In May 2006, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted the Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems (Statewide General Order). The objective of the Statewide General Order is to provide consistent requirements for sewer systems, and to reduce sanitary sewer overflows across the state by:

(1) Increasing transparency in terms of making spill data available to the public; and
(2) Encouraging proper operation and maintenance of sanitary sewer systems through the development and implementation of Sewer System Management Plans.

This report is a summary of the fiscal year 2013-2014 annual report that provides a detailed update on the statewide Sanitary Sewer Overflow Reduction Program. (See http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/sso/ for detailed report.)

The Sanitary Sewer Overflow Reduction Program focuses on compliance assistance, public outreach, training, and enforcement. Reporting of spills is an important component of each program element. Analysis of reported data indicates that 96 percent of the 1092 sanitary sewer systems currently enrolled under the Statewide General Order are in compliance with reporting requirements. This is a significant increase from the 53 percent found to be in compliance in 2008, just five years prior.

Statewide General Order enrollees were required to complete their Sewer System Management Plans by 2010. Over the past five years, reported data indicate that the number of sewer overflows caused by operational[1]-related issues is decreasing. Reported data also indicate that the volume of overflows has decreased over the past three years and the decrease in sewer overflows is, in part, attributed to the effectiveness of management plans and dry conditions that the state is experiencing with the current drought. Likewise, analyses of reported data also show a seasonal pattern of sewer overflows, with higher numbers and higher volume of overflows occurring during the wet season. Regardless, data indicate that operational causes remain the primary cause of sewer overflows and are responsible for approximately 82 percent of all sewer overflows.

Enrollees use sewer system management plans as a tool to effectively manage their sanitary sewer system. Enrollees have developed programs to address discharges of fats, oils and grease, reducing the number of overflows attributed to these constituents by 50 percent. Overall, the implementation of sewer system management plans over the past five years has proven to serve as an important tool to effectively manage sanitary sewer systems.

Data conclude that, although most spills are small (less than 1,000 gallons), the majority of sewage volume spilled is due to the relatively few large sewer overflows. Data also indicate that the majority of spills and the highest volume of spills occur during wet seasons. A significant cause of the large-volume overflows is excessive infiltration of groundwater through loose pipe joints and inflow of surface water through unintended and unsealed points of entry (manholes, monitoring access, etc.). Spill data for fiscal year 2013-2014 indicate that:

- Approximately 80 percent of reported spills occur in the San Francisco Bay, Central Valley, and Los Angeles Water Board regions; and
- Approximately 50 percent of reported spills occur in the San Francisco Bay, Santa Ana, and San Diego Water Board regions.

[1] Operational – Includes, sanitary sewer overflows caused by debris, fats, oils and grease, or tree roots.

State Water Board staff developed a spill-ranking tool to identify enrollees that have the highest number and/or volume of sewage spills reaching surface waters. The 20 sanitary sewer systems ranking the highest using the spill ranking tool for fiscal year 2013-2014 are listed on Table 1. For a description of the criteria used to rank sanitary sewer systems, please refer to http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/sso/ for detailed report.

Table 1 - 20 Sanitary Sewer Systems with Highest Number and/or Volume of Sewage Spill Reaching Surface Water

Sanitary Sewer System	Sanitary Sewer System
Sanitary District One of Marin	Sacramento Area Sewer District
Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Valley)	Los Angeles County Department of Power and Water (Unincorporated County Area)
City of Mountain Shasta	Moulton Niguel Water District
City of Oroville	City of Lawndale
Sonoma County Water Agency (Russian River)	City of La Habra Heights
City of Yuba City	Town of Discovery Bay
Eastern Municipal Water District	City of Alhambra
Costa Mesa Sanitary District	Delta Diablo Sanitation District
West County Wastewater District	City of Westlake Village
City of Amador	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (Number 5)

The Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) work closely with the State Water Board's Office of Enforcement in conducting sanitary sewer system inspections. Twenty-three inspections were conducted in fiscal year 2013-2014; consequently, the Regional Water Boards proceeded with 104 enforcement actions for violations, in whole or in part, related to non-compliance with the Statewide General Order. To assist sanitary sewer system managers to return into compliance, State Water Board staff maintains an automated email system that alerts the agency of sewer system-specific reporting deficiencies through monthly email notifications. Enrollees that do not respond to the notices or fail to correct deficiencies identified by the automated system are referred to the State Water Board's Office of Enforcement for further enforcement action.

At the State Water Board meeting on January 21, 2014, State and Regional Water Board staff presented to the State Water Board the findings of the evaluation of duplicative or additional requirements applicable to sanitary sewer systems that are enrolled in the Statewide General Order. During the meeting item the State Water Board directed staff to conduct an internal study that identifies sanitary sewer systems with structural and capacity deficiencies. Staff proposed a phased approach to develop the internal study. Phase I will focus on identifying deficient sanitary sewer systems within the state and Phase II will focus on staff recommendations to address the system deficiencies causing repetitive sewerage spills. Staff has formed the team to address the areas of focus. Table 2 lists the expected completion dates for each of the study tasks. Staff expects to have the study completed by March 2016.

Table 2 – Internal Study Completion Schedule

	Task	Expected Completion Date
Phase I	Identify sanitary sewer systems located in small and disadvantaged communities with structural and capacity issues	May 2015
	Identify sanitary sewer systems potentially impacting drinking water supply	July 2015
	Identify sanitary sewer systems potentially impacting public health	August 2015
	Identify deficient sanitary sewer systems identified through human bacteriological tracing methods developed by Southern California Coastal Water Research Project	October 2015
	Identify sanitary sewer systems with potential capacity issues due to sea level rise	November 2015
Phase II	Identify appropriate actions necessary to address the issues currently preventing these systems from being properly rehabilitated, managed, operated and maintained.	January 2016
	Complete internal report	March 2016

Further information regarding the State Water Board's Sanitary Sewer Overflow Reduction Program is located at the following website location: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/sso/