

INTRODUCTION

This section describes background information regarding the purpose and organization of this Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP), and provides a brief overview of the Bolinas Community Public Utility District (BCPUD)'s sewer system.

This plan is intended to include all elements required to complete the SSMP and comply with WDR Order 2006-0003-DWQ as amended by Order No. WQ 2008-0002-EXEC and as further amended by Order No. WQ 2013-0058-EXEC. It will be developed and implemented by BCPUD and will be available to the State Water Resources Control Board and the Regional Water Quality Control Board, as well as to the general public. The BCPUD's Board of Directors will approve each phase of the document at a duly noticed public hearing.

This plan began as an interim document and was continuously under development until August 2, 2010, per the schedule mandated by the State Water Resources Control Board. The plan is subject to periodic updates and revisions as may be required either through legislative changes, or through refinements of substance or procedures once policy implementation has begun. The plan was amended in 2011, 2012, 2014 and 2019 at duly noticed meetings for the BCPUD's Board of Directors, and was updated and recertified after five years at duly noticed meetings of the Board on July 15, 2015 and on July 23, 2020..

SSMP REQUIREMENTS

The California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) adopted statewide Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ on May 2, 2006 (the Order). The General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) of this Order requires all public wastewater collection systems in California with greater than one mile of sewer collection pipes to be regulated and monitored in accordance with the Order. Among other things, the Order mandates that all such systems develop a SSMP and requires the reporting of sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs), or lack thereof via a "no spill" certification process, using an on-line reporting system.

The SWRCB also adopted a time schedule setting forth the dates by which each section of the SSMP is required to be completed by each system based on its population size. BCPUD's SSMP Development Plan and Schedule is presented in Appendix 1.

DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

This SSMP is intended to meet the requirements of WDR Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ as it is amended from time to time and as it applies to the BCPUD's sewer system. This SSMP includes eleven elements; each of these elements (listed below) forms a complete, stand-alone section of the SSMP.

1. Element 1 – Goals
2. Element 2 – Organization

3. Element 3 – Legal Authority
4. Element 4 – Operation and Maintenance Program
5. Element 5 – Overflow Emergency Response Plan
6. Element 6 – Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Control Program
7. Element 7 – Design and Performance Provisions
8. Element 8 – System Evaluation and Capacity Assurance Plan
9. Element 9 – Monitoring, Measurement, and Program Modifications
10. Element 10 – SSMP Program Audits
11. Element 11 – Communication Program

BCPUD SERVICE AREA AND SEWER SYSTEM

The BCPUD is a public utility district located in an unincorporated area of West Marin County, California providing water, wastewater and solid waste services, among other things, to its customers since 1967. Prior to 1967, two public utility districts provided water service in Bolinas – the Bolinas Beach Public Utility District (serving the Big Mesa) and the Bolinas Public Utility District (serving the downtown and Little Mesa) – these districts were consolidated in 1967 pursuant to a resolution of the Marin County Board of Supervisors. The BCPUD also is the successor agency to Marin County Sanitary District #3, which was organized in 1908. Today, the BCPUD’s power and authority are primarily regulated and defined by the California Public Utilities Code. Its five-member Board of Directors is elected from the community at large to govern the District’s operations and policies. The BCPUD’s 6-person staff consists of a General Manager, a Chief Operator, three Shift Operators and an Administrative Assistant.

The BCPUD owns and operates a sanitary sewer system that collects, treats and disposes an average of approximately 30,000 gallons per day (GPD) of wastewater (with a maximum permitted flow of 65,000 GPD) from 162 business and residential connections in the downtown area and 1 connection on the Bolinas Mesa. The remainder of the 1620-person community is served by private, on-site wastewater systems. In the BCPUD sewer system, wastewater is collected from the downtown sewered area and pumped up to the treatment facility on the Big Mesa (the single Bolinas Mesa sewer connection is pumped laterally to the treatment facility), which consists of a series of four oxidation ponds for stabilization and storage, with ultimate disposal through pond evaporation and spray disposal on 45 acres of grasslands. The BCPUD’s entire sewer service area encompasses approximately 3 square miles; the collection system consists of pipelines ranging in size from 2-inches to 6-inches, spanning approximately three linear miles and including PVC and AC pipe (over 80% of which is slip-lined with PEP). In 1990, the BCPUD completed an infiltration and inflow (“I&I”) correction project to eliminate unwanted stormwater runoff and seawater intrusion. While the project significantly reduced I&I, the BCPUD’s sewer collection system continues to experience some I&I during storm events; accordingly, the district has continued the moratorium on new service connections it enacted in 1985 as a requirement for Clean Water Grant Program funding. The BCPUD operates its sewer system pursuant to Waste Discharge Order 88-100 of the California Regional Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (RWQCB).