

Public and User Resources

- **GIS Mapping Tool**

The State Board has launched a web based GIS mapping tool using Google Earth base maps for plotting all SSOs and private lateral spills in the State. This tool will allow users to search for reported SSOs Statewide by Street Address, County, Responsible Agency, Spill Start & End Dates, and Spill Size. See the link below.

- **SSO Public Reports**

The general public can access reports of all SSOs entered into the State Board CIWQS SSO web site at the link noted below. The Public Reports allow the general public to search for and view reported SSOs statewide by Street Address, County, Responsible Agency, Spill Start & End Dates, Water Board Region, and Spill Category.

- **SSO User Group**

Approximately 30 people participate in regular bi-monthly User Group meetings to help ensure SSO data consistency, address any reporting issues, and provide input to ensure appropriate modifications are implemented related to the public displaying of SSO program data.

Program Links:

- **SSO Reduction Program Home Page**

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/sso/index.shtml

- **On-Line SSO Reporting**

<https://ciwqs.waterboards.ca.gov/>

- **SSO Public Reports**

https://ciwqs.waterboards.ca.gov/ciwqs/readOnly/PublicReportSSOServlet?reportAction=criteria&reported=sso_main

- **GIS Mapping Tool**

Public SSOs:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/sso/sso_map/sso_pub.shtml

Private Lateral Spills:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/sso/sso_map/sso_priv.shtml

- **CIWQS Help Center**

(866) 792-4977

ciwqs@waterboards.ca.gov

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FACT SHEET

SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOW REDUCTION PROGRAM



STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

STATEWIDE GENERAL WASTE
DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR SANITARY SEWER SYSTEMS
(SANITARY SEWER ORDER)

WATER QUALITY ORDER NO.
2006-0003-DWQ

California Water Boards

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs)

A sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) is any overflow, spill, release, discharge or diversion of untreated or partially treated wastewater 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. Typical consequences of SSOs include the closure of beaches and other recreational areas, inundated properties, and polluted rivers and streams.

Sanitary Sewer Order Background

To provide a consistent, statewide regulatory approach to address SSOs, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for Sanitary Sewer Systems, Water Quality Order No. 2006-0003 (Sanitary Sewer Order), on May 2, 2006. All public agencies that own or operate a sanitary sewer system that is comprised of more than one mile of pipes or sewer lines which conveys wastewater to a publicly owned treatment facility must apply for enrollment under the Sanitary Sewer Order. The application or Notice of Intent (NOI) for enrollment should have been submitted to the State Water Board by November 2, 2006.

A review and revision of the Sanitary Sewer Order was initiated in fall 2009 and will be completed in fall 2010. During this process, enrollee's and the general public will have an opportunity to suggest and comment on proposed revisions to the order.

Online SSO Database

The SSO database is used to collect and store an enrollee's facility and organizational information (collection system questionnaire) and details of all SSOs which occur from an enrollee's sanitary sewer system (SSO reports). All of the information collected in the SSO database is entered by enrollees. State staff cannot modify any information in the database.

Online SSO Database (contd.)

The SSO database is accessed through the California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS), at the web address noted below, which is the State Water Board's regulatory tracking system.

Access to the SSO database allows enrollees to complete the collection system questionnaire and submit SSO reports as required by the Sanitary Sewer Order. The Sanitary Sewer Order requires enrollees to complete the collection system questionnaire within 30 calendar days of receiving their CIWQS user ID and password and update the questionnaire annually. The Legally Responsible Official for each enrollee will receive their CIWQS user ID and password, via email message, to access the SSO database. Once the Legally Responsible Official has received their CIWQS user ID and password, the enrollee can register additional staff for individual access to CIWQS for submitting agency information to the SSO database. Instructions regarding this registration process are available on the CIWQS Help Center webpage.

The Sanitary Sewer Order requires enrollees to have begun reporting all SSOs to the SSO database according to the following schedule: Regions 4,8,9 starting January 2, 2007; Regions 1,2,3 starting May 2, 2007; and Regions 5,6,7 starting September 2, 2007.

The SSO report collects detailed information on a specific overflow event. Enrollees are required to report all SSOs that result from a failure in any portion of a sanitary sewer system under their management. For the purposes of reporting, SSOs fall into one of two categories: Category 1 (greater threat to public health or water quality) and Category 2 (lesser threat to public health or water quality).

A Category 1 SSO is defined as a failure in an enrollee's sanitary sewer system that results in a (1) discharge of sewage which equals or exceeds 1,000 gal, or (2) discharge of sewage to a surface water.

Enrollees may voluntarily report spills occurring from privately owned laterals, which is the pipe that transports sewage from houses and other structures

Online SSO Database (contd.)

and/or drainage channel, or (3) discharge of sewage to a storm drainpipe which was not fully captured and returned to the sanitary sewer system. A Category 2 SSO is defined as any discharge of sewage resulting from a failure in an enrollee's sanitary sewer system which does not meet the criteria for a Category 1 SSO.

SSO information reported by enrollees includes location of overflow, volume of sewage spilled, and cause of the overflow. If an enrollee does not have any SSOs in a calendar month, they are required to complete a no spill certification.

Sewer System Management Plans

Every enrollee is required to develop and implement a sewer system management plan (SSMP). The SSMP documents an enrollee's program to properly operate and maintain its sanitary sewer system. Each SSMP should address the following elements: 1) Goals, 2) Organization, 3) Legal Authority, 4) Operation and Maintenance Program, 5) Design and Performance Provisions, 6) Overflow Emergency Response Plan, 7) Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Control Program, 8) System Evaluation and Capacity Assurance Plan, 9) Monitoring, Measurement, and Program Modifications, 10) SSMP Program Audits, and 11) Communication Program. For a detailed explanation of the SSMP elements, please refer to the Sanitary Sewer Order.

Enrollees are required to certify that the final SSMP and its constituent subparts are in compliance with the Sanitary Sewer Order within the required time frames. This certification is done electronically in the SSO database which was available for use beginning July 9, 2007. Enrollees are also required to obtain their governing board's approval of the SSMP Development Plan and Schedule, and final SSMP at a public hearing prior to certification of the SSMP as complete and in compliance. **Enrollees do not send their SSMP to the State or Regional Water Boards for review or approval but, need to make them available upon request.**