

Public Comment  
Sanitary Sewer System WDR  
Deadline: 5/13/11 by 12 noon

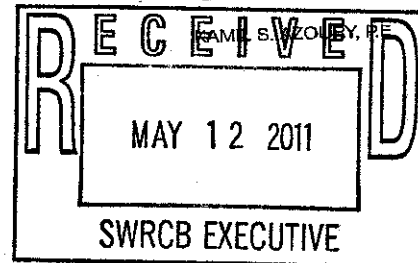
GOVERNING BOARD

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May 12, 2011

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk of the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: Proposed Review and Update Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems (SSS WDR)**

Members of the State Water Resources Control Board:

The Goleta Sanitary District (the District) would like to take this opportunity to comment on the proposed review and update of the draft Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems (SSS WDR) as made available for public comment on March 24, 2011.

The District, as have many other public agencies and operators of Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW), has spent tremendous time, effort and expense to maintain its Sewage Collection System in compliance with existing SSO WDR Order WQ 2006-003, NPDES Permit, Clean Water Act. The District's conscientious efforts to comply with these standards in conjunction with the District's on-going policy of proactive environmental protection have resulted in an annual near zero sewer spill record over the past several decades. These policies and District procedures have also directly resulted in numerous National, State and local level awards and recognition. As such, the District would like to make the following remarks:

- The District believes that full implementation of Order WQ 2006-003 would provide the State and Regional Boards the ability to conduct a complete and comprehensive overview of the effects and benefits of Order WQ 2006-003. Such full implementation and review would provide the Board with the ability to set comprehensive standards and benchmarks which can be used for inspections and audits and allows all Enrollees to properly implement the required programs and allocate sufficient funding for their respective SSMPs.

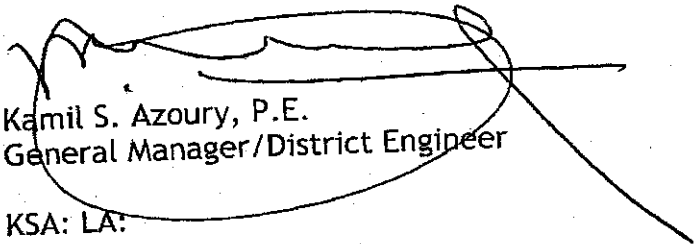
- The draft SSS WDR calls for extensively detailed revisions to the SSMP requirements. The "Staff Performance Assessment Program" and "Risk and Threat Analysis" do not provide clear performance standards. The District believes that, in addition to setting standards for these programs, such programs should be required of agencies that have demonstrated non-compliance with the existing SSO WDR.
- Proposed revisions include the prohibition of potable water with chlorine residual to reach "any surface water body". Such "surface water bodies" are often pools of irrigation run off that already contain a chlorine residual. Potable water systems are routinely flushed for maintenance purposes by municipalities and other public agencies at a rate that is exponentially greater than any amount of potable water used to clean up and disinfect wastewater spills. The disinfection and clean up of SSOs that have reached storm drains will be difficult to mitigate if potable water cannot be used. The District believes that the benefit of this restriction is not measurable and counter-productive.
- The expansion of liability for SSOs reaching a surface body of water versus the previously used threshold of a "water of the United States" places an overly burdensome requirement for enrollees to expend limited resources to mitigate minor sewer spills that may have no public contact or environmental effect. The District would recommend that this requirement be left as is currently or define a "surface body of water" as one that is contiguously connected to a "Water of the United States".
- The requirement for a "Risk and Threat Analysis" within the Item (e) Overflow Emergency Response Plan would seem to be redundant and cost ineffective as such analysis are completed for the Item (d) Operations and Maintenance Program, Rehabilitation and Replacement, Contingency Planning and Sewer System Replacement Funding aspects of the SSMP. The District believes that such programs should be required as part of enforcement/remediation actions for those agencies that have demonstrated non-compliance with the existing SSO WDR.
- The draft SSS WDR proposes to change the factors that the State and/or Regional Boards consider in regards to enforcement actions. The proposed change states that Boards "may consider" additional factors, rather than the current term of "will consider". The District believes that documented actions and efforts within existing programs and procedures to prevent SSOs should always be a factor for consideration as part of any potential enforcement action.

The District continues to strive to maintain its near-zero rate of SSOs both per 100 miles of sewer system and on an annual basis. Protection of the environment and public health is of such primary concern to the District that the District has adopted this phrase in its message to the community.

The District appreciates the opportunity to comment on this issue. Please do not hesitate to call me at 805-967-4519 if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

GOLETA SANITARY DISTRICT



Kamil S. Azoury, P.E.  
General Manager/District Engineer

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