

Committee Request for Board Action: None

Regular meeting: 33 attendees via Zoom representing 24 agencies and the Regional Water Board

Analysis of Sanitary Sewer Spills

The reissued statewide General Order for Sanitary Sewer Spills ([WQO 2022-0103-DWQ](#)) went into effect on June 5th. The order contains updated sampling requirements for sanitary sewer spills that are greater than 50,000 gallons and reach a surface water. The new monitoring requirements include:

- The response time to collect samples is now 18 hours instead of 48 hours
- For spills that travel through a “drainage conveyance system” (i.e., stormwater system), there is a new sample location (DCS-001) upstream of the discharge point into the receiving water, requiring 4 sample kits instead of 3 sample kits for field crews
- Samples must be analyzed for ammonia and bacteria by an ELAP-accredited laboratory

Regional Water Board staff have provided the following guidance on bacteria monitoring:

- For spills to freshwater, sample for *E. coli*.
- For spills to marine, estuarine, or brackish water:
 - For spills to the Bay, sample for enterococcus.
 - For spills to Bay segments with the SHELL beneficial use, sample for total coliform or fecal coliform.

The SHELL beneficial use is listed in Basin Plan [Table 2-1](#) or this [GIS-based Beneficial Use Viewer](#).

Members discussed that fecal coliform is preferable to total coliform because Colilert is subject to false positives for non-drinking-water samples. If using total coliform, select multiple tube fermentation rather than Colilert.

In the Bay Area, McCampbell and Caltest provide contract laboratory analysis for these types of samples. McCampbell does not offer weekend service. Caltest is available to receive weekend samples from 10 am to 2 pm. BACWA will conduct informational outreach to Caltest on the new requirements. One BACWA member noted that they have the personal cell phone for their agency’s Caltest contact to use during spill events or similar emergencies, and recommended that others do the same.

EBMUD and CMSA plan to share materials (e.g., contracts, sample lab reports) related to receiving external samples for laboratory analysis, for use by members who may want to set up this type of arrangement. Neither EBMUD nor CMSA has capacity to process samples for additional agencies at this time.

An [IDEXX training](#) will be conducted on June 22nd in Dublin for labs that want to add IDEXX-based FOAs.

ELAP Updates

- As discussed at our [April committee meeting](#), TNI-2 is effective 1/1/24 regardless of your lab’s schedule for renewing certifications. The verification process is still being worked out by ELAP. At this year’s ELAP Conference (see [Program](#) and [Videos](#)), ELAP staff that for labs that have not had a TNI assessment by 1/1/24, ELAP will ask questions to gauge your compliance (see [Video](#)), including
 - Know when your next assessment needs to be;
 - Have your Quality Manual updated;
 - Document review of procedures and staff training, and
 - Respond when ELAP contacts you.
- ELAP is implementing the [2021 Method Update Rule](#). Old methods cannot be renewed after Feb. 2024. Labs are advised to update their methods before Feb. 2024 so that they can take advantage of the one-time on-site assessment waiver and reduced fees for some methods (if certain requirements are met).
- ELAP recently reported to the State Water Board that there has been a 25% reduction in the number of ELAP-certified labs. ELAP is [proposing changes](#) to its fee structure and planning to increase fees. A stakeholder meeting was held June 13th (see [handout](#)) another will be held Aug. 4th. They are considering a volume-based charge or tiered system to make fees less burdensome on smaller labs.

BACWA Updates:

- Resources from BACWA Annual Members meeting are available on the [BACWA website](#).
- The Regional Water Board is developing a chlorine blanket permit amendment, which was circulated to the committee for review.

Agency Reports and Group Discussion

- SVCW reported that they recently had 9 findings from a TNI assessment. One of the findings was related to using single-point calibration for ICP analysis. SVCW was able to have this finding removed because TNI-2 [standard interpretations](#) allow single-point calibration.
- Brittany Rossi (Petaluma) is planning to provide CIWQS staff with updated information reflecting ELAP's implementation of 2021 MUR so that the new methods can be reported to CIWQS.
- USD will soon be recruiting for a new chemist ([link](#)).

TNI Training and Implementation

- The next TNI training session will be June 20th and Diane Lawver will cover common findings on quality systems. The July meeting will cover common findings for methods. After that, the sessions will switch to bi-monthly Q&A sessions (Aug., Oct., Dec., Feb., April and June)

Next Regular Meeting : Tuesday, August 8, 2023, 10 AM on Zoom