

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

**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. ~~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.~~
7. ~~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.~~
8. Both uniform SSO reporting and a centralized statewide electronic database are needed available 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.
9. Information regarding SSOs must be provided to OES and other regulatory agencies in a timely manner and be made available to the public in a complete, concise, and timely fashion.
10. 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. 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. All Regional Water Board differences shall be reported to the State, made publicly available, and/or included in the SSO Library.

**Commented [CAoS1]:** It is not currently clear which portion of the SSMP the qualified professional must certify and provide a stamp for. This is an item that should be clarified, or in the alternative the requirement eliminated.

**Commented [CAoS2]:** This was the purpose of the original WDR in 2006, but the State Water Board now has more than a decade of data and information in this area. It is not clear this section is still necessary.

**Commented [jiv3]:** As noted in this section, the SSS WDR is designed to be the primary regulatory mechanism for sanitary sewer systems. Regional Board duplication or expansion of requirements in NPES permits creates confusion and inconsistency, and should be discouraged to the extent possible.

### **REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS**

11. 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:

**Unexpected End of Formula**

- 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

**Unexpected End of Formula**

16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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.
19. State Water Resources Control Board Resolution No. 2017-0012 states sharp rises in the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases over the last century and a half, due to human activity, have led to an increase in global average temperature, and associated climate change. Climate change is affecting and will affect different regions in different ways. Current and future impacts include increasing frequency of extreme weather events, prolonged fire seasons with larger and more intense fires, increased tree mortality, heat waves, extended drought conditions, sea-level rise and storm surges. Examples of water quality impacts listed in Resolution No. 2017-0012 include potential sewer overflows due to more intense precipitation and increased storm water runoff.
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

**Commented [CAoS4]:** This is intended to provide an overview of how climate change should be incorporated into the WDR consistent with the Resolution, and mimics language within the Resolution itself.

**Commented [CAoS5]:** In addition, the State Water Board may wish to consider a new finding regarding how agencies have, in recent years, improved system response to changing and more extreme climate conditions. We can assist with language if this is acceptable.

**Unexpected End of Formula**

interested persons of the intent to prescribe revised WDRs that require Enrollees to develop SSMPs and to report all SSOs described in Section G of this Order.

23. The State Water Board conducted a public hearing on \_\_\_\_\_ to receive oral and written comments on the draft order. The State Water Board received and considered, at its \_\_\_\_\_ 2019, meeting, additional public comments on substantial changes made to the proposed general WDRs following the \_\_\_\_\_, 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 that are not the result of an action or failure to act on the part of the private property owner.

**Commented [CAoS6]:** The additional language here is necessary due to circumstances such as those presented in recent litigation, where a business failed to install a proper backflow prevention device as required by ordinance yet claimed liability on the part of the agency. The language can be modified if needed, but that is its intent.

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

**!Unexpected End of Formula**

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.

8. **De Minimus Volumes** – SSOs of less than or equal to fifty (50) gallons that do not reach waters of the United States.

**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. Additionally, public agencies that acquire or assume responsibility for operating sanitary sewer systems after the date of adoption of this original 2006 Order or any revisions 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. 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**

**Unexpected End of Formula**

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

**Commented [CAoS7]:** We eliminated the reference to inflow and infiltration because reducing I/I is not really being considered a "feasible alternative" to the discharge, rather it is being addressed through capital programs and other orders.



**Unexpected End of Formula**

untreated wastewater to a treatment facility, or an increase in the capacity of the system as necessary to contain the system 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 and economically reasonable.

- (vi) The sanitary sewer system design capacity is appropriate to reasonably prevent SSOs.
- (vii) The Enrollee took all reasonable and feasible 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 and reasonable 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 its 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

**Commented [CAoS8]:** It does not make sense to reference the treatment facility here, particularly when the collection system agency has no authority to control or impose requirements on the treatment facility. If an agency is both a treatment and collection agency, then treatment facility issues should be addressed through the discharger's NPDES permit and not through the general WDR.

**Commented [jiv9]:** In some circumstances it is more cost effective to treat/address the additional influent than control for I/I. For references to cost effectiveness when accounting for I/I, please see 40 CFR 35.2120.



**Unexpected End of Formula**

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 reasonable 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 from the system design storm. 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 website along with all references and adoption authorization or submitted to the SWRCB. 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 and minimize 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~~ contact information for management, administrative, and maintenance positions

**Commented [CAoS10]:** This is the same issue identified in Section 6 of the findings. It is not currently clear which portion of the SSMP the qualified professional must certify and provide a stamp for. This is an item that should be clarified, or in the alternative the requirement eliminated.

**Commented [jiv11]:** There should be more clarity on which sections of the SSMPs must be certified by a professional. Many small agencies do not have the resources to have the entirety of the SSMP certified by a professional, nor is certification of the entire document be necessary.

**Commented [CAoS12]:** Time schedule is no longer applicable now that the WDR has been in effect.

**Unexpected End of Formula**

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 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 and customer notices;
- (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

**Commented [CAoS13]:** All of this information is part of the OERP (element vi below) and is duplicative. Recommend deleting this section.

**Unexpected End of Formula**

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, including how start and end times and volume are determined;
- (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 most current 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

**Commented [CAoS14]:** It makes sense for the operations and maintenance section to include repairs, but the rest of the planning for rehabilitation and repair is more properly placed in the **System Evaluation and Capacity Assurance Plan** section. Though it is not redlined here, we can discuss the split in future meetings. Recommend that the CIP Plan be moved to Element 8 with the SECAP.

**Commented [jiv15]:** We believe it may be useful both for the discharger and the Water Board to include this additional information as part of the OERP process.

**!Unexpected End of Formula**

- 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 **feasible and 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.

**Commented [jiv16]:** Duplicative of the above section on legal authority as it related to FOG, recommended to delete.

(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:

**Commented [CAoS17]:** There needs to be some consideration and potential language to cover small systems here. Many smaller systems (e.g. less than 50 miles of pipeline) do not have the resources to prepare a full CIP with hydraulic capacity.

(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 ~~estimates~~ design storm criteria for 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. Where applicable, contributions to peak flows should be reviewed with reference to climate resiliency and the possible impact of more intense precipitation and drought associated with extreme dry or wet weather events arising from climate change.

**Commented [CAoS18]:** The SECAP is the appropriate place for consideration of potential climate change impacts, in circumstances where it is applicable. This language is designed to allow an agency to examine and consider those impacts, but with flexibility as to the focus and depth of that analysis.

(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, practicable and economically reasonable 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.~~ Where applicable, I/I reduction programs should be reviewed with reference to climate resiliency and the possible impact of more intense precipitation and drought associated with extreme dry or wet weather events arising from climate change.

**Commented [CAoS19]:** The SECAP is the appropriate place for consideration of potential climate change impacts, in circumstances where it is applicable. This language is designed to allow an agency to examine and consider those impacts, but with flexibility as to the focus and depth of that analysis.

(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;

**Unexpected End of Formula**

- (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 three (3) years and a report must be prepared, certified by the LRO 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.

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 and certified by the LRO every six (6) 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.~~

**Commented [CAoS20]:** The Water Board should consider that that small systems with no SSOs could justify a longer period between audits.

**Commented [CAoS21]:** Although not specified in the redlines, we believe that the Water Board, in consultation with the regulated entities, needs to determine an appropriate and standardized "start date" or initiating event from which the audits and the certifications run so that they all line up at the appropriate times and it is clear statewide what the barometer is. This should avoid the issue of audit/certification overlap experienced under the current 2/5 structure with three years in a row of audits and certifications. In addition, the State should clarify impacts on the audit schedule when there is SSMP governing Board adoption for significant changes mid-term – does the schedule clock restart completely?

**Commented [CAoS22]:** Under the new timeline/structure, the audits will occur every 3 years and will coincide with the 6-year SSMP update, at which point it will be certified by the LRO.

**Unexpected End of Formula**

**E. WDRs and SSMP AVAILABILITY**

1. A copy of the general WDRs and the certified SSMP shall be maintained on the Enrollees website along with all references and adoption authorization or submitted directly to the SWRCB along with all references and adoption documents by the governing body and shall be available to sanitary sewer system operating and maintenance personnel at all times.

**Commented [CAoS23]:** The SSS WDR is available at the SWRCB website and is not necessary on the local agency websites.

**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 most current 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 the most current Monitoring and Reporting Program No. ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~. 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

**Commented [CAoS24]:** This refers to the most recently adopted version of the MRP that is in effect.



## !Unexpected End of Formula

State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ

Page 16 of 17

Statewide General WDR For Wastewater Collection Agencies

5/2/06

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 appropriate authorities as specified in this WDR and the most current MRP. 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.

5. SSOs less than or equal to 50 gallons that do not reach waters of the United States shall be considered a de minimus discharge that is not required to be reported, consistent with the Monitoring and Reporting Program.

**Commented [CAoS25]:** There is a unique issue presented for those collection system agencies that operate in multiple regional water board jurisdictions, and how information is reported for those folks (e.g. are spills reported to the region where they occur, or if more than 50% of the service area is in one RWQCB boundary should all reports go there? Clarity is needed here, though we are not sure of the appropriate language to address it.

**Commented [jiv26]:** This issue is primarily covered in the edits to the MRP, but reflects the issue identified in our comment letter regarding the need for a de minimus discharge exemption.

## 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

**!Unexpected End of Formula**

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:

NO:

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

**!Unexpected End of Formula**

*State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ  
Statewide General WDR For Wastewater Collection Agencies*

*Page 18 of 17  
5/2/06*

Clerk to the Board

