

Legal Update: SWRCB Sanitary Sewer Management Plan Audits

By:

James Fischer, P.E.
State Water Board
Office of Enforcement
(916) 341-5548
jfischer@waterboards.ca.gov
www.swrcb.ca.gov

SSS WDRS COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT UPDATE



James Fischer, P.E.

State Water Board/Office of Enforcement
Special Investigations Unit
Sacramento, California

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San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

October 1, 2015

VIA US MAIL AND EMAIL

Sewage Collection System Owners and Operators
(Enrollees) refer to attached distribution list

In reply refer to / attn:
dquach

Subject: Collection System Preparation For Anticipated 2015-2016 El Niño Rainy Season

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) is sending you this courtesy reminder to prepare your sanitary sewer collection system for the 2015-2016 rainy season.

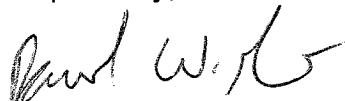
As you know, municipalities and other public entities that own and operate a sewage collection system in the San Diego Region are regulated by both regional and statewide waste discharge requirements (WDRs), Order Nos. R9-2007-0005 and 2006-0003-DWQ respectively, that prohibit sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). These Orders also require Enrollees to properly maintain their collection systems because proper collection system maintenance is key to preventing SSOs. This maintenance includes the identification and elimination of inflow and infiltration and structural vulnerabilities which can result in an SSO during rain events.

For months, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has been predicting that El Niño, a condition that occurs when a band of warm ocean water develops in the Pacific Ocean that causes changes in rainfall, will continue through the Northern Hemisphere during the winter of 2015-2016. As with past El Niño years, this weather pattern has the potential to produce higher than average rainfall amounts in the San Diego Region.

Since the prediction for El Niño has been anticipated for quite some time, the San Diego Water Board is notifying all Enrollees in the Region that all rain related SSOs will be evaluated to determine if appropriate maintenance and preparation for the rainy season has been taken. Failure to demonstrate that adequate preventative measures were taken that could have minimized or prevented a known or otherwise anticipated wet weather problem that resulted in an SSO will likely result in an enforcement action.

I appreciate your consideration of my concern on behalf of the San Diego Water Board and the citizens of the San Diego Region. For questions or comments, please contact Dat Quach by phone at (619) 521-5899 or by email at dat.quach@waterboards.ca.gov.

Respectfully,



DAVID W. GIBSON
Executive Officer

DWG;jh:dtb:cmc:vrr:rls

cc: See Attached Distribution List

Tech Staff Info & Use
PIN See Distribution List
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Order No. R9-2007-0005
Regulatory 332840
Measure ID