



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Central Coast Region



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Arnold Schwarzenegger
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REPORTING A SEWAGE SPILL

What governs sewage spill notifications?

California Water Code Section 13271 requires any person, without regard to intent or negligence, who causes or permits 1,000 gallons or more of sewage to be discharged or deposited in or on any waters of the state, or discharged or deposited where it is, or probably will be, discharged in or on any waters of the state, shall, as soon as (1) that person has knowledge of the discharge, (2) notification is possible, and (3) notification can be provided without substantially impeding cleanup or other emergency measures, immediately notify the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES).

Contacting the Governor's Office of Emergency Services

Telephone: (916)-845-8911 or (800)-852-7550

When is reporting necessary?

Any sewage spill in excess of the 1,000 gallon "reportable quantity" (California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Section (a)) and/ or a spill that reaches a channel, storm drain, or surface water must be reported. A discharge of less than 1,000 gallons must also be reported if the discharge is (or will be):

- To waters of the state (waters of the state include all waters within the boundaries of the state, whether public or private, whether in natural or artificial channel and whether surface or subsurface),
- To the ground within five feet of groundwater or within 500 feet of a surface water, water well, or domestic water supply source,
- Causing a pollution or threatened pollution,
- Causing a nuisance,
- a potential threat to public health.

Who needs to be notified?

The following agencies shall be notified when there is a sewage spill either from a sanitary sewer collection system or from the wastewater treatment facility:

State Governor's Office of Emergency Services (refer below for additional information)	(800) 852-7550 or (916) 845-8911
Central Coast Water Quality Control Board (or individual wastewater staff assigned to the facility)	(805)-549-3147
County Environmental Health Agencies	
Santa Cruz County	(831)-454-2022
San Benito County	(831)-636-4035
Monterey County	(831)-796-1900
San Luis Obispo County	(805)-781-5500
Santa Barbara County	(805)-681-5100
Ventura County	(805)-654-2494
Kern County	(661)-868-0306
San Mateo County	(650)-372-6200
Santa Clara County	(408)-918-3400

How soon do I need to notify the above agencies?

You are required to notify the OES, local health officers of environmental health (EHS), and appropriate Regional Board, within two (2) hours of sanitary spills that reach drainage channels of a surface water. Furthermore, the wastewater agency is required to certify, no later than 24 hours, that the OES, EHS, and the Regional Board were notified.

Where can I get more information regarding reporting, notifications, program development, etc.?

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES)

<http://www.oes.ca.gov/>

This page includes contact information for spill reporting, news, updates for emergencies, training resources.

State Water Resources Control Board - Sanitary Sewage Overflow

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/sanitary_sewer_overflow/

This page includes SSO General Order Information, On-line SSO Database Access and Use, Sewer System Management Plan Development/Implementation, Sanitary Sewer Order Training, Historical Information, and Contact.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Sanitary Sewage Overflow

http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=4

This page includes NPDES Permit Requirements for Municipal Sanitary Sewer Collection Systems and SSOs, Proposed Peak Wet Weather Discharge Policy, Report to Congress: Impacts and Control of CSOs and SSOs, Featured Case Studies, Fact Sheets, SSO Toolbox, SSO Federal Advisory Subcommittee, FAQs, and Wet Weather Discharges.

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