

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
JUNE 2, 2009**

ITEM 7

SUBJECT

INFORMATIONAL ITEM ON THE STATEWIDE SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOW REDUCTION PROGRAM (SSO PROGRAM)

DISCUSSION

In 2004, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) found that local agencies throughout the state were neither adequately maintaining their sanitary sewer systems, nor adding necessary capacity to accommodate population growth. Consequently, sanitary sewer systems increasingly failed to prevent Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs). As a result, the State Water Board adopted [Resolution No. 2004-0080](#), which directed staff to develop a statewide program to improve water quality through a reduction in the number and volume of SSOs.

The State Water Board formally adopted [Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ](#), Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems (SSO Order), on May 2, 2006. It applies to all public agencies that own sanitary sewer systems of over one mile of pipe. Its purpose is to reduce the number and volume of SSOs occurring throughout California. The SSO Order requires public agencies to enroll for coverage, report spills to an online database, and develop and implement Sewer System Management Plans.

In May 2008, staff completed a status report on the SSO Program as part of the Executive Director report. An annual update of this report is currently available.

Initial SSO Program implementation efforts focused on basic program start-up activities including enrollment, increasing monthly reporting participation, database improvements, and outreach. Since May 2006, the program continues to mature and significant SSO data has been collected. However, periodic review of the SSO Order and data are necessary to increase the effectiveness of the SSO Program and ensure compliance with the SSO Order. In May 2009, the State Water Board publicly announced the “SSO Order Review and Update” and its process. This process will include evaluation of the existing SSO Order requirements, implementation activities, and program’s effectiveness.

POLICY ISSUE

None at this time – information item

FISCAL IMPACT

None at this time – information item

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None at this time – information item

STAFF RECOMMENDATION or ADVISE OF STAFF ACTION

None at this time – information item