

**Committee Request for Board Action: None**

**41 attendees, representing 26 member agencies.**

**Drought Update**

The committee discussed the impacts of the recently-declared drought emergency. Members noted the following impacts so far:

- Marin Municipal Water District is proposing to ban the use of potable water for sewer hydro-flushing, which means that cleaning crews have to fill up with recycled water. This is problematic for small agencies that use contractors for cleaning, and for agencies that are not located near any recycled water supply points (purple hydrant or treatment plant). It is also problematic because recycled water accelerates wear and tear on the cleaning truck's pumps. Screens and filters will have to get cleaned more often, too.
- One agency reported switching to more mechanical cleaning in lieu of hydro-flushing, but costs for steel parts (like blades) has also increased recently.
- One agency reported coordinating with the water department to fill up their sewer cleaning trucks using hydrants that need to be flushed anyway to maintain potable water quality.
- Several agencies use well water for filling their trucks.
- BACWA's Executive Director noted that DWR is proposing new water use efficiency regulations, which will continue the trend of increasing influent strength.

**Leadership**

The committee is searching for a new vice chair.

**SSS WDR Update**

The committee discussed the Informal Staff Draft Sanitary Sewer Order released in February by the State Water Board, with the goal of obtaining comments to pass on the team preparing a markup of the draft order. The markup will be shared soon, when it is completed. The following comments were noted:

- Exfiltration – The order should not be set up with the presumption that exfiltration is happening. Exfiltration should have to be “demonstrated” before it is subject to reporting requirements or enforcement. Unlike regular spills, there is an investigation period that needs to happen between suspecting and confirming a potential problem. There was concern that agencies would have to be in a position of proving a negative (no exfiltration), which is difficult, especially since some areas have combined septic and sewerage.
- Exfiltration – Surveilling for possible exfiltration is already included with the other resiliency requirements.. For example, exfiltration is already included in Section 7.1 regarding bacterial-related impairments. The general feeling was that existing programs are able to provide sufficient information on defects that could lead to exfiltration; additional surveillance is not needed.
- Category 4 SSOs should not be reported in CIWQS; allowing only certain “high-performing” agencies this privilege will result in inequitable data quality from around the state.
- Most agencies use the current 11-element SSMP outline, but some agencies have enhanced requirements due to enforcement orders, so there needs to be flexibility to use a different outline if needed.
- There was strong support for a 2-year / 2-year / 6-year audit and SSMP cycle.
- Audits – the due date trigger should be completion of the SSMP, plus ~3 months to get it into CIWQS.
- There was strong support for re-starting the clock with each SSMP update, because the current system often triggers the need for updates sooner than 5 years.
- There was support for the idea that the new order doesn't require re-certification for major changes to the SSMP, and only calls out putting changes in the change-log.
- Regarding stormwater and water utility coordination, there was a desire to have the language focus more on emergency operations. The reference to “Daily . . . operation and maintenance” is unclear.

**Next Collection System Committee Meeting**

Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM