

**Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
Executive Officer's Summary Report
December 8, 2022**

ITEM: 4

SUBJECT: Detecting Viruses in Santa Rosa's Wastewater, (*Robert Wilson, City of Santa Rosa*)

BOARD ACTION: This is an informational item only. No action will be taken by the Regional Water Board.

BACKGROUND: The City of Santa Rosa operates a regional wastewater treatment plant that treats the wastewater from the Cities of Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Cotati, and Sebastopol and a sewer district in an unincorporated area of the County called South Park County Sanitation District. Santa Rosa partnered with Sonoma County Public Health, the Center for Disease Control, and private sector companies to study viral Ribonucleic Acid (RNA) found in raw wastewater. These studies are being used to detect various strains of SARS CoV-2 (Covid-19), Influenza A, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), and Monkey Pox in an effort to determine the presence and abundance of these viruses in the community served within this sewershed.

DISCUSSION: The presentation will cover the sample gathering process, an introductory discussion about the RNA markers that researchers are looking for, and the viral loads found in the raw wastewater. City staff will also discuss the benefits of wastewater epidemiological screening and where individuals may view the data generated from the City of Santa Rosa Laguna Treatment Plant and other wastewater treatment facilities across the United States. Additionally, the presentation will discuss how the Sonoma County Department of Public Health can use this data to compare service areas to identify trends of infected populations without the need for individualized testing and aid the Health Department's policy decision making.

RECOMMENDATION: N/A This is an information item only.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

None

221116_SantaRosa_WastewaterCovid19_Monitoring_EOSR