



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

September 2, 2009

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

VOLUNTARY SEWER SPILL REDUCTION PROGRAM

During the Board meeting of March 25, 2008, your Board directed the Chief Executive Office (CEO) and the Auditor-Controller (A-C) to work jointly with the Los Angeles County Departments of Public Health (DPH) and Public Works (DPW), the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works – Bureau of Sanitation and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to develop a voluntary sewage spill prevention program. This group of agencies met several times to develop an approach to this program as outlined in the memo from November 26, 2008 (Attachment 1).

Since that time, the group organized and held an educational conference on sewer spill prevention, reporting and other issues (Attachment 2). Approximately 80 attendees representing 40 public agencies from across the County came to the conference (Attachment 3).

- The conference opened with the A-C providing history of the 2006 Board motion which originally directed the A-C to look into the reason for delays in spill notification, to review existing standards pertaining to the protection of public health and safety, and to determine if the standards and procedures were followed. The A-C presented the findings from their initial report and the follow up report (Attachment 4).
- The County Flood Control District followed with a presentation regarding spills which flow into the storm drain system, with a focus on the impact of those spills and the importance of notification to storm drain system owners (such as the Flood Control District and cities who own storm drains).
- DPH made a presentation on the health risks of sewer spills, the decision process to close beaches, and how reported sewer spill data is used. Conference attendees had

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many questions regarding which agencies needed to be notified at the local, County and State levels, legal requirements for reporting, and size and location requirements related to reporting, such as small spills on private property. DPW also provided conference attendees with two kinds of posters to place in municipal shops and yards, offices and public areas. One poster showed sewage spill call reporting protocols with key phone numbers, notification requirements, reporting criteria and regulation references (Attachment 5). The other poster was a colorful inspirational poster which pictured storm drain waters leading to the ocean with a plea to protect public health and the environment by reporting sewage spills immediately (Attachment 6). In addition, DPH provided a brochure which included a "Sewer Discharge Reference Guide for Sanitary Sewer Contractors." This brochure included sewer contractor responsibilities, "best practices" for sewer contractors to follow, and information on reporting discharges (Attachment 7).

- The State Water Resources Control Board staff from Sacramento presented an update on sanitary sewer overflow requirements related to notification, plans for future audits to be done by the State, and upcoming work to develop new goals for improving compliance statewide, such as a proposal to require agencies with sewer systems to develop and actively manage a sanitary sewer maintenance and operation plan. The State speaker said that the State is considering moving to "event-based" reporting instead of "location-based" reporting, which will make reporting easier for large spills. Conference attendees had many questions for the State speaker and were encouraged to hear that the State is planning a Southern California area meeting in September for public agencies to provide input on the State's "order review and update" related to the new goals and compliance programs. The State's September meeting will also include discussions on funding and training programs in development for local agencies, including first responders. The State speaker said that additional meetings would be scheduled over the coming year to continue these discussions, including the establishment of working groups to address various issues.
- The conference closed with a panel discussion which included representatives from DPW, DPH, the County Sanitation Districts, and the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works - Bureau of Sanitation. The panel members provided examples of "lessons learned" and how their agencies have worked to improve sewer spill prevention and reporting. DPW staff spoke about how they have improved their sewer condition assessment program through the use of cameras to identify tree roots or other blockages and at the same time do a light cleaning. The City of Los Angeles Sanitation staff spoke about how they have improved their sewer system maintenance through programs such as the Fats, Oil and Grease Program implementation which resulted in a 77% reduction in blockages. The County Sanitation Districts spoke about how they do condition assessments and also use flow monitoring to identify problem areas. The City of Glendale, one of the conference attendees, spoke about their experience in using camera assessments and creating a culture of expecting staff to follow up on anything that doesn't look or feel right. In addition, Glendale has been doing spot checks on 5-10% of their system each year. Conference attendees had many questions for the panelists on a wide range of subjects.

Major issues that were raised by conference attendees included:

1. Creation of one contact phone number to report spills - The speaker for the County Sanitation Districts informed the audience about the establishment of their centralized 24 hour per day/7 days per week hotline call number and incident tracking system which makes it much easier to report and track spills for the County sewer system. There was discussion that reporting could be further centralized and improved, perhaps at the State level, with email notification to all agencies with reporting requirements. The State speaker stated that they are working on development of a more centralized reporting system.
2. A request that local agencies be given an opportunity to work with County and State agencies in the development and refinement of programs – The Flood Control District indicated that it will work with local agencies on policy development and reporting requirements. DPH indicated that it would also work with agencies on reviewing and clarifying reporting issues and identifying solutions for improvement since the 2007 reporting requirements were put into place. As noted earlier, the State is also planning a series of meetings and workgroups to gather local input.
3. The need for one consistent set of rules and regulations for sewer reporting to simplify reporting and compliance – Many conference attendees expressed frustration that the State, County entities and other local agencies all have different reporting rules and requirements. One attendee who used to work for a landfill company stated that the landfills used to face a similar, confusing regulatory environment and successfully sued to have one lead agency be designated as responsible for landfill regulations. As noted earlier, local agencies will be given an opportunity for input on this and other issues through the upcoming meetings.
4. A request for sewer spill containment training and other types of training – DPW indicated that DPW and the County Sanitation Districts had jointly offered such training about 18 months ago and would be open to offering it again in the near future.
5. A request to establish periodic meetings where local agencies, County departments, the County Sanitation Districts and other agencies could continue to meet periodically to discuss issues, share information and ideas and do collaborative problem solving. Orange County was cited as having a similar program which could be used as a model. Los Angeles County meetings could be held quarterly and rotated around the County to make it easier for attendees. Several cities volunteered to host the quarterly meetings. DPW staff indicated that they would take the lead to set up the meetings.
6. A request to establish a similar working relationship with Los Angeles County Flood Control Districts regarding storm water issues. Conference attendees saw many parallels between storm water and sewer issues and the need for education and marketing related to storm water issues. DPW staff indicated that they would take the lead to set up the meetings.

Each Supervisor
September 2, 2009
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This office would like to thank the Departments of Public Health, Public Works, Auditor-Controller, and Internal Services Department, as well as the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board for their participation in this program. The Department of Public Works, in particular, should be commended for their outstanding assistance in developing and hosting the educational conference.

Please contact Ellen Sandt at (213) 974-1186 if you have any questions or need additional information. Unless we hear from your Board within the next two weeks, we will consider this memo to close out the March 25, 2008 Board assignment to create a Voluntary Sewer Spill Prevention Program.

WTF:EFS:ef

- Attachment 1 – Status Memo from November 26, 2008
- Attachment 2 – Agenda for July 30, 2009 Voluntary Sewer Spill Prevention Conference
- Attachment 3 – List of Attendees at the Voluntary Sewer Spill Prevention Conference
- Attachment 4 – A-C Presentation Materials from Conference
- Attachment 5 – DPH Poster – Sewage Spill Call Reporting Protocols
- Attachment 6 – DPH Poster – Help Protect Public Health and the Environment
- Attachment 7 – DPH Brochure for Sanitary Sewer Contractors

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 Auditor-Controller
 Internal Services Department
 Department of Public Health
 Department of Public Works
 Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
 City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation
 Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board



WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
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November 26, 2008

To: Supervisor Yvonne Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

Voluntary Sewer Spill Prevention Program – Status Report

During the Board meeting of March 25, 2008, your Board directed the Chief Executive Office (CEO) and the Auditor-Controller (A-C) to work jointly with the Los Angeles County (LAC) Department of Public Health (DPH), Department of Public Works (DPW), the LAC Sanitation Districts, the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works – Bureau of Sanitation and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to develop a voluntary sewage spill prevention program.

On September 25, 2008, the above listed agencies met to discuss the implementation status of the State permitting process for collection systems. It is anticipated that the State permitting process will require development of key elements to be implemented by the agencies for improvement of the sewage spill reporting system. Additionally, this permit will mandate specific reporting requirements, requiring all sewage spills to be reported to the RWQCB electronically. Previously, only spills exceeding 1,000 gallons mandated reporting.

Since the A-C's issuance of the January 2007 Sewage Spill Report, it is estimated that the increase in spill reporting to the DPH increased by 2900%, from 26 in 2006 to 773 in 2007. However, DPH reported that a few agencies/cities are still not fully complying with the sewage spill reporting requirements. DPH has made a number of changes in its sewage spill reporting procedures. These changes included: scheduling of meetings with large sewage treatment operators; preparing letters to all 88 cities in Los Angeles County reminding them of their reporting obligations; and assignment of DPH staff to be available to take sewage spill calls.

The group further discussed various strategies which they believe can effectively increase awareness regarding sewage spills. These strategies stress the importance of timely and accurate spill reporting and the necessary measures to reduce and contain spills. As a result, the agencies have agreed to take the following actions:

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1. DPH is analyzing State sewage spill data acquired since January, 2007, to determine if there are any identifiable patterns, such as repeat offenders, recurring locations, similar causes, or other patterns. Based on the DPH pattern analysis, targeted groups will be identified for outreach and educational campaigns.
2. The A-C will analyze DPH's spill data to determine:
 - number and magnitude of spills
 - cause
 - location
 - increases or decreases in reported spills
 - spills reaching State waters or surface streets

This report will be included as part of the A-C's March 24, 2009 report to your Board.

3. LACSD provided training for the cities in the LACSD service area approximately two years ago in response to State Water Board actions at that time. LACSD continues to answer questions and provide information to those cities. Once DPH has identified repeat offenders, LACSD will assist those who are LACSD clients with additional training.
4. The City Department of Public Works – Bureau of Sanitation, along with LACSD, has developed a training program on sewage spill prevention which has been presented at various industry forums nationally. The Bureau of Sanitation and LACSD are modifying their training presentation program to target those groups identified by the DPH analysis as repeat offenders. It is anticipated that preventative training and reporting classes will be developed specifically for construction contractors and presented at various locations throughout the County.

Please contact Ellen Sandt of this Office at (213) 974-1186 if you have any questions or require further information.

WTF:EFS:ef

c: Auditor Controller
City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Los Angeles County, Department of Public Works
Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

VOLUNTARY SEWER SPILL PREVENTION CONFERENCE

Thursday, July 30, 2009 8:30 a.m. – Noon
 County Department of Public Works Headquarters
 1st Floor Conference Room
 900 S. Fremont Ave, Alhambra CA 91803

Conference Host – County Department of Public Works - Opening - Keith Lehto

1. Auditor-Controller – Why Are We Here? - DeWitt Roberts
2. County Department of Public Works – Frank Wu
 - i. NPDES Storm water Permit and TMDL Impacts of Sewage Spills
 - ii. Reporting Requirements – Notification to Storm Drain Owners
3. County Dept. of Public Health - Alfonso Medina and Bernard Franklin
 - i. Risks of Sewer Spills
 - ii. Importance of Timely Sewer Spill Notifications
 - iii. Decisions to Close Beaches
 - iv. What Happens to the Sewer Spill Data That Is Reported
4. Break – 15 minutes
5. State Water Resources Control Board – Russell Norman, PE
 - i. Update of Sanitary Sewer Overflow Requirements
6. Panel Discussion - County Dept. of Public Works/ County Dept. of Public Health/ County Sanitation District/ City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

Panelists:
 -Keith Lehto, DPW
 -Alfonso Medina and Bernard Franklin, DPH
 -Sam Espinoza and Darryl Hatch, County Sanitation District
 -Roshan Aflaki and Barry Berggren, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

 - i. “Lessons Learned”
 - ii. How to Improve Reporting

**Sewer Spill Prevention Conference
Sign-in Sheet
July 30, 2009**

NAME	AGENCY	CONTACT NUMBER	E-MAIL
Michael Milhiser	City of La Mirada	(562) 902-2382	mmilhiser@cityoflamirada.org
Dan Madrigal	City of Redondo Beach	(310) 318-0663	DAN.MADRIGAL@redondo.org
James M. Acquarelli	Redondo Beach – Police	(310) 379-2477 X12391#	Jim.acquarelli@redondo.org
Don Tsai	RWQCB – LA	(213) 576-6665	dtsai@waterboards.ca.gov
Xavier Leon	City of Pasadena – Public Works	(626) 744-4148	xleon@cityofpasadena.net
Noel Ford	City of Norwalk	(562) 929-5599	nford@ci.norwalk.ca.us
Shari Garwick	City of San Dimas	(909) 394-6240	sgarwick@ci.san-dimas.ca.us
Roshanak Aflaki	City of Los Angeles	(323) 342-1577	Roshanak.Aflaki@lacity.org
Juan Preciado	City of Huntington Park	(323) 584-6319	jpreciado@huntingtonpark.org
Lifan Xu	City of Burbank	(818) 238-3932	lxu@ci.burbank.ca.us
Joel Hernandez	City of Hawthorne	(310) 349-2950	No e-mail, he's a field employee His supervisor's e-mail is rcarver@cityofhawthorne.org
Marie Rodriguez	City of Arcadia	(626) 305-5327	mrodriguez@ci.arcadia.ca.us
Craig Clark	City of Arcadia	(626) 305-5327	cclark@ci.arcadia.ca.us
Jerry Mesa	City of La Verne	(909) 596-8741	jmesa@ci.la-verne.ca.us
Ellen Sandt	LA County CEO	(213) 974-1186	esandt@ceo.lacounty.gov

**Sewer Spill Prevention Conference
Sign-in Sheet
July 30, 2009**

NAME	AGENCY	CONTACT NUMBER	E-MAIL
Marlin Munoz	City of La Mirada	(562) 902-2372	mmunoz@cityoflamirada.org
Mark Carney	City of Monrovia	(626) 256-8211	mcarney@ci.monrovia.ca.us
Jun Cervantes	City of Monrovia	(626) 256-8211	icervantes@ci.monrovia.ca.us
Sam Espinoza	LACSD	(310) 638-1161	sespinoza@lacs.org
Jackie Guevarra	LAC Auditor-Controller	(213) 253-0198	jguevarra@auditor.lacounty.gov
DeWitt Roberts	LAC Auditor-Controller	(213) 253-0199	droberts@auditor.lacounty.gov
Maria Oms	LAC Auditor-Controller	(213) 253-0199	moms@auditor.lacounty.gov
Thomas Amare	City of South Pasadena	(626) 403-7245	tamare@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us
Shin Furukawa	City of South Pasadena	(626) 403-7246	sfurukawa@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us
Eddie Munoz	City of South Pasadena	(626) 403-7375	emunoz@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us
Jesse Berajas	City of South Pasadena	(626) 403-7372	iberajas@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us
Mike Shay	City of Redondo Beach	(310) 318-0661	Mike.Shay@redondo.org
Geraldine Trivedi	City of Redondo Beach	(310) 318-0661	Geraldine.Trivedi@redondo.org
Steve Huang	City of Redondo Beach	(310) 318-0661	Steve.Huang@redondo.org
Esther Moo	County of LA Dept. of Public Health	(626) 430-5320	emoo@ph.lacounty.gov

**Sewer Spill Prevention Conference
Sign-in Sheet
July 30, 2009**

NAME	AGENCY	CONTACT NUMBER	E-MAIL
Bernie Franklin	County of LA Dept. of Public Health	(626) 430-5360	befranklin@ph.lacounty.gov
Rick Kuciemba	Redondo Fire	(310) 318-0663	Richard.kuciemba@redondo.org
Ana Veronica Cuevas	LA-RWQCB	(213) 576-6662	vcuevas@waterboards.ca.gov
Chris Ortiz	City of Bell Gardens Public Works	(562) 806-7770	cortiz@bellgardens.org
Kent Alston	City of Bell Gardens Public Works	(562) 806-7770	kalston@bellgardens.org
Darrell Hatch	LAC Sanitation Districts	(310) 638-1161 x6808	dhatch@lacsdsd.org
Steve Huang	City of Redondo Beach	(310) 318-0661	Steve.huang@redondo.org
Barry Berggrew	City of LA Bureau of Sanitation	(323) 342-6002	Barry.berggrew@lacity.org
Richard Walker	City of Industry	(626) 333-2211	rwalker@cityofindustry.org
Edgar Rojas	City of Irwindale	(626) 430-2210	edgarr@ci.irwindale.ca.us
Lucien LeBlanc	City of Rosemead City Engineer	(626) 569-2150	LLeBlanc@cityofrosemead.org
John Hays	City of Hawthorne	(310) 349-2950	No e-mail, he's a field employee His supervisor's e-mail is rcarver@cityofhawthorne.org

**Sewer Spill Prevention Conference
Sign-in Sheet
July 30, 2009**

NAME	AGENCY	CONTACT NUMBER	E-MAIL
Rene Salas	City of La Puente	(626) 855-1500	rsalas@lapuente.org
Tim Shea	City of Redondo Beach	(310) 318-0636	Tim.shea@redondo.org
Tony Funaki	City of Redondo Beach	(310) 318-0686	Tony.Funaki@redondo.org
Steve Dassler	City of Lancaster	(661) 945-6863	sdassler@cityoflanaster.ca.org
Frank Wu	LA County Flood Control District	(626) 458-4358	fwu@dpw.lacounty.gov
Rebecca Christmann	LA-RWQCB	(213) 576-6756	rchristmann@waterboards.ca.gov
Kaden Young	City of Culver City	(310) 253-6445	Kaden.young@culvercity.org
Damian Skinner	City of Culver City	(310) 253-6421	Damian.skinner@culvercity.org
Charles Herbertson	City of Culver City	(310) 253-5630	Charles.herbertson@culvercity.org
Danilo Batson	City of Commerce	(323) 722-4805	dbatson@ci.commerce.ca.us
David Copak	City of Paramount	(562) 319-7009	d.copak@paramountcity.com
Rudy Gonzalez	City of Artesia	(562) 865-6262	Rgonzalez@cityofartesia.org

**Sewer Spill Prevention Conference
Sign-in Sheet
July 30, 2009**

NAME	AGENCY	CONTACT NUMBER	E-MAIL
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Konya Vivanti	City of Lakewood	(562) 866-9771 x2507	kvivanti@lakewoodcity.org
Ron Ruiz	City of San Fernando	(818) 898-1237	rruiz@sfcity.org
Vanessa Hevener	City of Lynwood	(310) 603-0220 x287	vhevener@lynwood.ca.us
Van Nguyen	City of Lynwood	(310) 603-0220 x800	vnguyen@lynwood.ca.us
Elan Shultz	LA County Department of Public Health	(213) 240-8243	eshultz@ph.lacounty.gov
Richard Martinez	City of La Verne	(909) 596-8741	rjmartinez@ci.la-verne.ca.us
John Hicks	City of Glendale	(818) 548-3950	jhicks@ci.glendale.ca.us
Jake Amar	City of Glendale	(818) 548-3900	jamar@ci.glendale.ca.us
Maurice Oillataguerre	City of Glendale	(818) 548-3900	Moillataguerre@ci.glendale.ca.us
Chris Marcarello	City of Rosemead	(626) 569-2100	cmarcarello@cityofrosemead.org

**Sewer Spill Prevention Conference
Sign-in Sheet
July 30, 2009**

NAME	AGENCY	CONTACT NUMBER	E-MAIL
Jeff Allred	City of Rosemead	(626) 569-2100	jallred@cityofrosemead.org
Joe Bellano	City of Westlake Village	(805) 279-6856	jbellano@willdan.com
Kelly Fisher	City of Agoura Hills	(818) 597-7338	kfisher@ci.agourahills.ca.us
Jim Williams	SWWC City of Huntington Park	(323) 587-5969	jwilliams@SWWC.com
Richard R. Martinez	LA County – CEO	(213) 974-1758	rmartinez@ceo.lacounty.com
John Ramey	City of Pasadena	(626) 744-4790	JRamey@cityofpasadena.net
Ray	City of Hawthorne	(310) 349-2950	No e-mail, he's a field employee His supervisor's e-mail is rcarver@cityofhawthorne.org
Gilbert Marquez	City of Carson	(310) 952-1708	gmarquez@carson.ca.us
Denny Bacon	City of Carson	(310) 952-1700	DBacon@carson.ca.us
David Hung	LA-RWQCB	(213) 576-6616	dhung@waterboards.ca.gov

Voluntary Sewage Spill Prevention Conference

Presentation by:

DeWitt Roberts

Department of Auditor-Controller

July 30, 2009

Why Are We Here???

Answer #2

On March 25, 2008, the County Board of Supervisors' Instructed its Chief Executive Officer to organize a "Voluntary Interagency Spill Prevention Program".

**A goal of the Program is
to find a way through
interagency cooperation to
minimize the occurrence of
sewage spills.**

Thank You!

Copies of the Sewage Spill and Sewage Spill Follow-up reports can be accessed from the Department of Auditor-Controller's website at:

<http://portal.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/auditor>

(Click on Reports - Audit Reports - Public Health)



Help Protect Public Health and the Environment

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
 Environmental Health Division
 5050 Commerce Drive
 Baldwin Park, CA 91706

SEWAGE SPILL CALL REPORTING PROTOCOLS

	California Office of Emergency Services (OES)	Los Angeles County Public Health	Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
	24-Hour Reporting (800) 852-7550	Daytime: (626) 430-5420 Weekend/After Hours: (213) 974-1234	Daytime: (213) 576-6657 Weekend/After Hours: (213) 305-2284
Reporting Criteria	Discharge of sewage in a quantity greater than 1000 gallons, into, or which likely make its way into, any state waters.	Discharge of sewage, regardless of the quantity, into, or which will likely make its way, into state water.	Discharges that enter state waters and discharges that occur where public contact is likely, regardless of size.
		15 Minutes ⁽²⁾	2 Hours ⁽³⁾
Regulation	California Water Code, Section 13271	California Health & Safety Code, Section 5411.5	Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for Sanitary Sewer Systems and NPDES permits applicable

(1) California Water Code section 13271 requires immediate notification to OES as soon as (A) that person has knowledge of the discharge, (B) notification is possible, and (C) notification can be provided without substantially impeding clean-up or other emergency measures.

(2) Public Health interprets California Health & Safety Code reporting requirement (i.e., "immediately") to mean that the notification must be made within 15 minutes after the discharge or knowledge of the discharge.

(3) This timeframe only applies only to Los Angeles County Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) NPDES permittees.

Pump Station Failures That Result In Sewage Overflows Contaminate Our Environment



Help Protect Public Health and the Environment
Report Sewage Spills Immediately!



To Report all Sewage Spills or Pump Station Failures
Contact: Los Angeles County Environmental Health - (213) 974-1234
California Office of Emergency Services - (800) 852-7550



Sewage Discharge Regulations

Environmental Health is responsible for enforcing laws and regulations that prohibit sewage from being discharged into public and private areas:

Los Angeles County Code, Title 11, Sections 11.16.020 and 11.16.050

- No person shall discharge or permit a discharge of sewage onto ground surfaces.
- Property owners shall maintain their premises in a clean and sanitary condition, free from accumulation of waste, including sewage.

Preventing Storm Drain Pollution

Sewage entering the storm drain system, if not captured or contained, eventually reaches and pollutes our beaches and ocean. It is therefore important to prevent sewage from entering the storm drain and to report the event immediately if it occurs.

Sewage discharges are prohibited to enter the storm drain system under Los Angeles County Code, Title 12, Sections 12.80.410 & 12.80.490

- No person shall cause any discharge to enter the storm drain.
- Upon the discovery of an uncontrolled discharge to the storm drain system, the discharger shall immediately notify the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (800-675-4357) in addition to notification to other appropriate public agencies.

Environmental Health Responsibilities

The Los Angeles County Environmental Health Division is responsible for protecting public health and the environment. It is responsible for monitoring ocean water quality and taking appropriate measures when incidents, such as sewage discharges, occur. These measures include posting warning signs at beaches to notify the public of potential health hazards and closing beaches when sewage discharges threaten public health.

Responsibilities of Sewer Agencies

Operation and maintenance of local and regional sewer lines are the responsibility of the city sewer/public works departments and public sewer districts.

When there is sewage discharged directly into state waters, or indirectly via sewage discharges entering the storm drain system, sewer agencies are required to report such discharges immediately (**within 15 minutes of the discharge event**) to the Los Angeles County Environmental Health Division in accordance with the California Health & Safety Code.

Please be advised that sewage discharge reporting responsibilities to the California Office of Emergency Services and the Regional Water Board do not substitute for or satisfy the requirement to report discharges to the Environmental Health Division.

Implementing best practices in the event of a discharge along with timely reporting of discharges will help us in our efforts to safeguard public health and safety.

Rev. 05/13/08

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



Help Protect Public Health and the Environment

A Sewage Discharge Reference Guide For Sanitary Sewer Contractors

5050 Commerce Drive
Baldwin Park, CA 91706
(626) 430-5420

Sewer Contractor Responsibilities

The requirements and procedures for reporting sewage discharges may vary depending on your local city sewer/public works department. Discharge reporting procedures should be obtained prior to, or at the time of, securing sewer permits or as part of an emergency response plan.

Contractors that work on sewers or projects unrelated to sewers, but have the potential to cause sewage discharges (e.g. road work, utility maintenance and repair, etc.) should also be informed of reporting procedures and requirements. Check with your city sewer/local public works department for sewage discharge reporting procedures and requirements.

Immediate reporting shall be interpreted as within 15 minutes of a discharge event and shall be applied when there is discharge into waters of the state (e.g. lakes, creeks, oceans, etc.) or where a determination is made that a sewage discharge would potentially reach state waters (e.g. sewage entering a storm drain or dry land).

How to Report Discharges

The following information should be provided when reporting a sewage discharge:

- **Your name and phone number**
- **Location of discharge**
- **Cause of discharge (e.g., grease, roots, malfunctioning pump/lift station, etc.)**
- **Duration of discharge (start and end time)**
- **Estimated volume of the discharge and the volume, if any, that entered the storm drain system or water way**
- **Actions taken to correct the discharge, including containment and clean-up efforts**

Please note: The California Health and Safety Code requires immediate reporting even if not all of the information is available.

Sewage Discharge Best Practices

In order to minimize the amount of sewage entering storm drains, Environmental Health developed "Best Practices" for sewer contractors.

Field personnel and contractors must be trained on methods to prevent or limit the amount of sewage that enters into the storm drains.

- Contain the discharge and vacuum up as much of the discharge as possible.
- Keep sewage from entering the storm drain system by covering or blocking storm drain inlets and catch basins (using sandbags, adsorbent socks, inflatable dams, etc.).
- If ponding or pooling occurs on the street, cordon off the affected area to prevent contact and access.
- Clean the impacted area by washing the sewage into a nearby sanitary sewer system manhole and disinfect as needed.
- Do not allow water containing disinfectant to enter the storm drain.
- Notify property owners that are directly impacted by the discharge or are in the immediate vicinity of the discharge.

For more information:

Public Health – Environmental Health
5050 Commerce Drive
Baldwin Park, CA 91706
(626) 430-5420

www.lapublichealth.org/eh

Sewage Discharge Emergency Reporting & Notification Requirements

Report sewage discharges immediately to the appropriate response agencies:

**Los Angeles County Environmental Health
24 Hour Sewage Discharge Reporting Hotline (213) 974-1234**

California Health & Safety Code, Section 5411.5

- Any person who causes or permits a discharge of sewage into, or which will likely make its way into, any state waters (e.g., lakes, creeks, oceans, storm drains, etc.) must immediately notify the local health agency (Environmental Health).

**California Office of Emergency Services
(800) 852-7550**

California Water Code, Article 4, Chapter 4, Sections 13271; California Code of Regulations, Title 23 Div. 3 Chapter 9.2, Article 2, Sections 2250-60.

- Any person who causes or permits a discharge of more than 1000 gallons of sewage into, or which will likely make its way into, any state waters (e.g. lakes, creeks, oceans, storm drains, etc.) must immediately notify the Office of Emergency Services at (800) 852-7550.

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (213) 576-6720 or 6600

- The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board requires reporting for sewage discharges greater than 1,000 gallons, discharges that enter into state waters, and discharges that occur where public contact is likely, regardless of size.