

Section 7 - Overflow Emergency Response Plan

A. Introduction

The intent of this section of the SSMP is to summarize the key elements of the City's overflow emergency response plan. The overflow emergency response plan should provide a standardized course of action for wastewater collection system personnel to follow in the event of an SSO. The overflow emergency response plan should also adequately prepare the City's personnel to respond to SSO events.

B. Regulatory Requirement

Each Enrollee shall develop and implement an overflow emergency response plan that identifies measures to protect public health and the environment. At a minimum, this plan must including the following:

- a. Proper notification procedures so that the primary responders and regulatory agencies are informed of all SSOs in a timely manner
- b. A program to ensure an appropriate response to all overflows
- c. Procedures to ensure prompt notification to appropriate regulatory agencies and other potentially affected entities (e.g., health agencies, Regional Water Boards, water suppliers, etc.) of all SSOs that potentially affect public health or reach water of the State in accordance with the MRP. All SSOs shall be reported in accordance with this MRP, the California Water Code, other State Law, and other applicable Regional Water Board WDRs or NPDES permit requirements. The SSMP should identify the officials who will receive immediate notification
- d. Procedures to ensure that appropriate staff and contractor personnel are aware of and follow the Emergency Response Plan and are appropriately trained
- e. Procedures to address emergency operations, such as traffic and crowd control and other necessary response activities
- f. A program to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to contain and prevent the discharge of untreated and partially treated wastewater to waters of the United States and to minimize or correct any adverse impact on the environment resulting for the SSOs, including such accelerated or additional monitoring as may be necessary to determine the nature and impact of the discharge

C. City of Ceres Overflow Emergency Response Plan

The City has prepared a document called Sanitary Sewer Overflow Response Plan (SSORP), dated January 2007, which was updated during the course of the preparation of the initial SSMP.

The Sanitary Sewer Overflow Response Plan addresses the requirements of the GWDR as follows:

- a. Notification – Section 3 of the SSMP presented a chain of communication diagram for reporting SSOs. This diagram showed the flow of information on how the agency could be notified of an SSO through a complaint or a report from outside the agency or City staff. This diagram also showed the internal agency chain of communication leading up to the response to the overflow. This diagram showed a variety of ways in which the notice of a possible SSO is reported to the Wastewater System Supervisor or to the Duty Person during a weekend or when the Wastewater System Supervisor is away from the office. Section 3 of the SSORP includes specific reporting procedures for notifying the Regional Board, the Office of Emergency Services, and the County Environmental Resources Department if the SSO is a Category 1 SSO, meaning all discharges of sewage that equals or exceeds 1,000 gallons or result in a discharge of any amount to surface waters.
- b. Response – Section 5 details the plan for responding to SSOs. Procedures are outlined so that first responders will 1) investigate and assess the situation, notify Public Works management and SSO response personnel, provide the Wastewater System Supervisor with critical information, stop and contain the overflow, clean-up and remediate the effects of the spill, complete a water quality assessment, and post warnings if needed.
- c. Reporting & Notification – As stated above, Section 3 of the SSORP includes specific reporting procedures for notifying the Regional Board, the Office of Emergency Services, and the County Environmental Resources Department if the SSO is a Category 1 SSO.
- d. Emergency Response Plan Implementation – Attachment 3 presents a checklist that must be completed documenting that the steps included in the SSORP were followed.
- e. Emergency Operations Procedures - Section 5 states procedures to address emergency operations, such as traffic and crowd control and other necessary response activities.
- f. Containment – Section 5 outlines a program to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to contain and prevent the discharge of untreated and partially treated wastewater to waters of the United States and to minimize or correct any adverse impact on the environment resulting for the SSOs, including such accelerated or additional monitoring as may be necessary to determine the nature and impact of the discharge.