

ACTION 26

46

Decrease raw sewage discharges into the Estuary

Reduce the input of raw sewage into the Estuary by supporting and expanding sewer lateral repair programs and developing resources for marinas and recreational boaters to better manage sewage discharge. Create a mobile application for boaters to find pumpout stations and report repair needs.

TASK 26-1 Review sewer lateral repair ordinances currently in operation around the region, and target 30 percent of the uncovered jurisdictions for assistance in developing and passing a sewer ordinance modeled on existing regional programs such as those of Berkeley and the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD).

BY 2016 Complete review and identify jurisdictions.

TASK 26-2 Produce and promote a white paper that describes existing and potential funding mechanisms for residents to help pay for private sewer line repair and replacement, such as grant programs and financing strategies.

BY 2017 Complete white paper.

TASK 26-3 Publish an industry-supported, technically vetted sewage management manual for marinas.

BY 2019 Complete sewage management manual for marinas.

TASK 26-4 Develop a mobile app for boaters to report broken pumpouts, and for marinas to report pumpout use and operational status; pilot a mobile pumpout program for marinas and recreational boaters in the Oakland Estuary. Install 10 new dockside pumpout systems in marinas to increase the size and availability of the pumpout network.

BY 2017 Launch application and pilot program.

BY 2021 Install 10 new pumpouts.

BACKGROUND

Most of the sewage systems in the Bay Area are over 50 years old and in poor condition. General wear-and-tear and pressure from tree roots have caused pipes to crack over time. Cracks allow rain water to seep into the sanitary sewer system during storms (called inflow and infiltration, or I&I), which overloads the limited capacity of the treatment plants and leads to illegal discharges of raw sewage into the Bay. An analysis in 2010 found that only 15 out of 115 wastewater agencies in the Bay Area have enacted sewer lateral ordinances. Draft ordinances have been developed by the North Bay Watershed Association and other groups; other jurisdictions can use these as models. Financing for private sewer lateral upgrades can be an impediment to full implementation; alternative finance methods could speed replacement efforts and should be explored.

Recreational boating practices have the potential to quickly and significantly affect water quality if proper management and pollution prevention practices are not followed. According to a California Department of Boating and Waterways report (2011), over half of the vessels in San Francisco Bay have a sewage system on board. These systems can be either discharged overboard into the water, or pumped into a land-based sewage system for treatment. When discharged overboard, this concentrated sewage has dramatic localized effects on water quality, especially in shallow or low-flush areas like marinas and harbors. Richardson Bay is the only water body in the region with a pathogen TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) (see Glossary), passed in 2009. It cites vessel discharges as a significant potential source of pathogen pollution in the Bay. While outreach is a critical component of addressing this issue, a multi-pronged approach to reduce the likelihood of sewage discharge in the San Francisco Bay should be undertaken.

This CCMP action supports stronger local oversight of sewer lateral repair. It also supports efforts by marinas and boaters to properly manage sewage, and ensure that land-based sewage disposal facilities for boaters are abundant and functional.

OWNERS

SF Estuary Partnership (Tasks 26-1 through 26-4)

COLLABORATING PARTNERS

North Bay Watershed Association, SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, various municipalities and wastewater agencies