

Committee Request for Board Action: None

31 attendees, including representatives from 22 member agencies

San Diego Regional Water Board Investigative Order Research Update

Ken Schiff of the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) provided an update on a [2019 Investigative Order](#) issued by the San Diego Regional Water Board to identify and quantify sources and pathways of human fecal material to the lower San Diego River watershed. A similar presentation was provided to the San Diego Regional Water Board on May 11, 2022 ([Video](#); agenda item begins at 47 minutes). SCCWRP is assisting with the scientific effort of quantifying human fecal loading, which the Regional Water Board may use to determine follow-up actions.

SCCWRP's research is combining several approaches to quantify human fecal bacteria loading to the watershed from sanitary sewer exfiltration, homeless populations, private sewer laterals, sanitary sewer overflows, and onsite wastewater treatment systems. From preliminary research, the team has determined that **wet weather** loading is the primary problem. The project is expected to be complete in December 2024. Ken explained two key aspects of the ongoing research, which are:

- **Homeless Populations** – Conducting a census and survey of sanitary habitats
- **Sanitary Sewers** – Using the unique microbial community that forms a biofilm in sanitary sewer pipes to determine which sub-watersheds have a signal that may reflect exfiltration.

Additional information about the sewer biofilm method is available from SCCWRP [here](#).

SSS WDR Update

Comments on the State Water Board's [public draft Sanitary Sewer Order](#) (SSS-WDR) were due on April 8th. A copy of all the comment letters submitted, including those of BACWA and individual BACWA member agencies, can be found in [this folder](#). BACWA and CASA will be discussing a training strategy with CWEA in the coming weeks. State Water Board staff are working on a final version of the SSS-WDR for consideration by the State Water Board by the end of 2022. Staff have requested a meeting with CASA representatives to discuss key dates in the SSS-WDR, such as the effective date.

Effects of Water Conservation on Wastewater Agencies

On May 11th, the State Water Board held a workshop on the potential impacts of forthcoming indoor water use efficiency standards on wastewater management. Regardless of the standards, conservation is expected to result in lower per-capita flows over time. Researchers at Sacramento State and partner institutions have recently completed modeling to estimate the statewide cost impacts of the proposed water use efficiency standards on wastewater agencies. Based on their research, annualized capital and operating costs for treatment and collection systems are estimated to increase by about 4% by 2030. Some agencies will be negatively impacted by higher wastewater concentrations and lower flows, while others may see benefits from reduced pumping costs. More information on this effort is available here:

- [SWB Presentation from 5/11/22 on Wastewater management study](#)
- [SWB Materials from 5/11/22 on Wastewater management workshop; Video Recording](#)
- [SWB Task 5 – Summary of Environmental Effects](#)

California Air Resources Board Advanced Clean Truck/Fleet Rule

California is setting a course to end sales of internal combustion passenger vehicles by 2035, and to achieve carbon neutrality in transportation by 2045. CARB's proposed Advanced Clean Fleet Regulation would require 100% of fleet purchases to be Zero-Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) by 2027. Natural Gas vehicles would not qualify as ZEVs. CASA is seeking amendments this proposal to allow continued use of biogas as a clean, sustainable transportation fuel.

Next Collection System Committee Meeting: Thursday, August 11, 2022, 10 AM on Zoom