



Submitted via email to [rnorman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:rnorman@waterboards.ca.gov)

January 17, 2013

Russell Norman  
SSO Reduction Program  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Comment Letter – Proposed Changes to SSS WDR MRP

Dear Mr. Norman:

The City of Livermore appreciates the opportunity to comment on the recently released proposed modifications to the Sanitary Sewer System Waste Discharge Requirements (SSS WDRs) Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP). All of the sewage generated by the City's population of approximately 83,000 is collected and treated at the Livermore Water Reclamation Plant, which is operated and maintained by the City's Water Resources Division. The Division also operates and maintains the sanitary sewer system which consists of 295 miles of public sewer, 29,300 sewer service connections, and 5,800 manholes and cleanouts. There are also four lift stations and one siphon.

Through membership in the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA) Collection Systems Committee and the California Water Environment Association/Tri-TAC, the City has been an active partner with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) in facilitating understanding of, and compliance with, the SSS WDR. We are committed to the effective and appropriate implementation of the SSS WDR. However, the proposed amendments to the MRP would result in staffing and resource impacts during a time when public agencies are continuing to face personnel and budget challenges. It is not readily apparent to us how the additional requirements in the proposed amendments to the MRP would produce corresponding environmental or public health benefits. The City of Livermore already implements an active collection system management program. Aggressive line cleaning, continuous video inspection and dedicated funding for repairs have resulted in a minimum of service interruptions within the system, and no sewer system overflows (SSOs) in the past year.

The City of Livermore supports and incorporates by reference the California Association of Sanitation Agencies' (CASA) comments on the proposed amendments to the MRP.

The primary concern is that the proposed amendments constitute a broad and significant revision of the MRP. This is contrary to both State Water Board direction and prior representations to stakeholders regarding the cleanup nature of the amendment process. Though the current version of the proposed amendments to the MRP has been narrowed from the prior draft, the proposed revisions remain extensive. Many of the proposed changes do not fall within the limited scope of an MRP, and create new policy or substantive requirements which should only be imposed through amendments to the WDR itself. For example:

- The amount of information required for the 2-hour reporting is significant, and in most cases entirely impractical for the reporting entities;
- The new time limit of 120 days to amend a Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) report inhibits the ability of entities to report the most accurate spill volumes possible after a complete investigation into facts and circumstances surrounding an SSO;
- The new technical report and monitoring program required for all SSOs greater than 50,000 gallons is extremely burdensome and is a significant new requirement;
- The new, extensive requirements in the proposed amendments to the MRP will result in agency staff devoting limited time and resources to compiling more documentation; this does not achieve the intent of the SSS WDR, which is to reduce SSOs.

The City of Livermore supports a number of the changes to the MRP originally proposed in early 2012. For example, we support the delineation of the two existing overflow categories into three, clarification of the event-based approach to reporting, and clarification that agencies should only contact CalEMA for immediate reporting. Even so, the examples listed above, as well as many others, are outside the scope of the MRP amendment process and are inappropriate. We request that the proposed amendments to the MRP be revised to be consistent with the specific language recommendations submitted by CASA.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on proposed changes to the MRP, and look forward to working with State Water Board staff in the future on issues related to the SSS WDR. Please contact Mike Wells, Collection System Supervisor, at (925) 960-8100 if you would like additional information regarding our comments.

Sincerely,



Darren Greenwood  
Asst. Public Works Director

cc. Dan McIntyre, Public Works Director  
Mike Wells, Collection System Supervisor  
Helen Ling, Regulatory Compliance Officer