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To: <SSOcommentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 11/5/2009 7:43 PM
Subject: Comment Letter-"SSO Reduction Program Review and Update."

The following are comments regarding the SSO Reduction Program Review and Update including the SSO General Order.

Background.

On Page 1, Paragraph No. 4 the State Water Resources Control Board recognizes vandalism and debris blockage as major causes of SSOs.

On Page 2, SEWER SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLANS Paragraph No. 5 sets forth that SSMPs must include provisions to provide proper and efficient management, operations, and maintenance of sanitary sewer systems, while taking into consideration of risk management and cost benefit analysis.

On Page 3, REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS Paragraph No. 16 cites the Clean Water Act. Section 1433 of this Act (42USC300i-2) addresses intentional acts intended to substantially disrupt and requires vulnerability assessments, outlining basic security enhancements which include tamper proofing of manholes.

On Page 4, REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS Paragraph No. 20 states that the General Order was adopted as an action taken by a regulatory agency to assure the protection of the environment.

On Page 2, SEWER SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLANS Paragraph No. 8 states that the State Water Board intends to gather additional information on the causes and sources of SSOs to augment existing information and to determine the full impact on the environment and public health.

On Page 10, D. PROVISIONS Paragraph No. 13 provides the mandatory elements of the SSMP.

The State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ does not address unsecured access to the sanitary sewer systems.

Issue.

Unsecured access to the sanitary sewer system allows vandals to commit intentional acts to disrupt the ability of the system to function causing SSOs. The current SSO General Order does not include a procedure for assurance to protect the environment from intentional acts at unsecured access openings to the sanitary sewer system.

Recommended Amendments to the General Order.

1. SEWER SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLANS Paragraph No. 5 should include vulnerability assessments along with risk management and cost benefit analysis in the factors to be taken into consideration in the provisions included in the SSMP.
2. Add to D. PROVISIONS Paragraph No. 6(v) which provides that discharge could have been prevented by the exercise of reasonable control described in a certified SSMP the following:
 - Securing access to the sanitary sewer system
3. Add to D. PROVISIONS Paragraph No. 13(iii) which provides the elements of the SSMP the following at:
 - (f) Secure access to the sanitary sewer system.
4. Add to D. PROVISIONS Paragraph No. 13(iv)(c) the following:
"Conduct vulnerability assessment and schedule security of the sanitary sewer system openings where SSOs frequently occur or are likely to occur."
5. In D. PROVISIONS Paragraph No. 13(vi)(f), following "minimize or correct any adverse impact on the environment resulting from the SSOs, including", add:
"securing access to the sanitary sewer system"

(prior to "such accelerated or additional monitoring as may be necessary . . .").

6. In D. PROVISIONS Paragraph No. 13(vii)FOG Control Program add to (d): "secure the access manholes to the grease interceptors"

(insert after "Requirements to install grease removal devices (such as traps or interceptors), design standards for the removal devices . . .").

7. In D. PROVISIONS Paragraph No. 13(vii)FOG Control Program add to (f): "prevention and"

(prior to "cleaning maintenance schedule . . .").

8. In D. PROVISIONS Paragraph No. 13(vii)FOG Control Program add to (g): "including securing access to the sanitary sewer system"

(at the end of the sentence).

Conclusion.

Securing or tamper proofing access to sanitary sewer systems will prevent vandals from dumping debris that causes SSOs.

Vulnerability assessments need to be included in the SSMPs to address the basic security enhancements needed to secure access to sanitary sewer systems.

The State Water Board should include in the information gathered that SSOs result from vandals having unsecured access to the sanitary sewer systems. SSMPs should address the issue of unsecured access to assure the protection of the environment.

Sincerely,

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