# REVISED NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PRELIMINARY STAFF DRAFT STATEWIDE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM GENERAL ORDER REISSUANCE AND PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVENthat State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff is releasing a preliminary staff draft of the Statewide Sanitary Sewer System General Order reissuance, and will hold two public workshops regarding the preliminary staff draft, as discussed below.

No evidence or formal written or oral comments will be accepted at the public workshops; however, staff will be taking notes and considering feedback in the continued development of the draft General Order prior to the official public comment period. The State Water Board will not prepare a formal response to feedback on this preliminary staff draft. The State Water Board will issue a future public notice announcing the release of the official draft Statewide Sanitary Sewer System General Order, the public comment due date, and a corresponding State Water Board meeting to receive oral comments, at a further to-be-determined date.

NOTICE IS ADDITIONALLY HEREBY GIVENthat State Water Board staff will hold the following virtual public workshops to:

1. Provide stakeholders and interested parties information regarding the preliminary staff draft General Order, and
2. Allow stakeholders and interested parties to provide oral feedback to staff.

A quorum of the State Water Board may attend the virtual public workshops; however, no State Water Board action will be taken at these workshops.

The virtual public workshops will be held as follows:

**Public Workshop #1**

~~Tuesday, March 2, 2021: 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.~~

**Tuesday, April 13, 2021; 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

[Zoom Registration Link](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=JWoY_kl95kGZQQXSKB02wahViD85RkxCgqe5uIMuZHxUMzlHTDBZWlk0U1NKNjlNUjFRVEhFMDFYRS4u)

**Public Workshop #2**

~~Thursday, March 4, 2021: 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.~~

**Friday, April 16, 2021: 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

[Zoom Registration Link](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=JWoY_kl95kGZQQXSKB02wahViD85RkxCgqe5uIMuZHxUME85VUdVUUdMUFlCS1dJUzlDWDhCSjUyVi4u)

Additional information for participating in the workshops will be distributed via the Lyris email list described in the “Future Notices” section below and will be posted on the State Water Board [Sanitary Sewer Overflow Reduction Program Page](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/sso/).

## (<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/sso/>).

## BACKGROUND

In 2006, the State Water Board adopted the first statewide Sanitary Sewer System General Waste Discharge Requirements for consistent statewide regulation of sanitary sewers. Through this General Order, the State Water Board regulates public agencies for their sewage spills and local system management of approximately 1,100 systems (greater than 100,000 miles of pipelines). The General Order requires public agencies to report spills, develop a Sewer System Management Plan, and conduct internal audits. The Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) enforce the General Order and conduct informal and formal enforcement in response to spills.

Fourteen years of data indicate that the number of regulated sewer spills has decreased considerably since the adoption of the General Order; however, sewer systems continue to spill *high volumes* of untreated sewage into our waters.

State Water Board staff has developed a preliminary staff draft General Order reissuance that:

1. Clarifies existing prohibition of untreated waste discharge to waters of the State;
2. Updates the existing statewide General Order with implementation of State Water Board regulations and resolutions adopted since the 2006 adoption of the existing Order;
3. Provides increased public transparency of sewer spill data, Sewer System Management Plans, and sewer system performance;
4. Enhances Regional Water Board enforcement for General Order enrollees failing to proactively reduce sewage spills;
5. Addresses sewer system resiliency through proactive planning to:
   1. Identify system-specific impacts due to climate change, infrastructure age, population growth and other impacts, and
   2. Prevent future spills;
6. Increases coordination with other utility agencies in the sewer service area;
7. Updates monitoring and reporting requirements to address cost of compliance and data quality assurance;
8. Incentivizes system owner employment of certified collection system operators; and
9. Expands Order coverage to allow discretionary regulation of privately owned systems, allowing a Regional Water Board to require a privately owned system to obtain coverage under the Order.

## PRELIMINARY STAFF DRAFT ORDER AVAILABILITY

The preliminary staff draft Sanitary Sewer System General Order reissuance is available on the State Water Board [Sanitary Sewer Overflow Reduction Program Page](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/sso/). (<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/sso/>).

## WORKSHOP PROCEDURES

Due to ongoing circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the public workshop will be held remotely via an online platform. During the workshop, staff will present a detailed explanation of the preliminary staff draft Sanitary Sewer System General Order reissuance. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback via virtual communication.

## PUBLIC MEETING WEBCAST INFORMATION

Live video and audio broadcasts of the public meetings, for attendees that are solely interested in watching and not participating in the workshops, will be available via the internet and can be accessed at the [CalEPA Public Meeting Live Webcasts page](https://video.calepa.ca.gov) (<https://video.calepa.ca.gov/>). The public meetings will be recorded.

## FUTURE NOTICES

Any person desiring to receive future notices concerning further development of the proposed General Order reissuance, including any changes to this notice, must sign up for the Lyris e-mail list as follows: (1) access the email List Subscription Form at the web address listed below, (2) click the “Water Quality” tab, (3) check the box for “Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) Reduction Program Order Review,” and (4) fill in the required information. The subscription form is located on the “[State Water Board email subscription page](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml)”. ([www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email\_subscriptions/swrcb\_subscribe.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml)).

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please direct questions about this notice or requests for a paper copy of the preliminary staff draft General Order to Walter Mobley at [Walter.Mobley@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Walter.Mobley@waterboards.ca.gov).

February 24, 2021 SIGNATURE ON FILE

Date Jeanine Townsend

Clerk to the Board