

Committee Request for Board Action: None

46 attendees from 27 member agencies and two guest speakers participated virtually.

Committee Leadership: The committee welcomed Tracy Heidersbach (EBMUD) as the committee's incoming co-chair, and thanked Tyree Jackson for his three years of leadership service.

Wildfire Response and Recovery - [Link to Slides](#)

[Joe Schiavone](#), Deputy Director of Water and Sewer Operations at the City of Santa Rosa, shared his experience with wildfire recovery and response for sanitary sewer systems. Santa Rosa's Tubbs Fire in 2017 destroyed about 10% of the housing in the City's service area, and Joe has also assisted with water and wastewater systems recovery after other large fires. Some of the key points included:

- **Relationships.** During a fire, pump station operations are hampered by access restrictions and damaged communications lines. It is important to have a relationship with the Fire Department to maintain staff access to water and wastewater infrastructure.
- **Undergrounding.** Infrastructure that is below-ground is better-protected during a wildfire. After the Tubbs Fire, Santa Rosa was able to use FEMA hazard mitigation funding to modify one of their sewer lift stations to be a below-ground station. Sewer mains are typically undamaged.
- **Capping Laterals.** For the structures (e.g., homes) that burned, plastic sewer laterals were destroyed starting at the structure and extending towards the main. The open connections can cause debris and contaminated stormwater to wash into sewer mains. With FEMA assistance, Santa Rosa was able to have the damaged sewer laterals capped; laterals were re-connected as structures were rebuilt. Joe recommended that sewer agencies ensure they are part of the fire recovery team so that this lateral capping can be implemented soon after a fire. The work is typically performed by a contractor, not by the sewer agency, because it is on private property.

Private Sewer Lateral Inspection Program Update - Justin Keating (Vallejo Flood and Wastewater District) provided an overview of the [Private Lateral Inspection Program](#) that the District recently developed to respond to regulatory requirements and to reduce infiltration & inflow. The program requires a point-of-sale lateral inspection, but does not require replacement. The District continues to provide partial reimbursement for lateral replacement through their [Upper Lateral Program](#), which District ratepayers support through a separate line item on their sewer bill. Members discussed enforcement considerations and the importance of outreach to real estate professionals.

Announcements

- Re-enrollees in the [Sanitary Sewer Systems General Order](#) must submit a service area boundary map to the State Water Board by December 31, 2025. The State Water Board has provided a [Guidance Document](#). CASA's Spencer Saks shared tips for success, such as ensuring that the WDID for the affiliated wastewater treatment plant matches the one in your Annual Report (if it is incorrect, fix the Annual Report first).
- Per [BCDC's Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan](#), cities/counties must develop plans to adapt to Sea Level Rise. [Contact BCDC](#) if your special district needs a point of contact for this process.
- Air Quality Updates: As of December 2024, all diesel standby generators > 50 BMP must meet [Tier 4 emissions standards](#). The California Air Resources Board is amending the Advanced Clean Fleet regulations to incorporate more exemptions and extensions regarding procurement of zero-emissions "utility-specialized" vehicles ([link](#)).
- Pollution Prevention Update: The California Department of Pesticide Regulation's enforcement staff have taken action to ensure that copper sulfate-based root control products are not available for sale online, as required by code ([link](#)). Using copper sulfate for root control can harm aquatic life in San Francisco Bay.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 13th – Virtual