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January 22, 2013

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Charles R. Hoppin, Chair, and Members
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attn: Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
(commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov)

Dear Chair Hoppin and Members of the Board:

**SUBJECT: Comment Letter – Revised Draft Monitoring and Reporting
Program (MRP) for the Statewide Waste Discharge
Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems (SSS WDR)**

Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) appreciates the opportunity to provide our comments on the amended MRP for SSS WDR. We support the State's goal to update the MRP in protecting surface water objectives. The Draft amended MRP has significant changes and additional requirements that present concern to EMWD.

EMWD currently provides potable water and water reclamation services to a population of 755,000 people in a service area of 542 square miles. Two (2) Water Filtration Plants and one (1) Desalinization Facility, in addition to MWD connection and local wells, provide potable water to the customer the District serves. Additionally, four (4) POTW provide wastewater services to a portion of western Riverside County which include a number of cities. As the provider of both water and water reclamation services, EMWD shares responsibility to effectively manage the surface and groundwater basins within our District boundaries.

EMWD understands the State Water Resources Control Board's rationale and requirement to update the MRP for SSS WDR and wants to acknowledge the positive changes that Board staff has proposed. EMWD appreciates the voluntary reporting and not requiring certification for Private Lateral Sewage Discharges. However, there are also a number of provisions that EMWD is concerned within the draft amended MRP for SSS WDR and would recommend the following:

- Notification is required upon verification of an SSO.
- SSO Technical Report is required by the local Regional Board on a case-by-case basis.
- Supporting evidence requirements be generalized and recommended rather than mandated.

There are additional comments and recommendations for the draft amended MRP for SSS WDR that EMWD will provide below.

SSO Notification requirement

1. Page 3, B.1., states notification is required once "*...enrollee has knowledge of the discharge by discovery or has receiving information from a public informant or other source(s).*" There are spills that are not necessarily SSO and may be leaking water lines or other causes. This requirement for notification based on public information would create unnecessary work for EMWD as well false notifications. Therefore, EMWD would recommend a change in language such as "*upon confirmation of SSO is occurring or has occurred by the enrollee.*"
2. Page 4, 4.a., EMWD recommends the following strike-outs in the statement "*...no later than 3 business days after the enrollee is made aware of the SSO by citizen complaint or discovery.*" Since this is a reporting requirement necessary within 3 business day, there is enough time to verify a SSO especially if notified by the public.

Local Regional Board SSO Technical Report

3. Page 5, 5., EMWD recommends that SSO Technical Report be the responsibility of the local Regional Boards to mandate on case-by-case basis. This general requirement for the SSO Technical Report would create additional and unnecessary cost for enrollees. The local Regional Board has a better understanding of the impacts when a SSO occurs and could appropriately require a more specific Technical Report.
4. Page 6, iv. & v., again EMWD recommends that SSO Technical Report be the responsibility of the local Regional Boards to mandate on case-by-case basis (see Comment #3).

Generalized Supporting Evidence

5. Page 10, D., is of concern to EMWD as this may be a requirement for continual baseline monitoring of local surface waters as a comparison to potential discharges. Therefore, EMWD would recommend removal of this mandated requirement and be a recommended strategy when a SSO occurs.

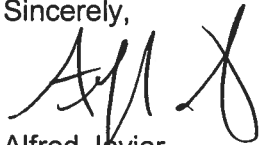
6. E., 2., i., EMWD recommends that "*the photographic evidence for all SSOs*" should NOT be mandated especially for small spills, private spills, or spills where it may not be possible to take a good photograph (i.e., night time).
7. E., 2., ii., EMWD sees that the complaint record requirement as an unnecessary burden on enrollees. There is no purposed for this requirement except additional cost to enrollees via staff time in accumulating and keeping track of all these notification that did not result in an SSO or impact of a surface water body.

Additional Comments

8. Page 5, iv., EMWD recommends leaving an open date to amend SSO reports. Enrollees should be allowed to add information any time especially since this is a public record. During investigation for a SSO, it may take some time for mitigation work to be effective and thus would not be reported if a limited time of reporting is required. Additionally, EMWD would like to see a required statement for the reasoning for when an amendment is added to a SSO report.
9. Page 11, e., an individual's information is not appropriate to be post publicly.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (951) 928-3777 extension 6327 or at javiera@emwd.org.

Sincerely,



Alfred Javier
Environmental & Regulatory Compliance Manager

AJ: tg

cc: Records Management