

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

RESOLUTION NO. R2-2005-0059

**In Support of Programs for Inspection and Rehabilitation of Private Sewer
Laterals**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, finds as follows:

1. A private sewer lateral is that portion of the sanitary sewer line that connects a house or building's plumbing to the public sanitary sewer system. Such laterals can comprise up to fifty percent of the total linear sewer in a community.
2. Many homes in the San Francisco Bay Region were built before 1950 and have never had their original sewer laterals inspected. Over time, as these pipelines age, they may deteriorate and need inspection or rehabilitation.
3. Sewer laterals that are in poor condition or have illegal connections may allow entry of storm water and groundwater into the system. This additional water can cause surcharging of public sewers and overload pump stations and wastewater treatment facilities. These problems can result in a discharge from the sewer system to waters of the State including the San Francisco Bay.
4. Both the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (Water Board), and the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA) agree that the discharge from the sanitary sewer system to the environment, may, in some cases, pose localized human health and environmental risks.
5. In many local jurisdictions, the maintenance of the sewer lateral, up to and including the connection to the sewer main, is the responsibility of the private property owner, while the local jurisdiction is responsible for maintenance of the sewer main. Local efforts to minimize infiltration and inflow will not be fully effective so long as laterals that feed into them are deteriorated.
6. Some local agencies in the Region already have programs for the inspection and rehabilitation of private laterals, such as inspection at the time of property sale.
7. Local programs for inspection and rehabilitation of private laterals are a means of assuring that laterals are not a source of unreasonable amounts of inflow and infiltration or blockages.
8. The Water Board and BACWA have developed a sanitary sewer overflow control program for the Region which includes electronic reporting of sanitary sewer overflows

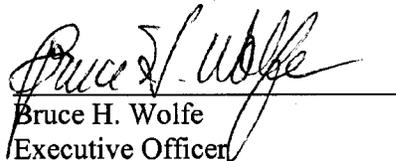
and the preparation of a sewer system management plan development guide for collection system agencies in the Region.

9. Some local agencies may have significant amounts of private lateral infiltration and inflow that may be a contributing factor to sanitary sewer overflows. It is recognized that other agencies may not have these types of problems and there is considerable variation in the condition of laterals among agencies.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Water Board supports and encourages local communities and sanitary sewer collection system agencies, especially those experiencing significant infiltration and inflow from private sewer laterals, to have a program that requires inspection and rehabilitation of private sewer laterals.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that this Water Board will consider the existence of such programs, especially in jurisdictions experiencing significant infiltration or inflow from private sewer laterals, as an important factor when considering enforcement actions for sewer system overflows.

I, Bruce H. Wolfe, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on October 19, 2005.


Bruce H. Wolfe
Executive Officer