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DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

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WENDY L. WATANABE
CHIEF DEPUTY

March 3, 2008

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

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **SEWAGE SPILL REPORT FOLLOW-UP (BOARD AGENDA ITEM #8, JANUARY 30, 2007)**

On January 30, 2007, your Board instructed the Auditor-Controller, in consultation with the County's Public Health Commission, to conduct a follow-up review on the implementation status of 15 recommendations contained in our January 2007 Sewage Spill Report and to report back as a set item on the Board's agenda within one year. The Board also instructed us to make recommendations on what further actions may be needed and directed the Department of Public Health (Department or Public Health) to lead a project to pursue implementation of all Auditor-Controller recommendations.

Our review also includes a follow-up on the one recommendation contained in the Auditor-Controller's March 30, 2007 Revised Sewage Spill Data Report. Below is the status on all 16 recommendations.

Observations

Since the issuance of the January 2007 Sewage Spill Report, there has been a dramatic increase in the reporting of sewage spills to the County Public Health Officer. The reporting of sewage spills increased 2,900%, from 26 in 2006 to 773 in 2007. We also noted that the reporting of sewage spills of 1,000 gallons or greater increased 645%, from 11 in 2006 to 82 in 2007. In fact, the reporting of sewage spills during calendar year 2007 exceeded the combined total of all sewage spills reported during the preceding five year period (i.e., from calendar year 2002 to calendar year 2006). The

Department's records indicate that during this five year period, Public Health received only 87 sewage spills reports, versus 773 for the entire calendar year 2007.

In addition, the reporting of inter-jurisdictional sewage spills has also improved. According to the City of Long Beach's Environmental Health Officer, he could not confirm that the City was notified of any sewage spills during calendar year 2006.[1] However, during calendar year 2007, the City received 144 reports of sewage spills. Orange County Environmental Health stated that it received no reports of sewage spills during calendar year 2006 from Los Angeles County Public Health or from Los Angeles County sewage dischargers. However, during calendar year 2007, Orange County Environmental Health stated that it received three sewage spill reports from Los Angeles County dischargers.

We believe the improvements noted above are the direct result of the following: 1) an increased awareness by dischargers of their responsibility to notify the local public health officer of sewage spills; 2) better recordkeeping by the local public/environmental health officers; and 3) meetings between the County Public Health Officer and Long Beach City Health Officer to improve inter-jurisdictional communications.

Attachment I provides a comparison of sewage spills reported before and after the January 2007 Sewage Spill Report.

Status of Recommendations

Of the 16 recommendations, the County has fully implemented 15 recommendations and has partially implemented one recommendation (Recommendation #6). For five recommendations (Recommendations #1, #2, #3, #5 and #15), additional action is needed by the State to fully implement the intent of these recommendations. The detailed status of each recommendation is discussed below.

Recommendation #1

The Board of Supervisors consider requesting the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board to amend the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) to require sewer system owners/operators to:

a) At a minimum, operate and maintain their sewer system equipment at the level specified by the equipment's manufacturer with additional maintenance performed as necessary to prevent sewage spills from occurring.

[1] The spill chart for the County's Department of Public Health shows several sewage spills reported to the City of Long Beach during calendar year 2006. However, as noted, the City of Long Beach's Environmental Health Officer stated he could not confirm that the City was notified of the spills. Since our January 2007 Sewage Spill Report, the Department of Public Health and the City of Long Beach's Environmental Health have both taken action to improve their sewage spill tracking systems.

b) Perform regular tests of their pumping station alarm systems, backup pumps, and electrical generators to ensure they will function as intended during an emergency.

c) Maintain documentation to support all maintenance and testing of their sewer systems.

Recommendation #2

The Board of Supervisors consider requesting the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board to convene a work group of key stakeholders to develop specific maintenance standards for owners/operators of sanitary sewer systems in Los Angeles County.

Recommendation #3

The Board of Supervisors consider requesting the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board to seek appropriate authority and funding to create and operate an ongoing independent sanitary sewer collection system monitoring program. The program would monitor sanitary sewer owners/operators for compliance with established maintenance standards and would include a written report on the monitoring results.

Status: IMPLEMENTED (Additional State Action Required)
On April 4, 2007, on behalf of your Board, the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors sent a letter to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) requesting that it amend the Los Angeles County National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) to require sewer system owners/operators to:

a) At a minimum, operate and maintain their sewer system equipment at the level specified by the equipment's manufacturer with additional maintenance performed as necessary to prevent sewage spills from occurring.

b) Perform regular tests of their pumping station alarm systems, backup pumps, and electrical generators to ensure they will function as intended during an emergency.

c) Maintain documentation to support all maintenance and testing of their sewer systems.

The letter also requested that the Regional Water Board convene a work group of key stakeholders to develop specific maintenance standards for owners/operators of sanitary sewer systems in Los Angeles County and to seek appropriate authority and funding to create and operate an ongoing independent sanitary sewer collection system monitoring program.

According to a Regional Water Board representative, its legal counsel advised that Water Code Section 13360 (a) prohibits the Regional Water Board from specifying how operators must maintain their equipment. However, on July 19, 2007, the Regional Water Board's Executive Officer sent a letter to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) expressing your Board's concerns over the maintenance of sanitary sewer systems. The Executive Officer also requested that the State Water Board convene a workgroup of key stakeholders to develop maintenance standards for owners/operators of sanitary sewer systems and provide assistance in creating and operating a sanitary sewer collection system surveillance and monitoring program.

The State Water Board's Executive Director, in her response, dated November 26, 2007, indicated that she welcomed discussion on how the Sanitary Sewer Overflow Reduction Program can be enhanced and plans to discuss your Board's letter at a future meeting of its Management Coordinating Committee.

Recommendation #4

The Board of Supervisors instruct the Department of Public Health, in collaboration with interested environmental groups and sewer system owner/operators, the Department of Beaches and Harbors, Fire Department/Lifeguard Division, and Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, to define the mandatory timeframe for reporting a sewage spill to the County's Public Health Officer.

Status: IMPLEMENTED
On January 25, 2007, Public Health sent letters regarding the reporting of sewage spills to all cities in the County of Los Angeles. The purpose of the letter was to remind cities of their obligations under the California Health and Safety Code to report sewage spills immediately to the Public Health Officer. During February and March 2007, Public Health held meetings with various stakeholders, including interested environmental groups to discuss the January 2007 Sewage Spill Report. A sub-group was formed to develop a spill reporting timeline requirement, but the sub-group could not reach consensus on a timeline.

Although the sub-group could not reach a consensus on a timeline, on July 6, 2007, Public Health provided some guidance and issued another letter to its 85 contract cities[2] and the County's three NPDES permittees (i.e., Department of Public Works, County Sanitation Districts and the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation) to notify them that all sewage discharges entering "waters of the state," or that may enter "waters of the state," must be reported to the Public Health Officer within 15 minutes of the discharge or knowledge of the discharge. Public Health has included this sewage spill reporting guideline in its revised educational brochure, which it plans to distribute in March 2008 to all owners/operators of sanitary sewer systems in the County and all of its contract

[2] The cities of Long Beach, Pasadena, and Vernon provide their own environmental health services and do not contract with the County Department of Public Health for environmental health services.

cities. It also plans to mail a similar brochure to restaurant owners/managers and multi-unit housing complex owners later this month.

Recommendation #5

To make the mandatory sewage spill reporting timeframe an enforceable requirement in Los Angeles County, the Board of Supervisors consider requesting the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board to amend the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) to include a requirement that specifies when the County's Public Health Officer should be notified of a sewage spill.

Status: IMPLEMENTED (Additional State Action Required)
In the April 4, 2007 letter, your Board also requested that the Regional Water Board amend the WDR to include a requirement that specifies when the County's Public Health Officer should be notified of a sewage spill. However, prior to this letter, in February 2007, the Regional Water Board's Executive Officer directed all Los Angeles County Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) NPDES permittees[3] to notify local health officials within two hours of a sewage spill.

To ensure that all non-POTW sanitary sewer system operators are also required to report sewage spills to the County's Public Health Officer within two hours of a sewage spill, the Regional Water Board's Executive Director sent a letter on July 19, 2007 to the State Water Board requesting that it amend the statewide WDR to include the two-hour reporting requirement. All federal and state agencies, municipalities, counties, districts, and other public entities that own or operate sanitary sewer systems greater than one mile in length that collect and/or convey untreated or partially treated wastewater to a POTW in the State of California are required to comply with the statewide WDR. As of the date of this report, the State Water Board has not yet amended the statewide WDR.

Recommendation #6

The Board of Supervisors instruct the Department of Public Health, in consultation with the Public Health Commission, to develop an educational program for owners/operators of sanitary sewer systems, which shall include, but not be limited to, clarification on how soon the public health officer must be contacted after a spill and the names and telephone numbers of all County representatives that should be notified following a sewage spill.

Status: PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED
On September 27, 2007, Public Health met with the Public Health Commission (Commission) to provide an overview of the Department's proposed educational program, which primarily consists of brochures and posters. At the Commission's October 25, 2007 meeting, the Commission members, including Auditor-Controller staff, provided Public Health with input on its proposed sewage spill educational program.

[3] The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit acts as the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) within its jurisdiction.

Public Health made the suggested revisions and at the Commission's December 13, 2007 meeting, it approved Public Health's revised brochures and posters.

On January 4, 2008, Public Health distributed copies of the revised brochures and posters to key stakeholders, including the County Department of Public Works, County Sanitation Districts, Los Angeles City Bureau of Sanitation, Heal the Bay, and Santa Monica Baykeeper for review and comments. The brochures include the sewage spill notification requirements and contact telephone numbers for reporting sewage spills to the County Department of Public Health, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the Los Angeles Regional Water Board, the County Department of Public Works, the County Sanitation Districts, and the Los Angeles City Bureau of Sanitation. The posters include the contact telephone numbers for reporting sewage spills to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

Public Health plans to distribute the brochures and posters to all Los Angeles County sanitary sewer owners/operators, including all cities within the County, during March 2008. Accompanying these materials will be instructions for the sewer owners/operators to distribute the material to all contractors upon issuance of construction work permits. The Department of Public health also plans to mail a similar brochure to both owners/managers of restaurants and owners of multi-unit housing complexes in March 2008.

Recommendation #7

The Board of Supervisors consider seeking an amendment to the Water Code to include a requirement that the local public health officer be immediately notified in the event of a sewage spill.

Recommendation #8

The Board of Supervisors consider seeking a change in State law to permit civil fines to be imposed on persons who do not immediately notify the local public health officer when a sewage spill occurs.

Status: IMPLEMENTED
Your Board sponsored Assembly Bill 800 (Assemblymember Ted Lieu, Author) and on October 10, 2007, Governor Schwarzenegger signed AB 800 into law. AB 800 amends Water Code Section 13271. This section of the Water Code requires a person, without regard to intent or negligence, who permits or causes the discharge of sewage or waste in or on any "waters of the state" to notify the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) as soon as possible after they have knowledge of the discharge, and the OES in turn notifies the local health officer (LHO) or director of environmental health (DEH). AB 800 amended this statute to make clear that notification to OES does not nullify the discharger's obligation to immediately notify the LHO or DEH as required by Section 5411.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

As amended on April 9, 2007, the original draft of Assembly Bill 800 also included a provision to permit civil fines to be imposed on persons who did not immediately notify the LHO or DEH. However, this provision was removed during the legislative process and is not contained in the bill signed by the Governor. However, according to Public Health, Assemblymember Lieu has expressed interest in introducing additional legislation to address sewage spills and the notification of the LHO and DEH.

Recommendation #9

The Board of Supervisors instruct the Department of Public Health to provide the County operator with an emergency contact list that contains the names and telephone numbers of at least three employees who will be on-call to receive reports of sewage spills after normal business hours and to ensure that the contact list is always accurate and up-to-date.

Recommendation #10

The Board of Supervisors instruct the Department of Public Health to instruct the County operator in writing to report all sewage spills to an employee listed on the emergency contact list and to make repeated telephone calls if necessary until an employee is reached, and to discontinue the practice of leaving messages on voicemail or answering machine systems.

Status: IMPLEMENTED
On February 13, 2007, Public Health provided the County Operator with an emergency contact list that contained the names and telephone numbers of seven Public Health staff members/managers on-call to receive reports of sewage spills after normal business hours. Public Health procedures require its Environmental Health Division to update the list as changes occur (i.e., staffing and/or telephone numbers), or at least twice each year.

Public Health also instructed the County Operator in writing to report all sewage spills regardless of the amount, location, or disposition to an employee on the emergency contact list and if necessary, continue the reporting process until an employee is reached rather than leave a message. Since implementing this recommendation, the County Operator has been successful in reaching Environmental Health staff to report sewage spills.

Recommendation #11

The Board of Supervisors instruct the Department of Public Health to develop policies and procedures to centralize the reporting and tracking of all sewage spills within the Department's Recreational Health Program.

Status: IMPLEMENTED
On February 1, 2007, all staff members of Public Health's Environmental Health Water Quality Program (Water Quality Program) received training on receiving sewage spill

reports from the County Operator and responsible agencies and on the requirements for immediately notifying Public Health management of significant spills. In addition, the Department developed a "Sewage Discharge Incident Report Form" to be completed by all Environmental Health units when responding to a sewage discharge incident. Under this approach, all Environmental Health inspectors who learn of sewage discharges from any source, such as a multi-unit housing complex or restaurant, which may potentially impact waters of the State, must report it to the Water Quality Program staff.

On March 15, 2007, newly assigned staff to the Water Quality Program received training on protocols for reporting sewage spills. On March 16, 2007, the Acting Director of Environmental Health issued a directive to all staff implementing the new reporting procedures, which were reinforced with unit supervisors in meetings on March 29, 2007.

Recommendation #12

The Board of Supervisors instruct the Department of Public Health to require Recreational Health Program to immediately begin documenting and tracking all reports of sewage spills, and providing reference/tracking numbers to persons reporting sewage spills.

Status: IMPLEMENTED
On May 1, 2007, Public Health initiated a web-based sewage discharge tracking database that allows Environmental Health staff to post updated information on its website. The website allows the public to query sewage discharges according to the date, location, and volume. In addition, consistent with discussions with the Public Health Commission and Auditor-Controller staff, the website also indicates the final disposition of discharged sewage and the action taken by Public Health. The database system automatically assigns a tracking number to all reports of sewage spills. A tracking number is issued to the reporting party at the time of the report is made or at the earliest practical time if the report is made after hours or on the weekend. In those instances, the reporting party is advised that they may call back on the first business day after the incident to obtain a tracking number.

Recommendation #13

The Board of Supervisors instruct the Department of Beaches and Harbors and the Fire Department to submit a reimbursement claim to the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts for costs incurred in responding to the January 2006 Manhattan Beach sewage spill.

Status: IMPLEMENTED
On February 20, 2007, the Fire Department submitted a reimbursement claim to the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts in the amount of $3,148. On March 5, 2007, the Department of Beaches and Harbors submitted a reimbursement claim to the Sanitation Districts in the amount of $11,055. The Sanitation Districts paid both claims in-full in March 2007.

Recommendation #14

The Board of Supervisors consider requesting the Governor to appoint someone with an expertise in public health to fill the vacant membership position on the Los Angeles Regional Water Board.

Recommendation #15

The Board of Supervisors consider seeking an amendment to the Water Code to require that at least one of the Water Board's seven membership categories include someone with a public health background.

Status: IMPLEMENTED (Additional State Action Required)
On April 4, 2007, your Board sent a letter to Governor Schwarzenegger, which included a copy of the Auditor-Controller's Sewage Spill Report, requesting amendments to State law to require at least one Regional Water Board member to have a public health background.

As previously mentioned, your Board also sponsored AB 800, which contained a provision that would have required one appointee to the Regional Water Quality Control Board to have a special competence in the area of public health. However, this provision was removed during the legislative process and on May 15, 2007, your Board instructed the County's Legislative Advocate to continue to pursue the addition of a member with public health expertise on the Regional Water Board separately from the County's efforts as the sponsor of AB 800.

Recommendation (from the March 30, 2007 Report)

The Board of Supervisors instruct the Department of Public Health, in conjunction with the Public Health Commission, the Auditor-Controller, and County Counsel to determine whether new State laws are needed to ensure the protection of public health when sewage spills discharge into dry riverbeds that are near residential communities.

Status: IMPLEMENTED
Public Health, in conjunction with the Public Health Commission, Auditor-Controller, and County Counsel met to discuss whether new State laws are needed to ensure the protection of the public when sewage spills discharge into dry riverbeds that are near residential communities.

In summary, the law requires notification of sewage spills into "waters of the state" or which will probably enter "waters of the state." The determination of whether a dry river bed would be considered part of the "waters of the state," will likely be a factual determination based on whether the dry driver bed becomes wet with some frequency and the likelihood that a sewage spill could percolate into ground water. Due to the uncertainty that this case by case analysis may cause, the County might consider

implementing an alternative means of enforcement if it desires to broaden the sewage spill notification requirements.

Since data does not exist on how often sewage spills discharge into dry riverbeds, Public Health has proposed tracking and monitoring such occurrences to determine if there is a need for "clarifying legislation" or the establishment of a new law. In addition, as part of its educational program (see Recommendation #6 above), Public Health plans to encourage sanitary sewer owners/operators to report all spills, including those that are discharged into dry riverbeds, to the County's Public Health Officer.

COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

At its January 30, 2007 meeting, the Board of Supervisors also instructed the Auditor-Controller to provide recommendations of what further action may be needed. Below are our additional recommendations to the Department of Public Health.

Comments

As noted earlier in this report, the County has fully implemented 15 of the 16 recommendations contained in the January and March 2007 Sewage Spill Reports. Only one recommendation (Recommendation #6) remains partially implemented. However, our follow-up review determined that for five recommendations (Recommendations #1, #2, #3, #5 and #15) additional State action is required to fully implement the intent of these recommendations. For example, Recommendation #2 requires the Los Angeles Regional Water Board to convene a work group of key stakeholders to develop specific maintenance standards for owners/operators of sanitary sewer systems. To ensure that this and other recommendations are implemented, the Department of Public Health in coordination with the Public Health Commission and the Chief Executive Office need to follow-up with the Regional and State Water Boards, as appropriate.

Additional Recommendations

Department of Public Health management:

1. **Follow-up with the Regional and State Water Board's Executive Director to learn the outcome of your Board's requests at their Management Coordinating Committee meeting, and continue to monitor these issues until they are addressed.**

2. **Pursuant to Recommendation 15, work with and monitor the County Legislative Advocate's efforts to continue to pursue the addition of a Regional Water Board Member with Public Health expertise.**

Comments

The law requires both the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the person[4] responsible who permits or causes sewage to be discharged to immediately notify the local health officer or director of environmental health of sewage discharges. We noted this does not always occur.

As part of our follow-up review, we examined the websites of OES and Public Health and compared the number of sewage spills reported to each agency for calendar year 2007. We noted 43 instances where sewage spills were reported to OES, but not to Public Health. The reported spills ranged from one gallon to 20,000 gallons.

Failure to report sewage spills as required negatively impacts Public Health's ability to protect the public in the event of a sewage spill. Therefore, Public Health management should perform at least quarterly reviews of OES' website to determine the existence of sewage spills that are reported to OES, but not reported to the County Public Health Officer. If unreported sewage spills are identified, Public Health management should send letters to both the discharger and OES to remind them of their legal responsibilities.[5] As appropriate, Public Health management should consult County Counsel regarding the enforcement of the State's sewage spill notification requirements.

Additional Recommendations

Department of Public Health management:

3. **At least quarterly, review the Governor's Office of Emergency Services' website to determine whether sewage spills are being reported to the County Public Health Officer.**

4. **Send letters to dischargers and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services to remind them of their legal responsibility to notify the County Public Health Officer of sewage spills.**

5. **As appropriate, consult County Counsel regarding the enforcement of the State's sewage spill notification requirements.**

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[4] A "person" in the Health and Safety Code is defined to include any city, county, district, the State, or any department or agency thereof.

[5] Non-reporting of sewage spills to the State Office of Emergency Services (who is then required to notify the Regional Water Board, local health officer and director of environmental health) under Water Code Section 13271 is punishable by a fine of not more than $20,000, imprisonment for not more than one year, or both. Under Health and Safety Code Section 5411.5, a "person" who fails to immediately notify the local health officer in the event of sewage spills is guilty of a misdemeanor and is punishable by fine of not less than $500, but no more than $1,000, or imprisonment for less than one year, or both.

Comments

Public Health has worked with the County Public Health Commission in developing educational brochures/posters to be distributed to owners/operators of sanitary sewer systems. As of the date of this report, the brochures/posters have not yet been finalized. Therefore, we recommend that, within 90 days, the Department of Public Health report to the Board of Supervisors on the status of the educational brochures/posters, including what action has been taken to finalize/distribute the brochures/posters, feedback from sanitary sewer systems owners/operators, and any recommendations for improving these educational materials.

Additional Recommendation

6. **Department of Public Health management report back to the Board of Supervisors in three months on the status of the educational brochures/posters, including what action has been taken to finalize/distribute the brochures/posters, feedback from owners/operators of sanitary sewer systems, and any recommendations for improving these educational materials.**

Comments

In February 2007, the Regional Water Board directed all NPDES permittees to notify the local health officials within two hours of a sewage spill. In July 2007, Public Health issued a "guidance letter" to all Public Health's 85 contract cities and three sewer agencies in the County to notify them that sewage spills must be reported to the Public Health Officer within 15 minutes of the discharge. Water Code Section 13271 requires dischargers to report sewage spills immediately to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

Sewage Spill Reporting Protocols for Dischargers			
	Regional Water Board	Department of Public Health	Office of Emergency Services
Protocols	2 Hours [1]	15 Minutes [2]	Immediately [3]
[1] This timeframe currently applies only to Los Angeles County Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) NPDES permittees.			
[2] DPH interprets the State's reporting requirement (i.e., "immediately") as 15 minutes of the discharge or knowledge of the discharge. DPH has included this reporting guideline in its revised educational brochure, which it plans to distribute in March 2008.			
[3] Water Code 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 cleanup or other emergency measures.			

To help minimize confusion regarding the various notification requirements, Public Health management, in collaboration with the County Public Health Commission, should work with the Regional Water Board to develop and distribute a chart that shows the

timeline requirements for reporting sewage spills to agencies such as the Department of Public Health, Regional Water Board, and Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

Additional Recommendation

7. **Department of Public Health management in collaboration with the County Public Health Commission, work with the Regional Water Board in developing and distributing a sewage spill notification chart that shows the timeline requirements for reporting sewage spills to agencies such as the Department of Public Health, Regional Water Board, and Governor's Office of Emergency Services.**

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the Public Health Commission, the Department of Public Health, County Counsel, the Internal Services Department, and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board for their cooperation and assistance throughout our follow-up review.

The Department of Public Health's management indicates general agreement with the results of the follow-up review and our additional recommendations. Please let me know if you have any questions, or your staff may contact DeWitt Roberts at (213) 974-8593.

JTM:MMO:DR
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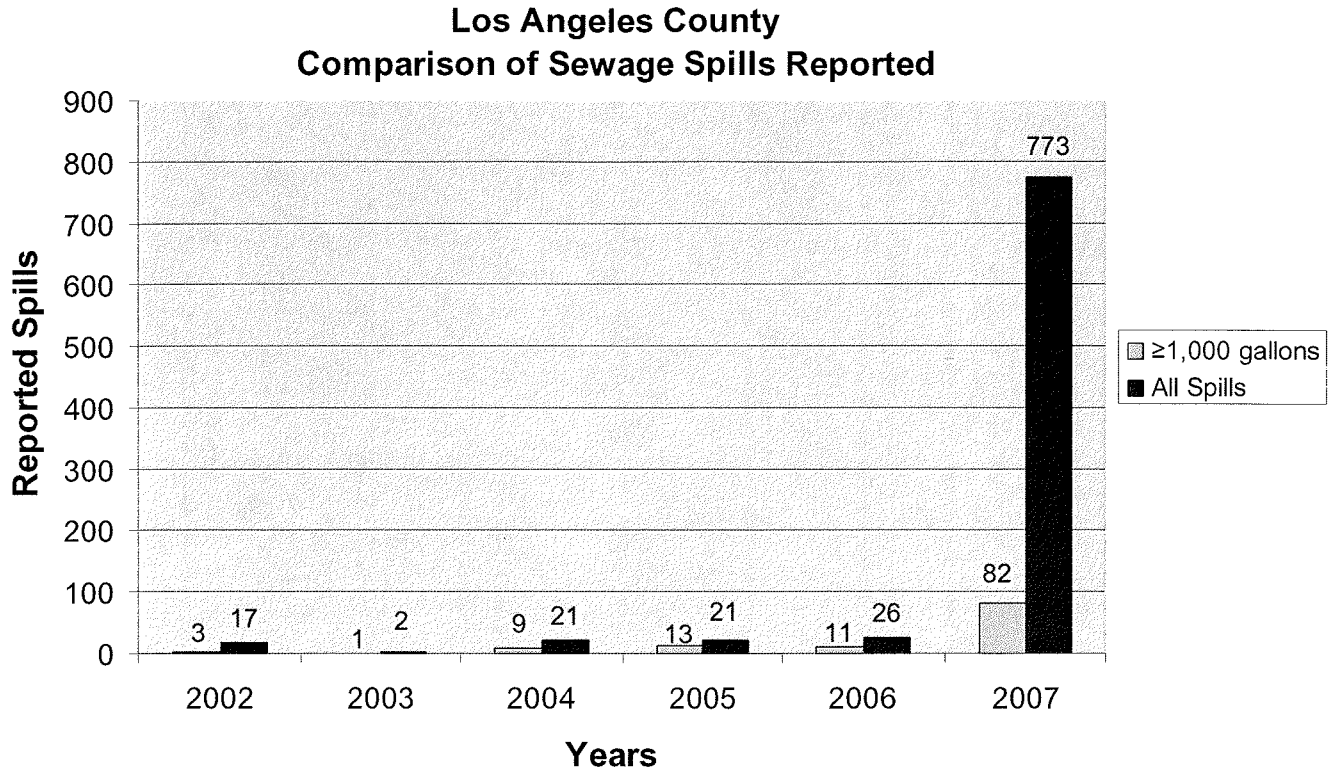
Attachment

c: County of Los Angeles
Public Health Commission
William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Jonathan E. Fielding, Director and Health Officer, Department of Public Health
Raymond G. Fortner, Jr., County Counsel
Dave Lambertson, Director, Internal Services Department
P. Michael Freeman, Fire Chief/Lifeguards
Stan Wisniewski, Director, Beaches and Harbors
Donald L. Wolfe, Director, Department of Public Works
Steven Maguin, Chief Engineer and General Manager, County Sanitation Districts
Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Public Information Office
Tracy J. Egoscue, Executive Officer, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
Henry Renteria, Director, Governor's Office of Emergency Services
Enrique Zaldivar, Director, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Ronald Arias, Director, City of Long Beach Health and Human Services
Lewis Pozzebon, Director, City of Vernon Environmental Health
Mel Lim, Director, City of Pasadena Environmental Health
Mark Gold, Director, Heal the Bay
Tom Ford, Baykeeper, Santa Monica Baykeeper



This comparison chart shows that there has been a significant increase in the reporting of sewage spills to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health during calendar year 2007 compared to prior years. The reporting of sewage spills for 2007 alone exceeded the combined total of sewage spills reported during the preceding five year period. As shown above, from calendar year 2002 through calendar year 2006, the Department received only 87 spill reports compared to 773 reports during calendar year 2007.