



**Linda S. Adams**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

# State Water Resources Control Board

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## Division of Water Quality

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**Arnold Schwarzenegger**  
Governor

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

### SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOW REDUCTION PROGRAM REVIEW AND UPDATE

**Tuesday, September 15, 2009**

**1:30 to 5:30 p.m.**

Orange County Sanitation District Plant 1  
Board Room

10844 Ellis Avenue, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

**Tuesday, September 29, 2009**

**1:30 to 5:30 p.m.**

Elihu M. Harris Building  
First Floor Auditorium

1515 Clay Street, Oakland, CA 94612

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff will hold informal public meetings seeking comments on the performance of the statewide Sanitary Sewer Overflow Reduction Program (SSO Reduction Program), including the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems, Water Quality Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ ([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/water\\_quality/2006/wqo/wqo2006\\_0003.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2006/wqo/wqo2006_0003.pdf)). The locations and times of the meetings are provided above. If additional public meetings are scheduled, a separate notice will be published.

### BACKGROUND

An SSO is any overflow, spill, release, discharge or diversion of untreated wastewater (sewage) from a sanitary sewer system. SSOs often contain high levels of suspended solids, pathogenic organisms, toxic pollutants, nutrients, oil, and grease. SSOs pollute surface and ground waters, threaten public health, adversely affect aquatic life, and impair the recreational use and aesthetic enjoyment of surface waters.

*California Environmental Protection Agency*

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To provide a consistent, statewide strategy to address SSOs, the State Water Board adopted the SSO General Order as the primary regulatory mechanism to implement the SSO Reduction Program statewide. The SSO General Order is designed to reduce SSOs by requiring public agencies that own or operate sanitary sewer systems with more than one mile of pipe to enroll for coverage, develop and implement sewer system management plans, and report any SSOs to the State Water Board's online database. To date, nearly 1,100 publicly-owned sanitary sewer systems have been enrolled and 12,791 SSO incidents have been reported. Initial implementation efforts have focused on enrollment, reporting and compliance assistance.

## **PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION OF MEETINGS**

Consistent with the goals and objectives contained in the 2008-2012 Strategic Plan Update

([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/hot\\_topics/strategic\\_plan/docs/final\\_draft\\_strategic\\_plan\\_update\\_090208.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/hot_topics/strategic_plan/docs/final_draft_strategic_plan_update_090208.pdf)), the State Water Board is committed to enhancing consistency to ensure our regulatory processes are fair, effective, efficient, and predictable. To achieve this, periodic review and update to improve existing regulatory programs, such as the SSO Reduction Program, is necessary.

Interested meeting participants may review the latest "Statewide Sanitary Sewer Overflow Reduction Program Annual Compliance Report"

([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/sso/docs/compliance\\_report2009.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/sso/docs/compliance_report2009.pdf)) prepared annually for State Water Board executive management and Board members.

They may also review the SSO Reduction Program General Water Quality Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ and the supporting documentation available on the SSO Program Web site at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/sso/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/sso/index.shtml).

The purpose of the public meetings is to solicit comments from stakeholders on the SSO Reduction Program, including its implementation and effectiveness in reducing SSOs statewide. Stakeholder input will help staff identify further improvements which may involve reopening and revising the SSO General Order.

For the meetings, staff will provide a presentation of past and current program activities, findings related to the causes and effects of SSOs, the status of the SSO General Order's effectiveness in reducing SSOs statewide, and a list of questions for further discussion. Meeting participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and/or provide suggestions. Discussion may be limited to ensure that all issues are discussed.

## QUESTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED

The following sample questions will serve as a starting point for discussion at the public meetings. Additional questions will be presented as part of the formal staff presentation. In addition, meeting participants will be provided an opportunity to present additional questions, suggestions, and discussion points.

- How could the State Water Board improve the performance and implementation of the SSO Reduction Program?
- Are the existing emergency response procedures in the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) requirements adequate to protect public health and the environment?
- Could the existing online SSO reporting fields be improved? If so, which ones and how?
- Throughout calendar year 2008, nearly 15 million gallons (over 1,200 Category 1 SSOs) reached surface waters throughout the state as reported and certified in the State Water Board's online SSO database ([https://ciwqs.waterboards.ca.gov/ciwqs/readOnly/PublicReportSSOServlet?reportAction=criteria&reportId=sso\\_main](https://ciwqs.waterboards.ca.gov/ciwqs/readOnly/PublicReportSSOServlet?reportAction=criteria&reportId=sso_main)) by participating enrollees. What specific enforcement actions/penalties should be considered by the State Water Board to address each violation?
- Are the existing Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) elements adequate for ensuring long-range reductions in SSOs? Should more specific SSMP requirements be added to help further reduce SSOs?
- What regulatory strategy would be adequate to address sewage overflows from privately owned sanitary sewer systems?
- Should mandatory sanitary sewer system operator certification be required statewide and what would be the likely benefits if implemented?
- Should the SSO General Order be modified to accommodate coverage of combined sewer systems (pipelines and their appurtenances located upstream of storage, treatment, or retention basins) to provide appropriate public notification, reporting, and sewer system management planning?

- What additional changes (if any) are needed to the State Water Board's recently released online sewage spill incident maps ([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/sso/sso\\_map/sso\\_pu\\_b.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/sso/sso_map/sso_pu_b.shtml)) ?

## WRITTEN COMMENTS

Comments or recommendations you may have concerning the SSO Reduction Program Review and Update, including the SSO General Order, should be submitted no later than 5 p.m. on **October 19, 2009** to the following address with “**SSO Reduction Program Review and Update**” in the subject line:

Waste Discharge Requirements Unit  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Comment letters may also be submitted by email to [SSOcommentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:SSOcommentletters@waterboards.ca.gov) (if less than 15 megabytes in total size) or by fax at (916) 341-5463. For email submittals, please indicate in the subject line: **Comment Letter–“SSO Reduction Program Review and Update.”**

For future notices about the SSO Reduction Program Review and Update, interested parties may subscribe to the “Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) Reduction Program Order Review” email list serve located at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email\\_subscriptions/swrcb\\_subscribe.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml).

## PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

Both meeting facilities are accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations at either facility are requested to contact James Fischer, Division of Water Quality, in advance, at (916) 341-5548.

A map and directions to the meetings can be found at:  
[http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/about\\_us/directions.shtml](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/about_us/directions.shtml)  
and [http://www.ocsd.com/about/general\\_information/directions.asp](http://www.ocsd.com/about/general_information/directions.asp).

## **REQUEST FOR RSVP**

Reservations are not needed for this meeting. However, to ensure that the facility will accommodate all interested attendees, we would appreciate your RSVP (including meeting date, your agency, and number planning to attend) to the following email address: [SSOMeetingRSVP@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:SSOMeetingRSVP@waterboards.ca.gov).

## **MEETING AGENDAS**

The meeting agenda will be provided at the meetings. The meeting agenda will also be available September 1, 2009 at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/sso/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/sso/index.shtml) under the "SSO Reduction Program Review and Update" link.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Please direct questions about this notice to James Fischer at (916) 341-5548 or [jfischer@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jfischer@waterboards.ca.gov).