

Committee Request for Board Action: None

41 attendees, representing 30 member agencies, plus 4 guests.

Proposed Infiltration & Inflow (I&I) Pilot Study

Jim Jacobs and Olivia Jacobs of the Clearwater Group presented details about a proposed study to understand and better respond to sanitary sewer overflow conditions. The study is a response to the threat of rising groundwater levels on sewer collection systems. The proposed study plan is to use a network of piezometers with remote telemetry to study water movement between sewer pipes, utility trenches, and groundwater. The utility trench can act as a preferential pathway for water (if not backfilled with native clay soils), and a saturated utility trench can increase I&I. The study goal is to allow operators to distinguish conditions with a flooded utility trench or elevated groundwater levels, as the two conditions would have different operational responses.

The study team is seeking one or more collection system agencies to participate in the study. The ideal study participant would have areas with shallow groundwater, and sewer pipelines installed in a utility trench with non-native backfill.

[Link to Presentation Slides](#)

City of Alameda staff shared information about their recently completed report, "[The Response of the Shallow Groundwater Layer and Contaminants to Sea Level Rise](#)," by Silvestrum Climate Associates. The report identifies impacts from rising groundwater levels, including the mobilization of groundwater contaminants.

Leadership

Stephen Miksis, O&M Manager of Ross Valley Sanitary District, is the new vice chair of the committee.

SSS WDR Update

On February 12, the State Water Board released an [Informal Staff Draft](#) of the revised statewide Sanitary Sewer System Waste Discharge Requirements (SSS-WDR). Two public workshops will be held on March 2nd and March 4th for staff members to receive comments. BACWA members may route comments to Mary Cousins. BACWA is also working with CASA to develop a priority set of comments on the informal staff draft. These comments are likely to touch on provisions related to exfiltration, spill reporting, operator certification requirements, SSMP requirements, and private laterals, among others. The State Water Board intends to adopt the revised SSS-WDR in 2021, with an effective date in early 2022.

Next Collection System Committee Meeting

Our next committee meeting is currently scheduled for Thursday, May 20th, but will likely be moved up to develop comments on the proposed new SSS-WDR.