

**Committee Request for Board Action: None**

**35 attendees from 25 member agencies**

**Round Table Discussion – Wet Weather Operations in December 2022 and January 2023**

Attendees discussed experiences during and after the extreme wet weather events that occurred in Dec. 2022 and Jan. 2023, which produced widespread surface flooding and sanitary sewer spills. The discussion included:

- Stormwater system failures and coastal flooding contributed to the complexity of sewer system operations during this period. Attendees reported out on stormwater pumps that failed, resulting in ponding water that subsequently entered sanitary sewers, as well as king tides that entered into sanitary sewers. These situations are considered spills that have to be reported.
- Stormwater system operators have been known to pop manholes to drain ponded areas, which contributes to spills elsewhere. Union Sanitary District provided an example of a reminder to local stormwater agencies not to do this ([link](#) to sample email).
- It is hazardous for emergency response crews to walk into flooded areas where there may be missing manhole covers – someone could fall down a manhole. Crews should be made aware of this danger and respond accordingly (do not exit vehicles, or walk with a probe / shovel). Some members also noted that they try to provide advance warning to residential areas that are prone to flooding.
- Attendees discussed practices for operator staffing during large wet weather events. One agency reported reserving hotel rooms for operators that have been placed on “storm standby.” They also bring in extra support staff to take service calls, provide food, and support field crews. It may also be helpful to ask operators to call in their location when an emergency has been declared, since travel could become difficult and mutual aid responses may be required.

**SSS-WDR Update**

The State Water Board reissued the [SSS-WDR](#) in December 2022, and the effective date is June 5, 2023. The Clean Water Summit Partners hosted a webinar on January 11<sup>th</sup> that covered key differences between the existing 2006 SSS-WDR and the reissued order (materials are [here](#)). The [presentation by the State Water Board's Walter Mobley](#) contains essential information such as these upcoming compliance due dates:

- In CIWQS, certify continuation of existing regulatory coverage between April 5<sup>th</sup> and June 4<sup>th</sup>
- Upload existing Sewer System Management Plan to CIWQS by June 5, 2023
- **Update Spill Emergency Response Plans (no submittal required) by June 5, 2023**
- Designate an LRO that meets the updated managerial requirements (if applicable) by June 5, 2023

Although the State Water Board intends to release information about CIWQS revisions before the June 5<sup>th</sup> effective date, it may not be available in time to inform detailed updates to Spill Emergency Response Plans. Consultants present at the meeting recommended updating your agency's Spill Emergency Response Plan, then incorporating it into your SSMP *before* uploading the SSMP into CIWQS. There is no requirement that the Spill Emergency Response Plan be approved by your governing board; just note the revision in your change log.

Upcoming training opportunities for the SSS-WDR include:

- A Clean Water Summit Partners webinar tentatively scheduled for March 22
- CSRMA is offering free webinars for members on Feb. 22, March 9, and March 14. [Register here](#).
- CWEA plans to produce short video modules in March and April, and will offer sessions at the [CWEA Annual Conference](#) April 18-21 in San Diego, including a [pre-conference workshop](#) on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Attendees discussed the need for additional guidance materials, and supported the concept of BACWA developing materials. The guidance does not necessarily have to be approved by the Water Boards. The following would be useful:

- Guidance for conducting audits and updating SSMPs to conform to the reissued SSS-WDR
- Sharing example SSMPs small / medium / large agencies that are adequate and scalable
- Short guidance documents to help LROs understand their legal responsibilities
- Guidance on modernizing SSMPs with links or QR codes for significant supporting documents

**Announcements and Events**

- The Collection System Awards Luncheon will be on April 20<sup>th</sup> at the [CWEA Annual Conference](#)
- The CWEA SF Bay Section will offer a [TCP exam preparation seminar](#) in Antioch on March 8<sup>th</sup>
- The CWEA Santa Clara Valley Section will offer a [TCP exam prep seminar](#) in Foster City on Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>

**Next Collection System Committee Meeting:** Thursday, May 18, 2023, 10 AM on Zoom