



City of Arcadia

Public Works Services Department

Tom Tait
Public Works Services Director

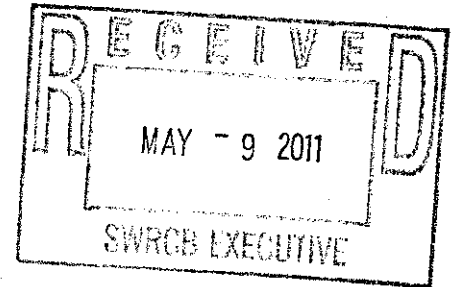
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Public Comment
Sanitary Sewer System WDR
Deadline: 5/13/11 by 12 noon

SENT VIA EMAIL & CERTIFIED MAIL

May 9, 2011

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814



Subject: Comments on the Proposed Statewide Sanitary Sewer Systems Waste Discharge Requirements (SSS WDRs)

Dear Ms. Townsend:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed revisions to the statewide Sanitary Sewer Systems Waste Discharge Requirements (SSS WDRs).

The City of Arcadia is committed to implementing the existing General Order (Order 2006-003-DWQ) and has expended significant resources to improving the City's sewer system to reduce the number of sanitary sewer overflows. The City has an aggressive program which includes a 12-month preventative maintenance cleaning schedule, regular CCTV inspections to identify and document existing conditions of sewer lines and an effective industrial waste program.

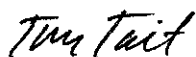
While the City of Arcadia recognizes that the State Water Board may at a future date consider the adoption of the proposed SSS WDR, the City has concerns regarding new and additional requirements imposed by the new regulation and offers the following general comments. The City also reserves its right to join in comments being prepared by other affected parties.

- The SSS WDR would move away from the current implementation practices which focused on reporting of SSOs and reducing SSOs with the potential to affect water quality or public health, to a very prescriptive and onerous order that seeks to dictate decisions regarding the way local sewer system programs are managed and implemented. In particular, the SSS WDR proposes the development of a Staff Assessment Program, requirements for contingency planning and natural disaster response planning, preparation of risk and threat analyses for each and every sanitary sewer system asset, and development and implementation of "performance targets" linked to each element of the SSMP with annual assessment. The City believes that compliance with the revised SSS WDR would therefore require far greater staff and resources.

- The SSS WDR includes a new prohibition on the use chlorine and/or potable water which contains residual chlorine during spill cleanups. This would make it difficult to wash down and fully clean up and disinfect SSOs on roads and gutters, and in storm drains or ditches.
- The public notice for the SSS WDR invites comments on whether the Board should consider substituting a two tiered "hybrid" system for regulating collection systems, in which some agencies are regulated via NPDES permit and others via WDR. We urge the Board not to move forward with this option, for policy, legal and practical reasons.
- The SSS WDR would impose a mandatory reporting of private sewer laterals ("PSL") spills by enrollees who have no authority over the privately owned laterals and require detailed information regarding local lateral programs. This could have the potential to create confusion as to how spills are reported in the future (e.g., volume estimates) by affected entities.
- The requirement to demonstrate an agency's ability to fund the sewer system in perpetuity is unrealistic and should be deleted. Public agencies' budgets are approved year-to-year and therefore no public agency can guarantee a specified level of funding beyond what has been approved by its legislative body, let alone "in perpetuity."

At this time, the City urges the State Water Resources Control Board to reconsider revising the proposed SSS WDRs and allow the programs and progress begun under the existing Sanitary Sewer Overflow Waste Discharge Requirements (SSO WDRs) to be fully implemented.

Sincerely,



Tom Tait
Public Works Services Director