



# Enforcement News

## **CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD LOS ANGELES REGION**

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### **Los Angeles Water Board Refers Sanitary Sewer Permit Violations In Three Cities to State Attorney General's Office**

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LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) adopted three resolutions at its October 3 meeting referring the cities of Alhambra, Compton and San Gabriel to the California Attorney General's Office for failure to comply with the Statewide Sanitary Sewer Permit.

The referrals allow the Attorney General's Office to seek court orders compelling the cities to correct sewer deficiencies and eliminate illegal discharges of raw sewage into the region's waterways.

The Statewide Sanitary Sewer System Permit was adopted in 2006 and updated this year to provide a consistent, statewide approach to address the illegal discharges of raw sewage. The permit requires public agencies that own or operate sewer systems to develop and implement sewer system management plans and report all sewage spills to an on-line database.

Raw sewage spills can contain pathogenic organisms and toxic pollutants, which can pose threats to human health, recreational uses of water and natural resources. Sewage spills can also damage public and private property.

"The Los Angeles Water Board believes that with enforcement actions such as this through the Attorney General's Office, we can convince these cities to address their aging sewer systems." said Maria Mehranian, Chair of the Los Angeles Water Board. "The ultimate goal is the elimination of sewage spills that can threaten public health and impact the beneficial uses of our waters."

Regional Board staff told the board the resolutions were necessary to bring the cities into compliance with their permits. A court order would require the cities to develop, implement, and in some cases, enhance a number of plans and programs in order to address their sewage collection system shortfalls. These include developing, implementing and/or enhancing their



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sanitary sewer overflow reduction plans, their system-wide cleaning programs, their fats, oils and grease control programs, and their capital improvement plans.

The Los Angeles Water Board protects and restores water quality in coastal watersheds in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties and in portions of Kern and Santa Barbara counties.

For additional information on the Board and the Resolutions, visit <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/>.