



Dedicated to Preserving the Napa River for Generations to Come

January 22, 2013

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

SUBJECT: Comments on Proposed Changes to Sanitary Sewer System (SSS) Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP)

Dear Mr. Norman:

On behalf of the Napa Sanitation District, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the recently released proposed modifications to the Sanitary Sewer System (SSS) Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP).

The Napa Sanitation District provides sewer service to the City of Napa and portions of the unincorporated surrounding Napa County areas. The District's service area encompasses approximately 20 square miles. The collection system consists of 270 miles of sanitary sewer mainline ranging in size from 6" to 66". The District is also responsible for the lower lateral (the portion in the public right-of-way), for each of the approximately 24,300 parcels served, which equates to an additional 147 miles of pipe maintenance.

The District supports the goals of the SSS WDR in reducing sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) statewide. In pursuit of this common goal, the District maintains a robust preventive maintenance program, fats, oils, and grease (FOG) control program, and capital improvement program, and is truly dedicated to protecting public health and minimizing human impacts on the natural environment. Records from 2008 through 2012 show that the District's mainline SSO rate remains well below the state average.

We are committed to the effective and appropriate implementation of the SSS WDR, and through our membership in the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA), we have been an active partner with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) in facilitating understanding of, and compliance with, the order. The District supports CASA's comments on the proposed amendments to the MRP, and incorporates those comments by reference.

Our primary concern is that the proposed amendments constitute a broad and significant revision of the MRP, 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 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

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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 requirement is significant, and in most cases entirely impractical for 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 the facts and circumstances surrounding an SSO;
- The new technical report and monitoring program required for all SSOs greater than 50,000 gallons is incredibly burdensome and is a significant new requirement; and
- The extremely detailed new record keeping requirements in the revised MRP would mainly serve to divert staff resources away from the critical SSO-reducing programs that the District has already set up, simply producing more paperwork instead. The Napa Sanitation District is not convinced that this approach will provide any real benefit.

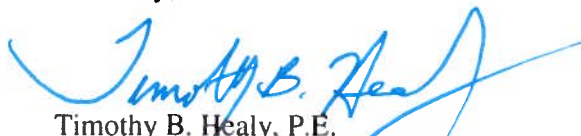
State Water Board staff has always been able to request additional information from individual agencies if and when it is needed. The District encourages staff to continue current practice, limiting the imposition of any additional reporting requirements to those cases where and when it is actually necessary and helpful to reach common goals.

The District supports a number of the changes to the MRP originally proposed in early 2012. First and foremost, we support the revisions reducing CalEMA notification requirements to include only significant spills (those greater than or equal to 1,000 gallons) that reach surface water. In addition, we support the delineation of the two existing overflow categories into three, and the clarification of the event-based approach to reporting.

Nonetheless, the changes noted above, as well as many others, are outside the scope of the MRP amendment process. We urge you to consider carefully the potential impacts of these proposed new requirements on collection system agency staff throughout the state, and we request that the proposed amendments to the MRP be revised 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 Todd Herrick at (707) 258-6000 if you would like additional information regarding our comments.

Sincerely,



Timothy B. Healy, P.E.
General Manager/District Engineer