

**Committee Request for Board Action:** None

46 attendees (including 2 guest speakers) from 25 member agencies.

**California Sewer System Spills Dashboard**

Lars Stenstedt from [V&A](#) demonstrated the capabilities of the [California Sewer System Spills Dashboard](#). The ArcGIS-based website is updated by V&A about once per quarter using data from the [Sanitary Sewer System Data Flat Files](#), which compiles spill data reported to the State Water Board via CIWQS. Data reported under the current (2022) [Sanitary Sewer Systems General Order](#) excludes Category 4 spills. Each agency also has a unique page on the dashboard (e.g., <https://californiasewerspills.com/hillsborough>). After the presentation, members shared their own approach to implementing internal dashboards, such as incorporating real-time linkages to CIWQS and/or incorporating information beyond spills, such cleaning and root foaming locations.

**Roundtable Discussion: Responding to Third Party Lawsuits**

Agencies shared their experiences responding to third party lawsuits alleging violations of the Clean Water Act due to sanitary sewer system operations. Recent third-party lawsuits have alleged that “collection system subsurface discharges” (e.g., exfiltration) are responsible for water quality impacts. This would theoretically be a violation of the [Sanitary Sewer Systems General Order](#) if sewage reaches a groundwater basin, MS4 stormwater system, and/or surface water body, but may be difficult to prove or disprove in court. Agencies that are targeted by such lawsuits should expect to produce records related to inspections and actions taken to prevent exfiltration, such as capital projects and O&M plans. Attendees shared that it is also useful for agencies to have GIS maps that show MS4 systems, including elevation / profile information; information about septic tanks that may also be a source of bacteria; and, if possible, information about the depth to groundwater.

**Exfiltration Update**

Steve Jepsen from [Clean Water Social](#) shared an update on scientific studies of exfiltration. [Link to Steve’s Slides](#). A study recently completed by researchers at SCCWRP estimated exfiltration and other possible sources of fecal pollution to the San Diego River watershed ([link to study](#)). Clean Water Social is working on follow-up studies to refine field methods for estimating exfiltration rates and to refine understanding of subsurface transport pathways. Steve recommended that agencies have a program to look for exfiltration, as this can now be considered a spill per the General Order.

**Compliance with Sanitary Sewer Systems General Order**

BACWA and other collection system agency representatives have been meeting periodically with State Water Board staff to discuss technical issues with CIWQS data and reporting. Agencies should make sure to check the [CIWQS Collection System Operational Report](#) for accuracy. Agencies should also check spill 10-year spill history in CIWQS; there is an opportunity to correct reports now before the Annual Reports are due April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**BACWA Announcements**

- CASA is planning a Rate Study to provide information similar to the State Water Board’s [Wastewater User Fee Survey](#). Please plan to participate.
- The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has stated that it plans to enforce the State and Local Government Fleets portion of the [Advanced Clean Fleet rule](#), even though other portions of the rule were withdrawn. Litigation is expected. CARB has also released a [Streamlined ZEV Purchase Exemption List](#) for vehicle types that do not require a waiver application, because CARB also knows that the vehicles are not available.
- The BACWA Annual Members Meeting will be held May 2<sup>nd</sup> in Downtown Berkeley (Free)

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> - **In Person at Central San in Walnut Creek**

Central San is [CWEA Collection System of the Year](#) – *Congrats!*