

**1.1 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1.1 Program Goal and Objectives**

This program component is applicable to all Permittees who own and operate a sewage collection system. Although sewage systems themselves are not a regular source of storm water pollution, raw sewage contains pollutants that can pose a serious threat to both human health and the quality of receiving waters if they enter the storm drain system through incidents such as spills, leaks, or overflows. The goal of this program is to reduce the impact of Permittee-owned sewage system operations on storm water quality.

Each Permittee’s program must meet the requirements of the Los Angeles County municipal storm water permit (Permit), as summarized in Table 1-1.

<b>Table 1-1</b>		
<b>Permit Requirements - Sewage Systems Operations</b>		
<b>Report Section</b>	<b>Requirement (Summary)</b>	<b>Permit Section</b>
1.2.1	Implement procedures to respond to overflows and investigate complaints.	IV.F.1.a
1.2.1	Implement procedures to keep sewage spills or leaks from facilities operated by a Permittee from entering the municipal storm drain system to the maximum extent practicable.	IV.F.1.b.1
1.2.2	Implement procedures to identify, repair, and remediate sanitary sewer blockages, exfiltration, overflow, and wet weather overflows from sanitary sewers operated by a Permittee to the municipal storm drain system.	IV.F.1.b.2
1.2.3	Implement procedures to insure that the Permittee is able to investigate any suspected connections or cross-connections from the sanitary sewer systems to the municipal storm drain system.	IV.F.1.a.1
1.2.4	Implement procedures to notify public health agencies with discretionary decision authority on beach closures when there is a threat to public health.	IV.F.1.a.3

The objectives of this program component are to:

- Keep any sewage system overflows or leaks from entering the storm drain system or receiving waters to the maximum extent practicable.
- Identify, repair and remediate sewage system blockages, exfiltration, and overflows, and implement procedures for investigating suspected cross-connections.
- Notify public health authorities when there is a threat to public health.

**1.1.2 Facilities Covered by the Permit**

Facilities that are covered under this program include sanitary sewer pipes and pump stations owned and operated by the Permittee. The owner of the sanitary sewer facilities is the entity responsible for carrying out this prevention and response program.

**1.2 PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION ELEMENTS****1.2.1 Spill/Leak/Overflow Response and Containment**

The following procedures will be implemented, where applicable, to contain spills, leaks and overflows from sanitary sewer pipes and pump stations.

- When a spill, leak, and/or overflow occurs, keep sewage from entering the storm drain system to the maximum extent practicable by covering or blocking storm drain inlets and catch basins, or by containing and diverting the sewage away from open channels and other storm drain facilities (using sandbags, inflatable dams, etc.).
- Remove the sewage using vacuum equipment or use other measures to divert it back to the sanitary sewer system.
- When disinfecting a sewage contaminated area, take every effort to ensure that the disinfectant or sewage treated with the disinfectant is not discharged to the storm drain system or receiving waters. Methods may include blocking storm drain inlets, containing and diverting disinfectant and sewage away from open channels and other storm drain fixtures, and removing the material with vacuum equipment.

General guidance on responding to overflows and investigating complaints is included in Appendix B, Section B.1, and detailed guidance is provided in the model Illicit Connection/Illicit Discharge Elimination Program.

**1.2.2 Preventive and Corrective Maintenance**

The following procedures will be implemented, where applicable, to identify, repair and remediate sanitary sewer blockages, exfiltration, and overflows.

- During routine maintenance and inspection, note the condition of sanitary sewer structures and identify areas that need repair or maintenance.
- Document suggestions and requests for repair and report the information to the appropriate manager or supervisor.
- Prioritize repairs based on the nature and severity of the problem.

Guidance on identifying, reporting, and repairing potential sewage system problems is included in Appendix B, Section B.2.

### **1.2.3 Cross-Connections**

The following procedures will be implemented, where applicable, to verify that suspected connections or cross-connections are investigated.

- Educate field staff to recognize suspected cross-connections to the sanitary sewer system during their daily activities.
- Maintain accurate records of both sewer connections and new sewer lines.

Guidance on maintaining records is included in Appendix B, Section B.3. Guidance on conducting cross-connection and other illicit connection investigations is provided in the model Illicit Connection/Illicit Discharge Elimination Program.

### **1.2.4 Public Health Agency Notification**

The following procedures will be implemented, where applicable, to notify public health agencies with discretionary decision authority to close beaches when a sewage release may pose a threat to public health.

- Notify the County Department of Health Services, or other local health agency, of the spill location and potential discharge point to the receiving water. The County may be reached by calling the Hotline number (800) 303-0003 or (888) CLEANLA.
- Notify other agencies as needed to help determine the extent of the threat and document the release.

The 24-hour spill response telephone numbers for all Permittees are included in Appendix B, Section B.4.