



# City of Whittier

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Greg Nordbak  
Mayor

Cathy Warner  
Mayor Pro Tem

Bob Henderson  
Council Member

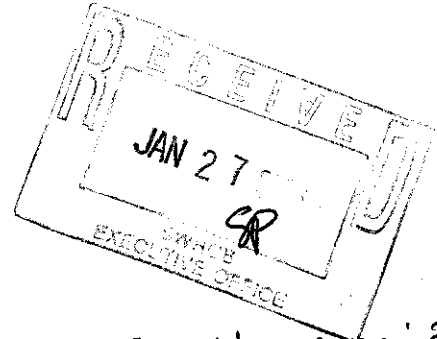
Douglas M. Lopez  
Council Member

Owen Newcomer  
Council Member

Stephen W. Helvey  
City Manager

January 17, 2006

Tam Doduc, Chair and Members  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Attn: Selica Potter, Acting Clerk to the Board



SSO Hearing: 2/8/06  
LATE

Dear Chairwoman Doduc and Members:

**RE: Sanitary Sewer Overflow Reduction Program  
Comment Letter – January 19, 2006**

This is written on behalf of the City of Whittier to express opposition to the Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for Wastewater Collection System Agencies and the accompanying Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) in their current form. The City of Whittier is supportive of the goals of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to implement the Sanitary Sewer Overflow Reduction Program (SSORP) to reduce the number and volume of the Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) throughout the State.


However, the City of Whittier believes the projected \$72 annual cost per household to implement the Statewide WDR that is shown in the Fact Sheet may underestimate the true cost for smaller cities such as ours. Even if the cost projection proves accurate, it does represent a very significant cost increase to be borne by our ratepayers. The State should attempt to identify a source of funding to support these new costs rather than simply requiring the cities to enact rate increases to cover the costs. Most importantly, these additional costs should not be further increased by fines or third party litigation requirements. The WDR must strongly differentiate between negligent and non-negligent SSOs, and must provide our residents with protection against the cost impact of fines and lawsuits based on SSOs that occur even after our collection system is managed, operated, and maintained according to the standards and requirements established by this new regulatory program.

Chairwoman Doduc  
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Additionally, the City of Whittier believes the proposed time schedule for implementation of the various program elements is too short and overly prescriptive. In particular, for our city, with a population falling between 10,000 and 100,000 people, development and implementation of a comprehensive Overflow Emergency Response Program within 12 months, which will require new equipment, personnel, and training, would be difficult. The City of Whittier believes more time should be afforded and separate deadlines for individual program elements should be eliminated.

The City of Whittier strongly urges the SWRCB not to adopt the WDR and MRP without cost support, protection for our ratepayers from potentially unfair and unreasonable regulatory fines and third party litigation, and additional time for program implementation.

Sincerely,



Greg Nordbak  
Mayor