certify that no SSOs occurred within 30 calendar days of the end of the month or, if reporting quarterly, the quarter in which no SSOs occurred. • Collection System Questionnaire: Update and certify every 12 months. 	Enter data into the CIWQS Online SSO Database (http://ciwqs.waterboards.ca.gov/), certified by enrollee's Legally Responsible Official(s).
WATER QUALITY MONITORING (see section D of MRP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct water quality sampling within 48 hours after initial SSO notification for Category 1 SSOs in which 50,000 gallons or greater are spilled to surface waters. 	Water quality results are required to be uploaded into CIWQS for Category 1 SSOs in which 50,000 gallons or greater are spilled to surface waters.
RECORD KEEPING (see section E of MRP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSO event records. • Records documenting Sanitary Sewer Management Plan (SSMP) implementation and changes/updates to the SSMP. • Records to document Water Quality Monitoring for SSOs of 50,000 gallons or greater spilled to surface waters. • Collection system telemetry records if relied upon to document and/or estimate SSO Volume. 	Self-maintained records shall be available during inspections or upon request.

B. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Although Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) and the State Water Board (collectively, the Water Boards) staff do not have duties as first responders, this MRP is an appropriate mechanism to ensure that the agencies that have first responder duties are notified in a timely manner in order to protect public health and beneficial uses.

1. For any Category 1 SSO greater than or equal to 1,000 gallons that results in a discharge to a surface water or spilled in a location where it probably will be discharged to surface water, either directly or by way of a drainage channel or MS4, the enrollee shall, as soon as possible, but not later than two (2) hours after (A) the enrollee has knowledge of the discharge, (B) notification is possible, and (C) notification can be provided without substantially impeding cleanup or other emergency measures, notify the Cal OES and obtain a notification control number.
2. To satisfy notification requirements for each applicable SSO, the enrollee shall provide the information requested by Cal OES before receiving a control number. Spill information requested by Cal OES may include:
 - i. Name of person notifying Cal OES and direct return phone number.
 - ii. Estimated SSO volume discharged (gallons).
 - iii. If ongoing, estimated SSO discharge rate (gallons per minute).
 - iv. SSO Incident Description:
 - a. Brief narrative.
 - b. On-scene point of contact for additional information (name and cell phone number).
 - c. Date and time enrollee became aware of the SSO.
 - d. Name of sanitary sewer system agency causing the SSO.
 - e. SSO cause (if known).
 - v. Indication of whether the SSO has been contained.
 - vi. Indication of whether surface water is impacted.
 - vii. Name of surface water impacted by the SSO, if applicable.
 - viii. Indication of whether a drinking water supply is or may be impacted by the SSO.
 - ix. Any other known SSO impacts.
 - x. SSO incident location (address, city, state, and zip code).
3. Following the initial notification to Cal OES and until such time that an enrollee certifies the SSO report in the CIWQS Online SSO Database, the enrollee shall provide updates to Cal OES regarding substantial changes to the estimated volume of untreated or partially treated sewage discharged and any substantial change(s) to known impact(s).
4. PLSDs: The enrollee is strongly encouraged to notify Cal OES of discharges greater than or equal to 1,000 gallons of untreated or partially treated wastewater that result or may result in a discharge to surface water resulting from failures or flow conditions within a privately owned sewer lateral or from other private sewer asset(s) if the enrollee becomes aware of the PLSD.

C. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. **CIWQS Online SSO Database Account:** All enrollees shall obtain a CIWQS Online SSO Database account and receive a "Username" and "Password" by registering through CIWQS. These accounts allow controlled and secure entry into the CIWQS Online SSO Database.
2. **SSO Mandatory Reporting Information:** For reporting purposes, if one SSO event results in multiple appearance points in a sewer system asset, the enrollee shall complete one SSO report in the CIWQS Online SSO Database which includes the GPS coordinates for the location of the SSO appearance point closest to the failure point, blockage or location of the flow condition that caused the SSO, and provide descriptions of the locations of all other discharge points associated with the SSO event.
3. **SSO Categories**
 - i. **Category 1** – Discharges of untreated or partially treated wastewater of any volume resulting from an enrollee's sanitary sewer system failure or flow condition that:
 - a. Reach surface water and/or reach a drainage channel tributary to a surface water; or
 - b. Reach a MS4 and are not fully captured and returned to the sanitary sewer system or not otherwise captured and disposed of properly. Any volume of wastewater not recovered from the MS4 is considered to have reached surface water unless the storm drain system discharges to a dedicated storm water or groundwater infiltration basin (e.g., infiltration pit, percolation pond).
 - ii. **Category 2** – Discharges of untreated or partially treated wastewater greater than or equal to 1,000 gallons resulting from an enrollee's sanitary sewer system failure or flow condition that does not reach a surface water, a drainage channel, or the MS4 unless the entire SSO volume discharged to the storm drain system is fully recovered and disposed of properly.
 - iii. **Category 3** – All other discharges of untreated or partially treated wastewater resulting from an enrollee's sanitary sewer system failure or flow condition.
4. **Sanitary Sewer Overflow Reporting to CIWQS - Timeframes**
 - i. **Category 1 and Category 2 SSOs** – All SSOs that meet the above criteria for Category 1 or Category 2 SSOs shall be reported to the CIWQS Online SSO Database:
 - a. Draft reports for Category 1 and Category 2 SSOs shall be submitted to the CIWQS Online SSO Database within three (3) business days of the enrollee becoming aware of the SSO. Minimum information that shall be reported in a draft Category 1 SSO report shall include all information identified in section 8.i.a. below. Minimum information that shall be reported in a Category 2 SSO draft report shall include all information identified in section 8.i.c below.
 - b. A final Category 1 or Category 2 SSO report shall be certified through the CIWQS Online SSO Database within 15 calendar days of the end date of the SSO. Minimum information that shall be certified in the final Category 1 SSO report shall include all information identified in section 8.i.b below. Minimum information that shall be certified in a final Category 2 SSO report shall include all information identified in section 8.i.d below.

- ii. **Category 3 SSOs** – All SSOs that meet the above criteria for Category 3 SSOs shall be reported to the CIWQS Online SSO Database and certified within 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar month in which the SSO occurs (e.g., all Category 3 SSOs occurring in the month of February shall be entered into the database and certified by March 30). Minimum information that shall be certified in a final Category 3 SSO report shall include all information identified in section 8.i.e below.
- iii. **“No Spill” Certification** – If there are no SSOs during the calendar month, the enrollee shall either 1) certify, within 30 calendar days after the end of each calendar month, a “No Spill” certification statement in the CIWQS Online SSO Database certifying that there were no SSOs for the designated month, or 2) certify, quarterly within 30 calendar days after the end of each quarter, “No Spill” certification statements in the CIWQS Online SSO Database certifying that there were no SSOs for each month in the quarter being reported on. For quarterly reporting, the quarters are Q1 - January/ February/ March, Q2 - April/May/June, Q3 - July/August/September, and Q4 - October/November/December.

If there are no SSOs during a calendar month but the enrollee reported a PLSD, the enrollee shall still certify a “No Spill” certification statement for that month.
- iv. **Amended SSO Reports** – The enrollee may update or add additional information to a certified SSO report within 120 calendar days after the SSO end date by amending the report or by adding an attachment to the SSO report in the CIWQS Online SSO Database. SSO reports certified in the CIWQS Online SSO Database prior to the adoption date of this MRP may only be amended up to 120 days after the effective date of this MRP. After 120 days, the enrollee may contact the SSO Program Manager to request to amend an SSO report if the enrollee also submits justification for why the additional information was not available prior to the end of the 120 days.

5. **SSO Technical Report**

The enrollee shall submit an SSO Technical Report in the CIWQS Online SSO Database within 45 calendar days of the SSO end date for any SSO in which 50,000 gallons or greater are spilled to surface waters. This report, which does not preclude the Water Boards from requiring more detailed analyses if requested, shall include at a minimum, the following:

- i. **Causes and Circumstances of the SSO:**
 - a. Complete and detailed explanation of how and when the SSO was discovered.
 - b. Diagram showing the SSO failure point, appearance point(s), and final destination(s).
 - c. Detailed description of the methodology employed and available data used to calculate the volume of the SSO and, if applicable, the SSO volume recovered.
 - d. Detailed description of the cause(s) of the SSO.
 - e. Copies of original field crew records used to document the SSO.
 - f. Historical maintenance records for the failure location.
- ii. **Enrollee’s Response to SSO:**
 - a. Chronological narrative description of all actions taken by enrollee to terminate the spill.
 - b. Explanation of how the SSMP Overflow Emergency Response plan was implemented to respond to and mitigate the SSO.

- c. Final corrective action(s) completed and/or planned to be completed, including a schedule for actions not yet completed.

iii. **Water Quality Monitoring:**

- a. Description of all water quality sampling activities conducted including analytical results and evaluation of the results.
- b. Detailed location map illustrating all water quality sampling points.

6. **PLSDs**

Discharges of untreated or partially treated wastewater resulting from blockages or other problems within a privately owned sewer lateral connected to the enrollee's sanitary sewer system or from other private sanitary sewer system assets may be voluntarily reported to the CIWQS Online SSO Database.

- i. The enrollee is also encouraged to provide notification to Cal OES per section B above when a PLSD greater than or equal to 1,000 gallons has or may result in a discharge to surface water. For any PLSD greater than or equal to 1,000 gallons regardless of the spill destination, the enrollee is also encouraged to file a spill report as required by Health and Safety Code section 5410 et. seq. and Water Code section 13271, or notify the responsible party that notification and reporting should be completed as specified above and required by State law.
- ii. If a PLSD is recorded in the CIWQS Online SSO Database, the enrollee must identify the sewage discharge as occurring and caused by a private sanitary sewer system asset and should identify a responsible party (other than the enrollee), if known. Certification of PLSD reports by enrollees is not required.

7. **CIWQS Online SSO Database Unavailability**

In the event that the CIWQS Online SSO Database is not available, the enrollee must fax or e-mail all required information to the appropriate Regional Water Board office in accordance with the time schedules identified herein. In such event, the enrollee must also enter all required information into the CIWQS Online SSO Database when the database becomes available.

8. **Mandatory Information to be Included in CIWQS Online SSO Reporting**

All enrollees shall obtain a CIWQS Online SSO Database account and receive a "Username" and "Password" by registering through CIWQS which can be reached at CIWQS@waterboards.ca.gov or by calling (866) 792-4977, M-F, 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. These accounts will allow controlled and secure entry into the CIWQS Online SSO Database. Additionally, within thirty (30) days of initial enrollment and prior to recording SSOs into the CIWQS Online SSO Database, all enrollees must complete a Collection System Questionnaire (Questionnaire). The Questionnaire shall be updated at least once every 12 months.

i. **SSO Reports**

At a minimum, the following mandatory information shall be reported prior to finalizing and certifying an SSO report for each category of SSO:

- a. **Draft Category 1 SSOs**: At a minimum, the following mandatory information shall be reported for a draft Category 1 SSO report:
1. SSO Contact Information: Name and telephone number of enrollee contact person who can answer specific questions about the SSO being reported.
 2. SSO Location Name.
 3. Location of the overflow event (SSO) by entering GPS coordinates. If a single overflow event results in multiple appearance points, provide GPS coordinates for the appearance point closest to the failure point and describe each additional appearance point in the SSO appearance point explanation field.
 4. Whether or not the SSO reached surface water, a drainage channel, or entered and was discharged from a drainage structure.
 5. Whether or not the SSO reached a municipal separate storm drain system.
 6. Whether or not the total SSO volume that reached a municipal separate storm drain system was fully recovered.
 7. Estimate of the SSO volume, inclusive of all discharge point(s).
 8. Estimate of the SSO volume that reached surface water, a drainage channel, or was not recovered from a storm drain.
 9. Estimate of the SSO volume recovered (if applicable).
 10. Number of SSO appearance point(s).
 11. Description and location of SSO appearance point(s). If a single sanitary sewer system failure results in multiple SSO appearance points, each appearance point must be described.
 12. SSO start date and time.
 13. Date and time the enrollee was notified of, or self-discovered, the SSO.
 14. Estimated operator arrival time.
 15. For spills greater than or equal to 1,000 gallons, the date and time Cal OES was called.
 16. For spills greater than or equal to 1,000 gallons, the Cal OES control number.
- b. **Certified Category 1 SSOs**: At a minimum, the following mandatory information shall be reported for a certified Category 1 SSO report, in addition to all fields in section 8.i.a :
1. Description of SSO destination(s).
 2. SSO end date and time.
 3. SSO causes (mainline blockage, roots, etc.).
 4. SSO failure point (main, lateral, etc.).
 5. Whether or not the spill was associated with a storm event.
 6. Description of spill corrective action, including steps planned or taken to reduce, eliminate, and prevent reoccurrence of the overflow; and a schedule of major milestones for those steps.
 7. Description of spill response activities.
 8. Spill response completion date.
 9. Whether or not there is an ongoing investigation, the reasons for the investigation and the expected date of completion.

10. Whether or not a beach closure occurred or may have occurred as a result of the SSO.
 11. Whether or not health warnings were posted as a result of the SSO.
 12. Name of beach(es) closed and/or impacted. If no beach was impacted, NA shall be selected.
 13. Name of surface water(s) impacted.
 14. If water quality samples were collected, identify parameters the water quality samples were analyzed for. If no samples were taken, NA shall be selected.
 15. If water quality samples were taken, identify which regulatory agencies received sample results (if applicable). If no samples were taken, NA shall be selected.
 16. Description of methodology(ies) and type of data relied upon for estimations of the SSO volume discharged and recovered.
 17. SSO Certification: Upon SSO Certification, the CIWQS Online SSO Database will issue a final SSO identification (ID) number.
- c. **Draft Category 2 SSOs**: At a minimum, the following mandatory information shall be reported for a draft Category 2 SSO report:
1. Items 1-14 in section 8.i.a above for Draft Category 1 SSO.
- d. **Certified Category 2 SSOs**: At a minimum, the following mandatory information shall be reported for a certified Category 2 SSO report:
1. Items 1-14 in section 8.i.a above for Draft Category 1 SSO and Items 1-9, and 17 in section 8.i.b above for Certified Category 1 SSO.
- e. **Certified Category 3 SSOs**: At a minimum, the following mandatory information shall be reported for a certified Category 3 SSO report:
1. Items 1-14 in section 8.i.a above for Draft Category 1 SSO and Items 1-5, and 17 in section 8.i.b above for Certified Category 1 SSO.

ii. **Reporting SSOs to Other Regulatory Agencies**

These reporting requirements do not preclude an enrollee from reporting SSOs to other regulatory agencies pursuant to state law. In addition, these reporting requirements do not replace other Regional Water Board notification and reporting requirements for SSOs.

iii. **Collection System Questionnaire**

The required Questionnaire (see subsection G of the SSS WDRs) provides the Water Boards with site-specific information related to the enrollee's sanitary sewer system. The enrollee shall complete and certify the Questionnaire at least every 12 months to facilitate program implementation, compliance assessment, and enforcement response.

iv. **SSMP Availability**

The enrollee shall provide the publicly available internet web site address to the CIWQS Online SSO Database where a downloadable copy of the enrollee's approved SSMP, critical supporting documents referenced in the SSMP, and proof of local governing board approval of the SSMP is posted. If all of the SSMP documentation listed in this subsection is not publicly available on the Internet, the enrollee shall comply with the following procedure:

- a. Submit an **electronic** copy of the enrollee's approved SSMP, critical supporting documents referenced in the SSMP, and proof of local governing board approval of the SSMP to the State Water Board, within 30 days of that approval and within 30 days of any subsequent SSMP re-certifications, to the following mailing address:

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
Attn: SSO Program Manager
1001 I Street, 15th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

D. WATER QUALITY MONITORING REQUIREMENTS:

To comply with subsection D.7(v) of the SSS WDRs, the enrollee shall develop and implement an SSO Water Quality Monitoring Program to assess impacts from SSOs to surface waters in which 50,000 gallons or greater are spilled to surface waters. The SSO Water Quality Monitoring Program, shall, at a minimum:

1. Contain protocols for water quality monitoring.
2. Account for spill travel time in the surface water and scenarios where monitoring may not be possible (e.g. safety, access restrictions, etc.).
3. Require water quality analyses for ammonia and bacterial indicators to be performed by an accredited or certified laboratory.
4. Require monitoring instruments and devices used to implement the SSO Water Quality Monitoring Program to be properly maintained and calibrated, including any records to document maintenance and calibration, as necessary, to ensure their continued accuracy.
5. Within 48 hours of the enrollee becoming aware of the SSO, require water quality sampling for, at a minimum, the following constituents:
 - i. Ammonia
 - ii. Appropriate Bacterial indicator(s) per the applicable Basin Plan water quality objective or Regional Board direction which may include total and fecal coliform, enterococcus, and e-coli.

E. RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS:

The following records shall be maintained by the enrollee for a minimum of five (5) years and shall be made available for review by the Water Boards during an onsite inspection or through an information request:

1. General Records: The enrollee shall maintain records to document compliance with all provisions of the SSS WDRs and this MRP for each sanitary sewer system owned including any required records generated by an enrollee's sanitary sewer system contractor(s).
2. SSO Records: The enrollee shall maintain records for each SSO event, including but not limited to:
 - i. Complaint records documenting how the enrollee responded to all notifications of possible or actual SSOs, both during and after business hours, including complaints that do not

result in SSOs. Each complaint record shall, at a minimum, include the following information:

- a. Date, time, and method of notification.
 - b. Date and time the complainant or informant first noticed the SSO.
 - c. Narrative description of the complaint, including any information the caller can provide regarding whether or not the complainant or informant reporting the potential SSO knows if the SSO has reached surface waters, drainage channels or storm drains.
 - d. Follow-up return contact information for complainant or informant for each complaint received, if not reported anonymously.
 - e. Final resolution of the complaint.
- ii. Records documenting steps and/or remedial actions undertaken by enrollee, using all available information, to comply with section D.7 of the SSS WDRs.
 - iii. Records documenting how all estimate(s) of volume(s) discharged and, if applicable, volume(s) recovered were calculated.
3. Records documenting all changes made to the SSMP since its last certification indicating when a subsection(s) of the SSMP was changed and/or updated and who authorized the change or update. These records shall be attached to the SSMP.
 4. Electronic monitoring records relied upon for documenting SSO events and/or estimating the SSO volume discharged, including, but not limited to records from:
 - i. Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems
 - ii. Alarm system(s)
 - iii. Flow monitoring device(s) or other instrument(s) used to estimate wastewater levels, flow rates and/or volumes.

F. CERTIFICATION

1. All information required to be reported into the CIWQS Online SSO Database shall be certified by a person designated as described in subsection J of the SSS WDRs. This designated person is also known as a Legally Responsible Official (LRO). An enrollee may have more than one LRO.
2. Any designated person (i.e. an LRO) shall be registered with the State Water Board to certify reports in accordance with the CIWQS protocols for reporting.
3. Data Submitter (DS): Any enrollee employee or contractor may enter draft data into the CIWQS Online SSO Database on behalf of the enrollee if authorized by the LRO and registered with the State Water Board. However, only LROs may certify reports in CIWQS.
4. The enrollee shall maintain continuous coverage by an LRO. Any change of a registered LRO or DS (e.g., retired staff), including deactivation or a change to the LRO's or DS's contact information, shall be submitted by the enrollee to the State Water Board within 30 days of the change by calling (866) 792-4977 or e-mailing help@ciwqs.waterboards.ca.gov.

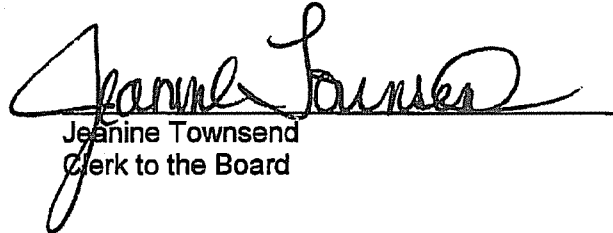
5. A registered designated person (i.e., an LRO) shall certify all required reports under penalty of perjury laws of the state as stated in the CIWQS Online SSO Database at the time of certification.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Clerk to the Board does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an order amended by the Executive Director of the State Water Resources Control Board.

7/30/13

Date



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board

FACT SHEET

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

ORDER NO. 2006-0003

STATEWIDE GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SANITARY SEWER SYSTEMS

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted Resolution 2004-80 in November 2004, requiring staff to work with a diverse group of stakeholders (known as the SSO Guidance Committee) to develop a regulatory mechanism to provide a consistent statewide approach for reducing Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs). Over the past 14 months, State Water Board staff in collaboration with the SSO Guidance Committee, developed draft statewide general waste discharge requirements (WDRs) and a reporting program. The WDRs and reporting program reflect numerous ideas, opinions, and comments provided by the SSO Guidance Committee.

The SSO Guidance Committee consists of representatives from the State Water Board's Office of Chief Counsel, several Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards), United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Region IX, non-governmental environmental organizations, as well as publicly-owned sanitary sewer collection system agencies. The draft WDRs, reporting program, and associated documents result from a collaborative attempt to create a robust and rigorous program, which will serve as the basis for consistent and appropriate management and operation of sanitary sewer systems.

During the collaborative process, several key issues regarding the draft WDRs were identified. These include:

- Is there a need for statewide collection system requirements?
- Should these systems be regulated under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued pursuant to the Federal Clean Water Act or under WDRs issued pursuant to the California Water Code (the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act or Porter-Cologne)?
- Should the regulatory mechanism include a prohibition of discharge and, if so, should the prohibition encompass only SSOs that reach surface waters, ground water, or should all SSOs be prohibited?
- Should a regulatory mechanism include a permitted discharge, an affirmative defense, or explicit enforcement discretion?
- Should the regulated facilities include publicly-owned facilities, privately owned facilities, satellite systems (public and private), and/or private laterals?

- Should all SSOs be reported, and if not, what should the reporting thresholds be; and what should the reporting timeframes be?
- How will existing permits and reporting requirements incorporate these new WDRs?
- How much will compliance with these new WDRs cost?

The WDRs and Reporting Program considered the comments of all stakeholders and others who commented on the two drafts circulated to the public. These documents also incorporate legal requirements and other revisions to improve the effectiveness and management of the regulatory program. Following is a discussion of the above issues, comments received on the drafts and an explanation of how issues were resolved.

The Need

As California's wastewater collection system infrastructure begins to age, the need to proactively manage this valuable asset becomes increasingly important. The first step in this process is to have a reliable reporting system for SSOs. Although there are some data systems to record spills and various spill-reporting requirements have been developed, inconsistent requirements and enforcement have led to poor data quality. A few Regional Water Boards have comprehensively tracked SSOs over the last three to five years, and from this information we have been able to determine that the majority of collection systems surveyed have had SSOs within this time period.

Both the San Diego and Santa Ana Regional Water Boards have issued WDRs over the last several years to begin regulating wastewater collection systems in an attempt to quantify and reduce SSOs. In fact, 44 out of 46 collection system agencies regulated by the San Diego Regional Water Board have reported spills over the last four and a half years, resulting in 1467 reported SSOs. Twenty-five out of 27 collection system agencies subject to the Santa Ana Regional Water Board's general WDRs reported SSOs between the years of 1999-2004. During this time period, 1012 SSOs were reported.

The 2004 Annual Ocean and Bay Water Quality Report issued by the Orange County Environmental Health Care Agency shows the number of SSOs increasing from 245 in 1999 to 399 in 2003. While this number indicates a concerning trend, the total annual spill volume from these SSOs has actually decreased dramatically, as has the number of beach closures due to SSOs. It is likely, therefore, that the rise in number of SSOs reflects better reporting, and not an actual increase in the number of SSOs.

This information also suggests that the Santa Ana Regional Water Board's WDRs, which contain sanitary sewer management plan (SSMP) requirements similar to those in the proposed statewide general WDRs, have been effective in

not only increasing the number of spills that are reported but also in mitigating the impacts of SSOs that do occur.

Data supports the conclusion that virtually all collection systems have SSOs and that implementation of a regulatory measure requiring SSO reporting and collection system management, along with required measures to limit SSOs, will greatly benefit California water quality. Implementation of these requirements will also greatly benefit and prolong the useful life of the sanitary sewer system, one of California's most valuable infrastructure items.

NPDES vs. WDRs

Porter-Cologne subjects a broader range of waste discharges to regulation than the Federal Clean Water Act. In general, the Clean Water Act prohibits the discharge of pollutants from point sources to surface waters of the United States unless authorized under an NPDES permit. (33 U.S.C. §§1311, 1342). Since not all SSOs result in a discharge to surface water, however, not all SSOs violate the Clean Water Act's NPDES permitting requirements. Porter-Cologne, on the other hand, covers all existing and proposed waste discharges that could affect the quality of state waters, including both surface waters and groundwater. (Wat. Code §§13050(e), 13260). Hence, under Porter-Cologne, a greater SSO universe is potentially subject to regulation under WDRs. In addition, WDRs under Porter-Cologne can address both protection of water quality as well as the prevention of public nuisance associated with waste disposal. (*Id.* §13263).

Some commenters contend that because all collection systems have the potential to overflow to surface waters the systems should be regulated under an NPDES permit. A recent decision by the United States Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit, however, has called into question the states' and USEPA's ability to regulate discharges that are only "potential" under an NPDES permit. In *Waterkeeper Alliance v. United States Environmental Protection Agency* (2005) 399 F.3d 486, 504-506, the appellate court held that USEPA can only require permits for animal feedlots with "an actual addition" of pollutants to surface waters. While this decision may not be widely followed, especially in the area of SSOs, these are clearly within the jurisdiction of the California Water Code.

USEPA defines a publicly owned treatment works (POTW) as both the wastewater treatment facility and its associated sanitary sewer system (40 C.F.R. §403.3(o)¹). Historically, only the portion of the sanitary sewer system that is owned by the same agency that owns the permitted wastewater treatment facility has been subject to NPDES permit requirements. Satellite sewer collection systems (i.e. systems not owned or operated by the POTW) have not been

¹ The regulation provides that a POTW include sewers, pipes, and other conveyances only if they convey wastewater to a POTW.

typically regulated as part of the POTW and, therefore, have not generally been subject to NPDES permit requirements.

Comments were received that argued every collection system leading to a POTW that is subject to an NPDES permit should also be permitted based upon the USEPA definition of POTW. Under this theory, all current POTW NPDES permits could be expanded to include all satellite sewer collection systems, or alternatively, the satellite system owners or operators could be permitted separately. However, this interpretation is not widely accepted and USEPA has no official guidance to this fact.

There are also many wastewater treatment facilities within California that do not have discharges to surface water, but instead use percolation ponds, spray irrigation, wastewater reclamation, or other means to dispose of the treated effluent. These facilities, and their satellite systems, are not subject to the NPDES permitting process and could not be subject to a statewide general NPDES permit. POTWs that fall into this category, though, can be regulated under Porter-Cologne and do have WDRs.

In light of these factors, the State Water Board has determined that the best approach is to propose statewide general WDRs at this time.

Prohibition of Discharge

The Clean Water Act prohibits the discharge of wastewater to surface waters except as authorized under an NPDES permit. POTWs must achieve secondary treatment, at a minimum, and any more stringent limitations that are necessary to achieve water quality standards. (33 U.S.C. §1311(b)(1)(B) and (C)). Thus, an SSO that results in the discharge of raw sewage to surface waters is prohibited under the Clean Water Act.

Additionally, California Water Code section 13263 requires the State Water Board to, after any necessary hearing, prescribe requirements as to the nature of any proposed discharge, existing discharge, or material change in an existing discharge. The requirements shall, among other things, take into consideration the need to prevent nuisance.

California Water Code section 13050 (m), defines nuisance as anything which meets all of the following requirements:

- a. Is injurious to health, or is indecent or offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property, so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property.
- b. Affects at the same time an entire community or neighborhood, or any considerable number of persons, although the extent of the annoyance or damage inflicted upon individuals may be unequal.

- c. Occurs during, or as a result of, the treatment or disposal of wastes.

Some SSOs do create a nuisance as defined in state law. Therefore, based upon these statutory requirements, the WDRs include prohibitions in Section C. of the WDRs. Section C. states:

C. PROHIBITIONS

1. Any SSO that results in a discharge of untreated or partially treated wastewater to waters of the United States is prohibited.
2. Any SSO that results in a discharge of untreated or partially treated wastewater, which creates a nuisance as defined in California Water Code section 13050(m) is prohibited.

Furthermore, the State Water Board acknowledges the potential for more stringent water quality standards that may exist pursuant to a Regional Water Board requirement. Language included in Section D.2 of the WDRs allows for these more stringent instances.

D. PROVISIONS

2. It is the intent of the State Water Board that sanitary sewer systems be regulated in a manner consistent with the general WDRs. Nothing in the general WDRs shall be:
 - (i) Interpreted or applied in a manner inconsistent with the Federal Clean Water Act, or supersede a more specific or more stringent state or federal requirement in an existing permit, regulation, or administrative/judicial order or Consent Decree;
 - (ii) Interpreted or applied to authorize an SSO that is illegal under either the Clean Water Act, an applicable Basin Plan prohibition or water quality standard, or the California Water Code;
 - (iii) Interpreted or applied to prohibit a Regional Water Board from issuing an individual NPDES permit or WDRs, superseding the general WDRs, for a sanitary sewer system, authorized under the Clean Water Act or California Water Code; or
 - (iv) Interpreted or applied to supersede any more specific or more stringent WDRs or enforcement order issued by a Regional Water Board.

Permitted Discharge, Affirmative Defense, and Enforcement Discretion

Commenters from the discharger community have requested inclusion of an affirmative defense to an SSO on the grounds that certain SSO events are unforeseen and unavoidable, such as SSOs due to extreme wet weather events. An affirmative defense is a mechanism whereby conduct that otherwise violates WDRs or a permit will be excused, and not subject to an enforcement action, under certain circumstances. Since many collection system industry experts believe that not all SSOs may be prevented, given certain circumstances (such as unforeseen vandalism, extreme wet weather, or other acts of God), many

collection system owner representatives believe this should formally be recognized by including an affirmative defense for these unavoidable SSOs.

Previous informal drafts of the general WDRs included affirmative defense language, which was contingent upon appropriate development and implementation of sanitary sewer management plan (SSMP) requirements, as well as a demonstration that the SSO was exceptional and unavoidable. Other stakeholders, including USEPA and the environmental groups opposed the concept of an affirmative defense for SSOs. They argued that its inclusion in the WDRs would undermine the Clean Water Act and inappropriately limit both Regional Water Board and third party enforcement.

After considering input from all stakeholders, and consulting with USEPA, staff is not recommending inclusion of an affirmative defense. Rather, the draft WDRs incorporate the concept of enforcement discretion, and explicitly identify what factors must be considered during any civil enforcement proceeding. The enforcement discretion portion of the WDRs is contained within Sections D. 6 and 7, and is consistent with enforcement discretion provisions within the California Water Code.

Facilities Subject to WDRs

Collection systems consist of pipelines and their appurtenances, which are intended to transport untreated wastewater to both publicly-owned and private wastewater treatment facilities. While wastewater treatment facilities are owned by a wide variety of public and private entities, public agencies (state and federal agencies, cities, counties, and special districts) own the vast majority of this infrastructure.

Collection systems that transport wastewater to POTWs could be grouped into four different categories:

1. Publicly-owned treatment works – pipelines and appurtenances that are owned by a public agency that also owns a wastewater treatment facility;
2. Publicly-owned satellites – pipelines and appurtenances that are owned by a public agency that does not own a wastewater treatment facility; and
3. Private laterals - pipelines and appurtenances that are not owned by a public agency, but rather discharge into one of the above types of facilities.
4. Privately owned treatment works – pipelines and appurtenances that are owned by a private entity, which also owns a wastewater treatment facility (often a septic tank and leach field).

The WDRs require all public agencies, which own wastewater collection systems (category 1 and 2 above) to enroll in the WDRs. Privately owned systems (categories 3 and 4) are not subject to the WDRs; however, a Regional Water

Board may at its discretion issue WDRs to these facilities on a case-by-case or region wide basis.

Collection systems discharging into POTWs (categories 1, 2, and 3) represent, by far, the greatest amount of collection system infrastructure within California. Since regulating private entities (categories 3 and 4) on a statewide basis would be unmanageable and impractical (because of the extremely large number and lack of contact information and other associated records), staff believes focusing on the public sector is the best option for meaningful and consistent outcomes. The legal authority and reporting provisions contained in the WDR do require limited oversight of private laterals (category 3) by public entities. Given this limited responsibility of oversight, public entities are not responsible or liable for private laterals.

State Water Board staff will notify all known public agencies that own wastewater collection systems, regarding their obligation to enroll under these WDRs. However, because of data inaccuracies, State Water Board staff may inadvertently not contact an agency that should enroll in the WDRs or erroneously contact a public agency that does not own a collection system. Staff will make every effort to accurately identify public agencies. In the event that a public agency is overlooked or omitted, however, it is the agency's responsibility to contact the State Water Board for information on the application process. An agency can find the appropriate contact by visiting the State Water Board's SSO homepage at www.waterboards.ca.gov/ss0.

SSO Reporting

SSOs can be distinguished between those that impact water quality and/or create a nuisance, and those that are indicators of collection system performance. Additionally, SSO liability is attributed to either private entities (homeowners, businesses, private communities, etc...) or public entities. Although all types of SSOs are important to track, the reporting time frames and the type of information that need to be conveyed differ.

The Reporting Program and Online SSO Database clearly distinguish the type of spill (major or minor) and the type of entity that owns the portion of the collection system that experienced the SSO (public or private entity). The reason to require SSO reporting for SSOs that do not necessarily impact public health or the environment is because these types of SSOs are indicators of collection system performance and management program effectiveness, and may serve as a sign of larger and more serious problems that should be addressed. Although these types of spills are important and must be regulated by collection system owners, the information that should be tracked and the time required to get them into the online reporting system are not as stringent.

Obviously, SSOs that are large in nature, affect public health, or affect the environment must be reported as soon as practicable and information associated with both the spill and efforts to mitigate the spill must be detailed. Since the Online SSO Database is a web based application requiring computer connection to the internet and is typically not as available as telephone communication would be, the Online Database will not replace emergency notification, which may be required by a Regional Water Board, Office of Emergency Services, or a County Health or Environmental Health Agency.

Incorporating Existing Permits

It is the State Water Board's intent to have one statewide regulatory mechanism that lays out the foundation for consistent collection system management requirements and SSO reporting. While there are a significant number of collection systems that are not actively regulated by the State or Regional Water Boards, some efforts have been made to regulate these agencies on a facility-by-facility or region-by-region basis. General WDRs, individual WDRs, NPDES permits, and enforcement orders that specifically include collections systems are mechanisms that have been used to regulate collection system overflows.

However, because of these varying levels of regulatory oversight, confusion exists among collection system owners as to regulatory expectations on a consistent and uniform basis (especially with reporting spills). Currently, there are a myriad of different SSO reporting thresholds and a number of different spill report repositories. Because of the varying levels of reporting thresholds and the lack of a common database to capture this information, an accurate picture of SSOs throughout California is unobtainable.

In order to provide a consistent and effective SSO prevention program, as well as to develop reasonable expectations for collection system management, these General WDRs should be the primary regulatory mechanism to regulate public collection systems. The draft WDRs detail requirements associated with SSMP development and implementation and SSO reporting.

All NPDES permits for POTWs currently include federally required standard conditions, three of which apply to collection systems. NPDES permits must clarify that the following three conditions apply to that part of the collection system that is owned or operated by the POTW owner or operator. These conditions are:

- Duty to mitigate discharges (40 CFR 122.41(d))
- Requirement to properly operate and maintain facilities (40 CFR 122.41(e))
- Requirement to report non-compliance (40 CFR 122.41(l)(6) and (7))

Understandably, revising existing regulatory measures will not occur immediately. However, as time allows and, at a minimum, upon readopting existing WDRs or WDRs that serve as NPDES permits, the Regional Water Boards should rescind redundant or inconsistent collection system requirements. In addition, the Regional Water Boards must ensure that existing NPDES permits clarify that the three standard permit provisions discussed above apply to the permittee's collection system.

Although it is the State Water Board's intent that this Order be the primary regulatory mechanism for sanitary sewer systems statewide, there will be some instances when Regional Water Boards will need to impose more stringent or prescriptive requirements. In those cases, more specific or more stringent WDRs or an NPDES permit issued by a Regional Water Board will supersede this Order. Finding number 11, in the WDRs states:

11. Some Regional Water Boards have issued WDRs or WDRs that serve as National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits to sanitary sewer system owners/operators within their jurisdictions. This Order establishes minimum requirements to prevent SSOs. Although it is the State Water Board's intent that this Order be the primary regulatory mechanism for sanitary sewer systems statewide, Regional Water Boards may issue more stringent or more prescriptive WDRs for sanitary sewer systems. Upon issuance or reissuance of a Regional Water Board's WDRs for a system subject to this Order, the Regional Water Board shall coordinate its requirements with stated requirements within this Order, to identify requirements that are more stringent, to remove requirements that are less stringent than this Order, and to provide consistency in reporting.

Cost of Compliance

While the proposed WDRs contain requirements for systems and programs that should be in place to effectively manage collection systems, many communities have not implemented various elements of a good management plan. Some agencies are doing an excellent job managing their collection systems and will incur very little additional costs. Other agencies will need to develop and implement additional programs and will incur greater costs. However, any additional costs that a public agency may incur in order to comply with these General WDRs are costs that an agency would necessarily incur to effectively manage and preserve its infrastructure assets, protect public health and prevent nuisance conditions. These General WDRs prescribe minimum management requirements that should be present in all well managed collection system agencies.

In order to estimate the compliance costs associated with the proposed WDRs, staff analyzed costs associated with implementing the Santa Ana Regional Water Board's general WDRs. Twenty-one agencies, which discharge to Orange County Sanitation District, submitted financial summaries for the last five years, representing both pre- and post-WDRs adoption. Operation and maintenance costs, program development costs, as well as capital improvement costs were

considered and fairly accurately represent what can be expected statewide with the adoption of the General WDRs.

After extrapolating the sample to yield a statewide cost perspective, the projected annual cost of implementing the statewide WDRs is approximately \$870 million. This total represents \$345.6 million in O&M costs and \$524.5 for capital improvement projects.

While this sum is substantial, presenting the costs on a per capita or per household basis puts the figure in perspective. Department of Finance estimated the total population for Californians that may be subject to the WDRs to be 30.3 million persons (1/1/05). Dividing the population by the approximate average household size of 2.5 yields 12 million households. The average household in California is assumed to be 2.5 persons. The increased average annual cost (in order to comply with these WDRs) per person is estimated to be \$28.74 and \$71.86 per household (or \$5.99 per month per household)

Given these average costs there will be some communities that realize higher costs on a per household basis and some that realize less cost. Furthermore, larger communities will probably also realize an economy of scale, which is dependent upon a community's size. While larger communities may see lower costs associated with compliance, smaller communities will probably see a higher cost associated with compliance. Costs for compliance in small communities may be as high as \$40 per month per household.

