



# Sewer System Management Plan Self-Audit: 2021-2024

June 26, 2025

# Sanitary Sewer Systems General Order

To provide a consistent, statewide regulatory approach to address sanitary sewer spills:

- The **State Water Resources Control Board** adopts and periodically updates a Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for **Sanitary Sewer Systems General Order**.
- Applies to all sewer collection system operators.
- The current General Order, Water Quality Order No. 2022-0103-DWQ became effective June 5, 2023.

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814  
ORDER WQ 2022-0103-DWQ  
STATEWIDE WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
GENERAL ORDER FOR SANITARY SEWER SYSTEMS

This Order was adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board on December 6, 2022.  
This Order shall become effective **180 days after the Adoption Date of this General Order**, on June 5, 2023.  
The Enrollee shall comply with the requirements of this Order upon the Effective Date of this General Order.

This General Order does not convey any property rights of any sort or any exclusive privileges. The requirements prescribed herein do not authorize the commission of any act causing injury to persons or property, protect the Enrollee from liability under federal, state, or local laws, nor create a vested right for the Enrollee to continue the discharge of waste.

#### CERTIFICATION

I, Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board, do hereby certify that this Order with all attachments is a full, true, and correct copy of the Order adopted by the State Water Board on December 6, 2022.

AYE: Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel  
Vice Chair Dorene D'Adamo  
Board Member Sean Maguire  
Board Member Laurel Firestone  
Board Member Nichole Morgan

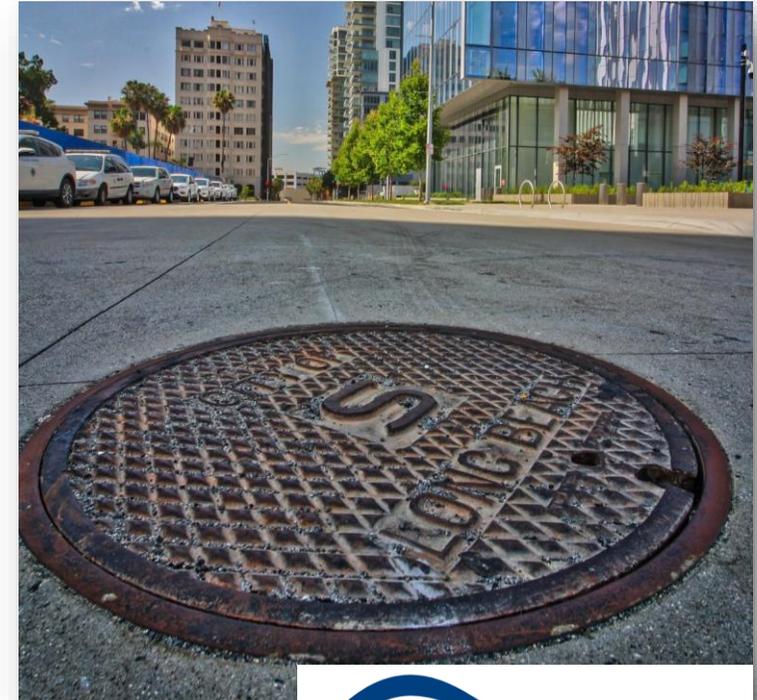
NAY: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

*Courtney Tyler* for  
Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board

# Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP)

**Within the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) General Order is a requirement that all sewer collection system operators establish a SSMP.**

- Goal is to **establish clear communications** and schedule to:
  1. Properly manage, operate, and maintain all parts of the waste management agency's sanitary sewer system(s)
  2. Reduce and prevent spills, and
  3. Contain and mitigate spills that do occur.
- SSMPs are updated every six years



# Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) Self-Audit

**State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) requires sanitary sewer system operators to self-audit the SSMP every three years.**

- Self-audit is completed internally by Long Beach Utilities Department, Sewer Operations Division.
- **NEW STATE REQUIREMENT:** Self-audits must be submitted to the SWRCB for accountability.

**Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP)**  
**2022-2024 Internal Audit**

**Introduction**

The Long Beach Utilities (LBU) Sewer System is subject to permitting requirements under the Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirement for Sanitary Sewer Systems (WDR SSS). The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) issued a revised Order No. WQ 2022-0103-DWQ to mitigate the potential impact of sanitary sewer spills on public health and the environment. The WRD SSS applies to all public collection system agencies in California that own and operate sewer collection systems. Under the provisions of the WRD SSS, LBU is required to prepare a Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) and any subsequent updates every six (6) years. Its principal elements include how the municipality operates and maintains the collection system, and procedures for reporting all sanitary sewer spills to the California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) online database, with the ultimate goal of minimizing spills.

**Background**

The LBU sanitary sewer system is comprised of 705 miles of gravity sewer mains and 7.9 miles of force mains ranging in size from 2 to 48 inches in diameter, 29 pump stations, 90,108 lateral connections, and 16,031 sewer manholes. The table below summarizes LBU's collection system.

Collections System Overview	
Gravity Sewer Mains	705 miles
Force Mains	7.9 miles
Sewer Lateral Connections	90,108
Sewer Pump Lift Stations	29

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# SSMP Self-Audit Areas

**The Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) Self-Audit is structured as follows:**

1. Goals
2. Organization
3. Legal Authority
4. Operation and Maintenance
5. Design and Performance Provisions
6. Spill Emergency Response Plan
7. Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Control Program
8. System Evaluation & Capacity Analysis Plan
9. Monitoring, Measurement, and Program Modifications
10. SSMP Program Audits
11. Communication Program



# SSMP Self-Audit Objectives

**Evaluate public sewer collection system operations and maintenance for:**

- **Effectiveness** of the Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) relative to spill prevention
- **Compliance with reporting requirements** per the State Water Resources Control Board Sanitary Sewer System General Order (General Order)
- **Deficiencies** with addressing ongoing spills and discharges to the waters of the State
- **Recommendations** for improvements

# Effectiveness

## Self-audit findings:

- The Long Beach Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) is generally effective in preventing spills and ensuring the proper operation of the sewer system, because of the use of:
  - Geographic Information System (GIS)
  - "Pipe-Patch" trenchless repair technique
  - Smart Cover® technology
  - Staff training program
  - Health MOU for FOG control



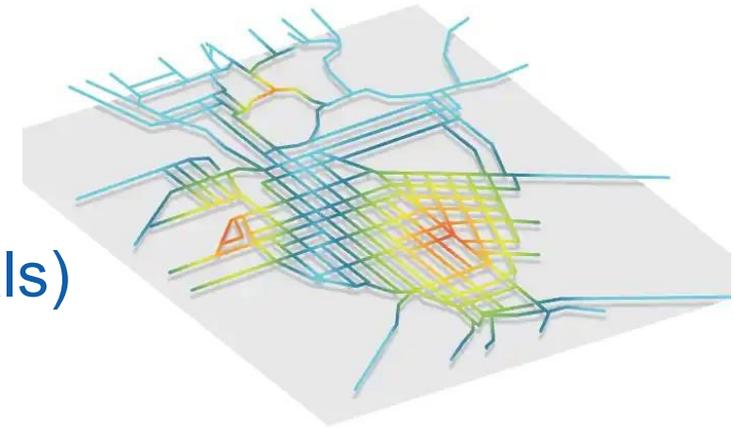
# Compliance with State Water Resources Control Board Reporting Requirements

Spill category	Sewage spill size and description	Initial report deadline	Draft report	Spill certification
1	Any sewage discharged to surface water or any sewage spill; not fully recovered	2 hours	3 business days	15 calendar days
2	Sewage spill over 1,000 gallons, fully recovered	NA	3 business days	15 calendar days
3	Sewage spill equal to or greater than 50 gallons, but less than 1,000 gals; fully recovered	NA	NA	30 calendar days after end of month during which spill occurred
4	Sewage spill under 50 gallons; fully recovered	NA	NA	30 calendar days after end of month during which spill occurred
"No spill"	No spills during the calendar month	NA	NA	30 calendar days after end of month during which the "No-Spill" month occurred

# Deficiencies

## Self-audit findings:

- The revised General Order requires all Sewer System Management Plans (SSMP) identify “sensitive areas” in the sewer system’s operational area.
- “Sensitive areas” include areas:
  - Are in proximity to critical facilities (schools, hospitals)
  - Pipe specifications (diameter >21", flow rates)
  - Environmental risks (water pollution potential)
- Sensitive areas will be prioritized for Capital Improvement Program repairs and accelerated routine maintenance.



# Recommendation

## Self-audit findings:

- Need Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS)
  - Currently piloting InfraMAP® Software
- Improve Sewer Force Main and Inflow/Infiltration management
  - Integrating force mains into asset management
  - Force mains included in LA28 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)
- Continue improvements with employee training
  - Expanding training to align with new State Water Resources Control Board standards
- Address delays with equipment repairs
  - Established regular meetings with internal fleet maintenance employees
- Improve public outreach
  - Collaborating with Public Affairs to conduct more relevant outreach

# Recommendation

Receive and file a report on the Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) Self-Audit (2021-2024).



LONG BEACH  
**Utilities**  
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