



Enforcement News

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
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City of San Gabriel to Pay Penalty, Upgrade Sanitary Sewer System for Discharging Raw Sewage Into Local Waterways

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LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) has entered into a settlement agreement with the City of San Gabriel over alleged violations of the Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems and alleged discharges of untreated (raw) sewage and other pollutants into the Los Angeles River, the Pacific Ocean and other water bodies in the region.

For the alleged discharges of untreated sewage to waters of the United States, San Gabriel is liable for a civil penalty of \$67,106, and must make substantial upgrades to its sanitary sewer system, which is more than 75 years old in some areas.

The Regional Water Board alleged that on at least 12 different occasions, from May 2011 to July 2014, San Gabriel released pollutants and untreated sewage that reached storm drains that lead to the Los Angeles River; Alhambra and Rubio washes; the Pacific Ocean; and groundwater within Los Angeles County. Untreated sewage can contain pathogens harmful to public health, such as E. coli, salmonella, parasites, viruses and rotavirus. Discharges of untreated sewage to water bodies can also impact aquatic life and result in closed beaches.

“Older sewer systems in our region, such as San Gabriel’s, pose a serious threat to public health and the environment, as they are susceptible to sewage spills,” said Samuel Unger, Regional Water Board Executive Officer. “Actions like we have taken against San Gabriel will help the city upgrade and better monitor its system, and reduce the amount of spills, which in turn will protect the community and surrounding waterways.”

As part of the settlement agreement, the City of San Gabriel will pay \$26,866 of the civil penalty to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account. The remaining \$40,240 of the civil penalty will be suspended if the City follows through on several projects to upgrade and monitor the City’s sanitary sewer system. Those projects include initial and ongoing video analysis of the sewer system to identify areas where repair and upgrading is needed; increase

pipe capacity and upgrade aging infrastructure; inspect the sewer system for hot spots every 90 days and do maintenance/repairs as necessary; supply quarterly progress reports to the Regional Water Board; and other requirements.

To learn more about the settlement agreement and details related to the upgrade and maintenance projects the City must perform, see the settlement agreement on the Regional Water Board's enforcement [website](#).

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