The City of Burlingame

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January 11, 2006

Selicia Potter, Acting Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
Executive Office
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Potter,

The following are some of our questions and comments regarding the Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for Wastewater Collection System Agencies and questions and comments regarding the Monitoring and Reporting Program.

Comments for Statewide General WDR

Page 2 – 7. SSMP certification – Is there a certification process to be followed? Please provide us with clarity on the certifications, licenses, years of experience, etc., required to be a technically qualified person.

Page 7 – C.3 – What is feasible? Are there feasible steps to eliminate SSOs? Vague language will lead to confusion and multiple interpretations of what is feasible. This does not help agencies comply with the intent of the WDR.

Page 7 – C.5 – Where is section F? Do you mean the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP)? Also, please spell out acronyms the first time they are used.

Page 8 – C.8 – Why not recognize a worker certification program? In particular, the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) Collection System Maintenance Operator certificates would be a great indicator of adequately trained staff. The CWEA has a well developed Technical Certification Program that has defined specific knowledge, skills and abilities (KSA's) for each certification level. This can take the vagueness out of 'adequate training'.

Page 8 – C.9 – With vague language such as "adequate resources" you provide no guidance to comply with the new WDR. This again will lead to multiple interpretations and reduce the effectiveness of the WDR. Communities generally do not want to raise rates enough to absolutely eliminate all spills, especially when you include sewer laterals.

Page 10 – C.13.iv – Can an up-to-date map be 1 year, 2 years old, how old?

Page 13 – C.13.x – Communication Program – There has been no discussion on this issue in any of the updates that we have received during the drafting of this WDR. This must have been a last minute

addition. This component appears to be a political ploy by the NGOs to apply pressure at the 11th hour. What is the purpose of such a program? Is it to shame agencies? There is no history for such a program. What is your authority to impose such a requirement? The goal is unclear, what do you hope to accomplish here? This WDR was constructed with no public communication but you are asking the agencies to involve the public after the fact. Shouldn't the State lead by example? What does 'regular basis' mean?

Page 14 – C.14 – We can only certify that an SSMP appears to comply with the WDR.

Comments for Monitoring and Reporting Program

A.1.B – How can you consider any and all SSOs that have contact with a storm drain a major spill regardless of its size, when you encourage us to utilize the storm drain as a means to recover SSOs? Remove "storm drain" from this section. Storm drains are NOT a water of the State. If they were the State would be maintaining all storm drains.

A.2.A –We should follow Region 2 guidelines for reporting minor spills. It provides for a distinction between minor spills (100 to 1000 gallons) and inconsequential spills (<100 gallons).

A.3 – We would not normally know about private spills. Those spills are under the jurisdiction of the County Health department. We would only become aware of private lateral spills if the homeowner called us and we would need a signed right-of-entry or a search warrant to investigate on private property. This is not enforceable.

A.7 – Reporting nothing is unnecessary. Please remove this requirement.

A.8 – Give us credit for spill recovery. Include an item for "gallons recovered" in the Minor Spill report.

A.10.F – Do not understand this item. "Parameters samples where analyzed for (if applicable);"

A.10.I – Is this necessary if you can modify report later whether or not there is an ongoing investigation?

A.10.N, O, P – Allow a box for reporter to indicate if contact was by fax.

B.6.b – If sent to an external lab you won't know which individuals performed the analyses. Allow for individual or company.

Sincerely,

Phil Scott
Public Works Superintendent

C: Director of Public Works (A), Assistant Streets & Sewer Superintendent