

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Michael T. Chee)  
MEETING DATE: October 19, 2005

ITEM: 11

SUBJECT: Resolution in Support of Programs for Inspection and Rehabilitation of Private Sewer Laterals

CHRONOLOGY: The Board has not previously considered this matter.

DISCUSSION: The attached draft Resolution declares Board support of local programs for the inspection and rehabilitation of private sanitary sewer laterals. We hope that this resolution will lead to more such local programs, which will in turn reduce sewer overflows. This is one step in our ongoing sanitary sewer overflow control program initiated over two years ago. With much support from the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA), we have established regional reporting guidelines and requirements for overflows, a web-based reporting system, sewer system management guidance and requirements, and held six outreach workshops. We believe this resolution is an important next element in our effort to reduce sanitary sewer overflows.

Sewer laterals in poor condition allow storm water and groundwater into the public sanitary sewer system. This additional water may overload pump stations and sewer pipes resulting in sewer overflows. These overflows flow untreated to storm drains and the Bay, and, as such, are a concern to human health and the environment. In many local jurisdictions, the property owner is responsible for the private sewer lateral. Local efforts to minimize infiltration and inflow (I&I) into the public sewer will not fully be effective so long as connected sewer laterals are deteriorated.

One local study suggested that I&I from damaged private sewer laterals contributed more than 50% of the total I&I to the sewer system. Similar conditions likely exist elsewhere in the region. In fact, several local agencies in the region already have programs for the inspection and rehabilitation of private laterals, such as inspection at the time of property sale. These include the Cities of Albany and Burlingame, and the Stege Sanitary District.

BACWA and the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) have recognized that damaged private sewer laterals are a problem and have written letters supporting the Tentative Resolution. The California Association of Realtors also provided an e-mail stating they have no objections to the Tentative Resolution.

RECOMMEN-

DATION: Adoption of the Tentative Resolution

File No.: 1210.57 (MTC)

Appendices: A. Tentative Resolution  
B. Letters from BACWA, CASA and California Association of Realtors

## Appendix A

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

**TENTATIVE RESOLUTION**

**In Support of Programs for Inspection and Rehabilitation of Private Sewer  
Laterals**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, finds as follows:

1. A private sewer lateral is that portion of the sanitary sewer line that connects a house or building's plumbing to the public sanitary sewer system. Such laterals can comprise up to fifty percent of the total linear sewer in a community.
2. Many homes in the San Francisco Bay Region were built before 1950 and have never had their original sewer laterals inspected. Over time, as these pipelines age, they may deteriorate and need inspection or rehabilitation.
3. Sewer laterals that are in poor condition or have illegal connections may allow entry of storm water and groundwater into the system. This additional water can cause surcharging of public sewers and overload pump stations and wastewater treatment facilities. These problems can result in a discharge from the sewer system to waters of the State including the San Francisco Bay.
4. Both the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (Water Board), and the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA) agree that the discharge from the sanitary sewer system to the environment, may, in some cases, pose localized human health and environmental risks.
5. In many local jurisdictions, the maintenance of the sewer lateral, up to and including the connection to the sewer main, is the responsibility of the private property owner, while the local jurisdiction is responsible for maintenance of the sewer main. Local efforts to minimize infiltration and inflow will not be fully effective so long as laterals that feed into them are deteriorated.
6. Some local agencies in the Region already have programs for the inspection and rehabilitation of private laterals, such as inspection at the time of property sale.
7. Local programs for inspection and rehabilitation of private laterals are a means of assuring that laterals are not a source of unreasonable amounts of inflow and infiltration or blockages.
8. The Water Board and BACWA have developed a sanitary sewer overflow control program for the Region which includes electronic reporting of sanitary sewer overflows

and the preparation of a sewer system management plan development guide for collection system agencies in the Region.

9. Some local agencies may have significant amounts of private lateral infiltration and inflow that may be a contributing factor to sanitary sewer overflows. It is recognized that other agencies may not have these types of problems and there is considerable variation in the condition of laterals among agencies.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this Water Board supports and encourages local communities and sanitary sewer collection system agencies, especially those experiencing significant infiltration and inflow from private sewer laterals, to have a program that requires inspection and rehabilitation of private sewer laterals.

I, Bruce H. Wolfe, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on October 19, 2005.

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Bruce H. Wolfe  
Executive Officer

## Appendix B



# **Bay Area Clean Water Agencies**

*Leading the Way to Protect Our Bay*

*A Joint Powers Public Agency*

*P.O. Box 24055, MS 702*

*Oakland, California 94623*

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October 3, 2005

Bruce H. Wolfe  
Executive Officer  
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board  
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400  
Oakland, CA 94612

**Subject: BACWA Support for Private Laterals Resolution**

Dear Mr. Wolfe,

The Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA) appreciates the initiative that the Regional Water Quality Control Board is taking to support local agencies in their efforts to minimize blockages and infiltration/inflow from private sewer laterals that feed into the public sanitary sewer collection system. The proposed resolution will assist local collection system agencies in the development and implementation of programs for inspection and rehabilitation of private laterals, as appropriate for each individual agency.

We endorse this action and offer our full support for its adoption. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Michele Pla  
Executive Director, Bay Area Clean Water Agencies

cc: Lila Tang, RWQCB  
Michael Chee, RWQCB  
BACWA Principals



# CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of SANITATION AGENCIES

925 L Street, Suite 1400 • Sacramento, CA 95814 • TEL: (916) 446-0388 – FAX: (916) 448-4808 • [www.casaweb.org](http://www.casaweb.org)

September 29, 2005

President  
**CHARLOTTE CRAVEN**  
City of Camarillo  
601 Carmen Drive  
Camarillo, CA 93010  
PH: (805) 388-5307  
Represents:  
Camarillo Sanitary District  
Ventura Regional Sanitation District

Bruce H. Wolfe  
Executive Officer  
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1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400  
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Secretary-Treasurer  
**TOM SELFRIDGE**  
Truckee Sanitary District  
12304 Joerger Dr.  
Truckee, CA 96161-3312  
PH: (530) 587-3804

c/o Michael Chee: [MChee@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:MChee@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Subject: CASA Support for Private Laterals Resolution**

1st Vice President  
**MICHAEL DUNBAR**  
South Coast Water District

Dear Mr. Wolfe,

On behalf of the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA), I am writing to express our support for the Resolution In Support of Programs for Inspection and Rehabilitation of Private Sewer Laterals. CASA is a statewide association of local public agencies that provide wastewater collection, treatment and recycling services to millions of Californians.

2nd Vice President  
**KAMIL AZOURY**  
Goleta Sanitary District

**DIRECTORS AT LARGE**

**BLAKE P. ANDERSON**  
Orange County Sanitation District

**CHARLES BATTS**  
Central Contra Costa Sanitary District

**HARRY PRICE**  
Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District

**WYATT TROXEL**  
Inland Empire Utilities Agency

**GUILLERMO GARCIA**  
HDR Engineering

CASA's members have been concerned for some time about the impacts of private laterals. At the same time, we do not believe it is appropriate from either a legal or a policy perspective to place the burden on individual local agencies, working alone, to implement lateral inspection and rehabilitation programs. The proposed resolution represents a welcome partnership approach between the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board and local agencies in their efforts to minimize blockages and infiltration and inflow from private sewer laterals that feed into the public sanitary sewer collection system. The proposed resolution will assist local collection system agencies in the development and implementation of programs for inspection and rehabilitation of private laterals, as appropriate for each individual agency.

For these reasons, CASA urges adoption of the tentative resolution. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further.

**MICHAEL F. DILLON**  
Executive Director & Lobbyist

**ROBERTA L. LARSON**  
Director of Legal and Regulatory Affairs

**MARLAIGNE DUMAINE**  
Biosolids Program Manager

**ERIC SAPIRSTEIN**  
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Sincerely,

Roberta Larson  
Director, Legal and Regulatory Affairs

RLL/jlp  
cc: CASA Executive Board  
CASA Lateral Working Group

**From:** "Elizabeth Brode" <elizabethb@car.org>  
**To:** <mchee@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Date:** 9/27/2005 3:29:13 PM  
**Subject:** Sewer Lateral Tentative Resolution

Michael,

Thank you for allowing the California Association of REALTORS® the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed tentative resolution in support of programs for inspection and rehabilitation of private sewer laterals. We have reviewed the version received by us via email on September 19, 2005, and have concluded that we do not have any comments at this time.

As we have discussed with your RWQCB, point-of-sale mandates do not provide the mechanism necessary to obtain the comprehensive and long-term approach to addressing sewer lateral inspections and repairs required to mitigate the impact of linear sewer on groundwater quality.

We feel that the resolution, as it is currently written, provides the latitude necessary for local districts to effectively address this issue in a way that suits the needs of individual communities.

Regards,

-Elizabeth Brode-

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Elizabeth Gavric Brode  
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