

Perspective on Newly-Reissued
Statewide Sanitary Sewer Systems General Order
(Effective June 5, 2023)

Looking Ahead



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State Water Resources Control Board
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On December 22, 2022
State Water Board reissued
Statewide Waste Discharge Requirements

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814
ORDER WQ 2022-0103-DWQ
STATEWIDE WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
GENERAL ORDER FOR SANITARY SEWER SYSTEMS

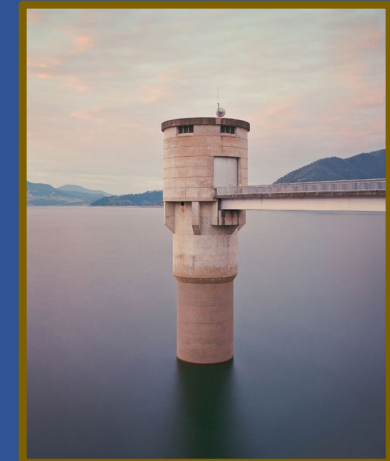
The General Order:

- *Updates existing 17-year-old Order that regulates collection systems*
- *Continues established regulatory structure of the 2006 Order*
- *Incorporates today's water quality protection priorities*

Protecting All Waters of the State from Sewage Spills

Reissued Order expands sewage spill prohibitions from waters of the U.S. to waters of the State

- Acknowledges sewage spills can enter:
 - Stormwater capture facilities
 - Drinking water and irrigation sources
- Management Plan and Spill Response requirements emphasize local coordination with drainage and drinking water agencies



Addressing Climate Change and Infrastructure Resilience

Transitioning from Reactive Spill Reporting to Proactive Implementation

In Sewer System Management Plans, Enrollees must:

- Identify system vulnerabilities that lend to high-consequence spills, and
- Prioritize operational changes and capital improvement projects
 - Emphasis on “implementation of an “effective” Plan
 - Required annual performance reports – spills per running 10-years



Emphasis of Planned Emergency Spill Response

Linking Sewage Spills with Watershed Drainage

- Spill Emergency Response Plans to be updated and implemented immediately (by June 5, 2023), to include:
 - Coordination with drainage agencies (NPDES permittees) and other agencies
 - Knowing where a sewage spill is going
 - Immediate blockage, proper clean up and reporting



Key - Skilled/trained responders, monitoring and documentation

Increased Transparency and Enforceability

- Full electronic reporting of all spill reports, audit reports and plans into statewide public database (CIWQS)
- Expanded Legally Responsible Officials qualifications
 - Certification of all reports and plans by same official with:
 - Authority over entire system
 - Involvement in capital improvement prioritization



Striving for a New Perspective

- Sewage is a water resource
 - Millions of gallons of sewage spilled equates to:
 - Millions of gallons not treated by WWTPs for stream flows and recycled water
- Collection system agencies are a critical partner in preserving our water resources



Assisting Disadvantaged Communities with Order Compliance

- State Water Board emphasis to staff, associations and technical experts
 - Effective outreach measures to reach remote or uninvolved agencies
 - Need for free or low-cost technical assistance to disadvantaged communities
- Everyone is “Stepping Up to the Plate”
 - One-on-one phone calls (word of mouth)
 - Associations and consultants sharing established tools at low/no costs
 - YouTube videos, field forms, webinars, complementary invitations



Thank you

For updates and guidance tools:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ssol/

For direct assistance, please email
SanitarySewer@waterboards.ca.gov