Collection Systems Committee
Report to BACWA Board

Committee meeting on 2/5/2026
Executive Board Meeting Date: 2/20/26
Committee Chairs: Dana Lawson (Central San) and Tracy Heidersbach (EBMUD)

Committee Request for Board Action: None

61 attendees from 33 collection system agencies, including two guest speakers

OneShoreline - Guidance for Resilient Public Infrastructure Link to Slides

Summer Bundy, Director of Projects at the San Mateo County Flood & Sea Level Rise Resiliency District (OneShoreline) shared details about a guidance document that her agency is currently preparing to foster climate resilience for public infrastructure projects. The voluntary guidance is intended to help stormwater, transportation, and wastewater agencies with adaptation planning. It will address **flood hazards from sea level rise, groundwater level rise, and increased precipitation intensity**. The guidance will contain technical information associated with the magnitude and timing of each of these risks; agencies will then be able to use this information for long-term facility planning. Although some of the risk information will be specific to San Mateo County, the guidance document may be adapted by others in the Bay Area. OneShoreline is aiming to distribute a draft guidance document in Spring 2026, and to **adopt the guidance document in Fall 2026**.

After the presentation, Jim Fischer shared that his CWEA Annual Conference talk (link) will cover related topics of climate resilience for wastewater agencies.

Roundtable Discussion on January 2026 King Tides

Attendees shared their experiences with king tides that were present in the Bay Area in early January 2026. King tides caused **facility access problems** due to surface flooding. Pump station operations can also be impacted by **flooded underground electrical equipment**, and PG&E response times may be delayed given that the king tides impact the entire region. SFPUC staff shared the unique impacts to the City's combined sewer system, which allowed Bay water to overflow into the storage boxes via combined sewer discharge structures. Ross Valley Sanitary District shared that their system was impacted by the City's operations of a nearby lagoon, causing sewage spills and highlighted the importance of **coordinating with the local stormwater utility** during a high tide. Attendees discussed considerations for calculating and reporting **sewage spill volumes**.

GIS Tools for Collection Systems Agencies

Vince Fortino of ESRI shared information about the centralized data management capabilities of ArcGIS for wastewater utilities. ArcGIS tools are now increasingly used by field staff, who can either update asset data from the field, or view it during overflow and emergency response. Vince demonstrated ArcGIS's capabilities for maintenance planning. In 2026, legacy ArcGIS desktop software is being retired and replaced by ArcGIS Pro (see transition resources from ESRI).

BACWA Updates

- BACWA's new "Wastewater 101" video available is now available on YouTube or to download.
- CARB is Phasing Out Tier 3 Portable Diesel Engines, which some agencies may be using for backup pumping or emergency power generation. New emissions controls may be required.
- Responses to a DWR-sponsored survey of collection systems to evaluate the impacts of water conservation (SB 1157) are requested by Feb 27th.
- The State Water Board recently required submittal of sewer service area maps per the Sanitary Sewer Systems General Order, and will reach out to EPA regarding the recent release of Sewershed Maps with known inaccuracies.
- Annual Reports for the Sanitary Sewer Systems General Order are due April 1st (Guidance).
- BACWA is planning an AI Sharing Webinar in late April and is seeking agencies to participate.

Inspection Updates

Regional Water Board staff have been auditing CIWQS spill reports and annual reports per the Sanitary Sewer Systems General Order, and recently reached out to at least one BACWA member agency with a "correction notice" related to non-compliant reporting. The notice requests submittal of missing reports and certifications.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 14th, 10 AM (Virtual or in-person, TBD)