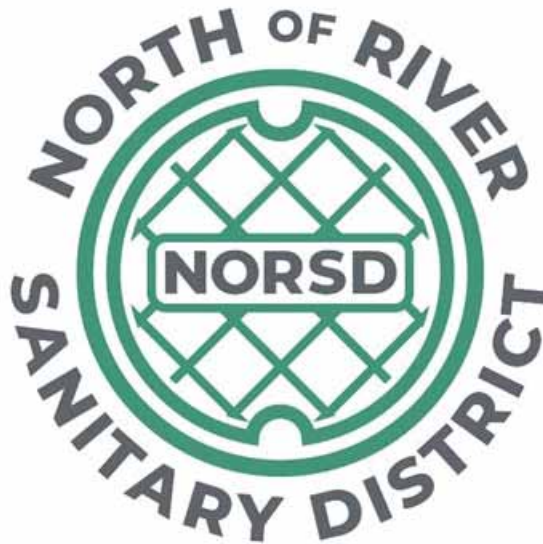


# NORTH OF RIVER SANITARY DISTRICT NO. 1



## SEWER SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Prepared for  
North of River Sanitary District No. 1  
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## Sewer System Management Plan Revision Log

The Sewer System Management Revision Log has been prepared to summarize pending revisions to the NORSD Sewer System Management Plan, last updated in July 2015.

[illegible]

## Acknowledgements

North of the River Sanitation District would like to acknowledge the following individuals for their outstanding efforts and contributions, which resulted in the creation of this document. The comprehensive plans included herein reflect the District's on-going commitment to the effective and efficient operation, maintenance and management of its wastewater collection system and achieving the District's goals and objectives.

### Board of Directors

|                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
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| Safety / Collections System Supervisor          | Richard St. Claire |
| Environmental Compliance Officer                | Joseph Ferrari     |
| Wastewater Treatment Plant Chief Plant Operator | Sam Hicks          |

## Abbreviations/Acronyms

**American Public Works Association (APWA)** - Non-profit professional association of public works agencies.

**Authorized Representative** - The designated individual responsible for the certification of the Online Sanitary Sewer Overflow Database Questionnaire following a spill event. The Authorized Representative that certifies updates to the SSMP prior to submittal to the SWRCB.

**Best Available Technology (BAT)** - Practices and tools to limit pollution discharges.

**Best Management Practice (BMP)** - Synonym for Best Available Technology.

**California Occupation, Safety and Health Administration (CAL-OSHA)** - Agency dedicated to protect workers from health and safety hazards associated with their work.

**Capital Improvement Plan or Program (CIP)** - Planning document prepared by Cities or public agencies to identify needed infrastructure improvements and funding sources.

**Category 1 SSO** - A discharge of any volume of untreated or partially treated wastewater from a sewer that reaches surface water or a Municipal Storm Sewer System (MS4) and is not fully captured and returned to the sanitary sewer system.

**Category 2 SSO** - A discharge of 1000 gallons or greater of untreated or partially treated wastewater from a sewer that does not reach surface water or a Municipal Storm Sewer System (MS4) or if the entire SSO discharged to the storm drain is recovered and disposed of properly.

**Category 3 SSO** - All other discharges of untreated or partially treated wastewater resulting from a sanitary sewer failure or flow condition.

**Category 4 SSO** - A spill of less than 50 gallons, from or caused by a sanitary sewer system that does not discharge to a surface water or that spills out of a lateral but is caused by a failure or blockage in the main lines of the sanitary sewer system.

**Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV)** - Remotely-controlled driver-controlled camera capable of producing video of the inside of sewer pipes.

**Cured-In-Place Pipe (CIPP)** - One pipe rehabilitation technique in which a new pipe lining is pulled into the pipe from the surface and then expanded and cured in place. Most of the work is accomplished from the surface resulting in minimal trenching.

**Clean Water Act (CWA)** - The foundational federal law in the United States governing water pollution.

**California Water Environment Association (CWEA)** - The organization that supports and empowers professionals in the wastewater industry across California and offers technical certification programs for wastewater professionals.

**California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS)** - A web-based system used by the State and regional Water Quality Control Boards to track information for reporting and managing water quality data in California.

**Enrollee** - An Enrollee is a public, private, or other non-governmental entity that has obtained approval for regulatory coverage under this General Order, including:

- A state agency, municipality, special district, or other public entity that owns and/or operates one or more sanitary sewer systems:
  - o greater than one (1) mile in length (each individual sanitary sewer system):
  - o one (1) mile or less in length where the State Water Board or a Regional Water Board requires regulatory coverage under this Order; or
- A federal agency, private company, or other non-governmental entity that owns and/or operates a sanitary sewer system of any size where the State Water Board or a Regional Water Board requires regulatory coverage under this Order in response to a history of spills, proximity to surface water, or other factors supporting regulatory coverage.

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** - Federal agency responsible for protecting human health and the environment.

**Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG)** - Substances commonly produced by kitchens or restaurants that can solidify and cause blockages within the sewer system.

**Food Service Establishments (FSE)** - Any building, vehicle, place, or structure, or any room or division in a building, vehicle, place, or structure where food is prepared, served, or sold for immediate consumption on or in the vicinity of the premises.

**Geographical Information System (GIS)** - Computer system designed to depict, store, manipulate, analyze, manage, and present all types of spatial or geographical data.

**High Frequency Maintenance Locations (HFMLs)** - Location with frequent maintenance issues such as buildup of debris, root intrusion, FOG accumulation, or other operational deficiencies.

**Infiltration/Inflow (I/I)** - Flow of groundwater or stormwater into the sewer system during a storm event or due to openings in sewer facilities

**Lateral (House Connection Sewer)** - Portion of sewer that connects a structure (residence or business) with the main sewer line in the street, alley or easement.

**Legally Responsible Official (LRO)** – Legally Responsible Official

**Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS)** - Systems and processes to manage maintenance tasks. Many organizations maintain a computer database for maintenance operations.

**Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)** - A stormwater conveyance system that discharges to US waters and is regulated through the NPDES program.

**National Association of Sewer Service Companies (NASSCO)** - Industry resource for specification guidelines, industry practices, and inspector training.

**National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)** - A key program under the Clean Water Act to control water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into the waters of the United States.

**North of the River Sanitary District (NORSRD)** - Herein known as the "District," the agency that owns and operates sewer trunk lines and sewer treatment facilities for the unincorporated communities of Oildale, northwest of the City of Bakersfield, and the City of Shafter.

**Office of Emergency Services (OES)** - Agency responsible for overseeing and coordinating emergency preparedness, response, recovery and homeland security activities within the state.

**Operation and Maintenance (O&M)** - Activities critical to managing wastewater collection systems to keep systems, facilities, or infrastructure functioning efficiently, safely, and reliably.

**Pipeline Assessment and Certification Program (PACP)** - Standardized training and certification program developed by NASSCO designed to ensure consistent, accurate, and reliable assessment of gravity sewer pipelines.

**Plumbing Code (PC)** - Subset of the building code. Establishes standards for plumbing components within structures.

**Private Lateral Sewer Discharge (PLSD)** - Discharges of untreated or partially treated wastewater resulting from blockages or other problems within a privately owned sewer lateral connected to the District's sanitary sewer system.

**Publicly Owned Sanitary Sewer System** - Collection of sewer mainline pipes, laterals, and wastewater pumps that convey wastewater from source points to a municipal wastewater treatment plant. These systems are typically owned and operated by a public agency such as a city or sanitation agency, or a Special District.

**Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP)** - Document that describes the activities an agency uses to manage its wastewater collection system efficiently.

**Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO or Spill)** - Overflow of untreated or partially treated wastewater due to inadequate system capacity or blockage in the system.

**State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)** - The joint authority of water allocation and water quality protection enables the Water Board to provide comprehensive protection for California's waters. The SWRCB oversees the operations of the Regional Water Quality Control Boards to ensure that their activities are in line with the SWRCB's objective.

**Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)** - Permits issued by the California SWRCB and its Regional Water Quality Control Boards to regulate the discharge of waste that could affect the quality of the state's surface water or groundwater.

**Waters of the United States** - (paraphrased from 33 CFR Part 328) – All waters that are used, were used, or may be used in interstate or foreign commerce, including those subject to the ebb and flow of the tide; including interstate wetlands; all other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), adjacent wetlands, impoundments of water, etc., the use, degradation or destruction of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce; tributaries of waters so identified; the territorial seas; and all waters within the 100-year floodplain of the preceding water bodies.

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### North of the River Sanitary District Sewer System Management Plan Certification

I certify as the Legally Responsible Official and Superintendent for the North of the River Sanitary District and under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direct supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted.

Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete and complies with the and in compliance with the State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2022-0103-DWQ.



Richard St. Claire

Safety Officer / Collections Supervisor



Date

## Introduction

On May 2, 2006, the State Water Regional Control Board (SWRCB) adopted Order No. 2006- 0003 (Order or General Order), Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for Sanitary Sewer Systems. This Order required that the owner of a wastewater collection system with more than one (1) mile of pipeline have in place a Sewer System Management Program (SSMP) to comply with the terms of the Order, which was intended to reduce the quantity and severity of Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs or Spills), to audit the program every two (2) years, and revise and/or update the SSMP every five (5) years.

On February 20, 2008, the State Water Board Executive Director adopted Order No. 2008-0002-EXEC, a revised Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) for the WDRs to rectify early notification deficiencies and ensure that first responders are notified in a timely manner of SSOs discharged into waters of the state. On September 9, 2013, the State Water Board Executive Director adopted Order No. 2013-0058-EXEC which amended the MRP of Order No. 2006-0003 by adding a third sanitary spill category - Category 3 SSO, sampling requirements within 48 hours, that a technical report be submitted within 45 days (for Category 1 SSO in which 50,000 gallons or greater are spilled to surface waters), and new record keeping requirements.

On December 6, 2022, the State Water Board adopted General Order WQ 2022-0103-DWQ which supersedes the previous State Water Resources Control Board Order 2006-0003.DWQ and amendments thereafter. The Order became effective on June 5, 2023 and noted that all sections and attachments of the General Order are enforceable by the State Water Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards). A copy of Order WQ 2022-0103-DWQ is included in Appendix A for reference. Through the General Order, the State Water Board requires an Enrollee to:

- Comply with federal and state prohibitions of discharge of sewage to waters of the State, including federal waters of the United States
- Comply with specifications, notifications, monitoring, reporting and recordkeeping requirements in the General Order that implement the federal Clean Water Act, the California Water Code (Code), water quality control plans and policies
- Proactively operate and maintain resilient sanitary sewer systems to prevent spills
- Eliminate discharges of sewage to waters of the State through effective implementation of Sewer System Management Plan
- Monitor, track, and analyze spills for ongoing system specific performance improvements
- Report noncompliance with this General Order per reporting requirements.

This SSMP, prepared by the District in compliance with the requirements of the Order, includes documentation of the District's system specific plans and programs to operate, maintain, and manage its wastewater collection system to achieve:

- Minimizing the frequency and impact of sewer spills;
- Effectively and efficiently mitigating the impacts of spills should they occur;
- Providing adequate sewer capacity to convey peak flows;

- Maintaining and improving the condition of the collection system infrastructure to provide continual reliable service; and
- Engaging and educating the public regarding programs and issues related to the wastewater collection system.

## Background

North of River Sanitary District (NORS D or District) was formed in 1940 as an independent Special District of the State of California to serve the unincorporated community of Oildale located north of the Kern River in Kern County. In 1990, a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) was executed by NORS D, Kern County (County Service Area 71 [CSA-71]), and the City of Shafter for NORS D to administer, operate, and maintain wastewater collection and treatment facilities within its service area. At present, the District's service area spans approximately 54 square miles and serves a total population of approximately 71,000 which includes the unincorporated Oildale area, northwest portions of the City of Bakersfield, and the City of Shafter.

Due to continued growth in its service area since the JPA, the District's collection system and wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) have undergone several improvements based on results from several sewer system master plans and studies. In 2013, a sewer master plan (SMP) completed by AECOM and a subsequent update by the same firm was completed in 2018. Both sewer system master plans recommended improvements to the WWTP and collection system to mitigate capacity limitations based on growth projections within the District's service area.

Since 2018, the District has made several advances in terms of gathering better Geographic Information System (GIS) data of its collection system, condition of its mains, and invested in more flow meters (both temporary and permanent) to provide more accurate wastewater flow measurements. In addition, due to changing hydrological patterns and declining aquifer water tables as well as implementation of water conservation measures in the region, wastewater generation factors used and flows projected in the previous master plans will need to be reviewed and updated, particularly for build-out. The combination of better data and changing water use patterns are the main drivers for a new master plan that will be used to refine improvement costs related to WWTP expansion and determine project costs to mitigate capacity-deficient sewers. In addition, the updated Master Plan incorporates improvements recommended from lift station facilities assessments, improvements from a previous force main study performed in 2020 and results from the District's pipeline condition assessments via its asset management plan database. A capital improvement program (CIP) is developed for a 10-year (near-term) and buildout planning period.

## Purpose

The District recognizes the importance of preventing sewage spills for the mutual protection of our surface waters and the overall environment to safeguard public health and safety. Therefore, in a proactive approach to achieve Order compliance, the District is updating its SSMP. This SSMP is designed to assure continuous improvement of system performance, response, monitoring, data recording, and documentation for future system assessments. The completeness and practicality of the SSMP is a critical component for the District's long-range plans to comply with all applicable regional, State, and Federal requirements under the CWA, and the Order. This SSMP includes a summary of the processes and procedures implemented by the District to comply with the requirements imposed by

the Order and other governing agencies. Additionally, it includes references to specific details of the activities and procedures that personnel follow to implement the various programs encompassed in its overall efforts to efficiently manage, operate, and maintain its sanitary sewer system and facilitate the reduction and potential elimination of Sanitary Sewer Overflows.

## SSMP Elements and Organization

This SSMP includes information demonstrating the District's efforts to comply with each of the mandatory and applicable elements required for its SSMP. The organization of this document is consistent with the SWRCB guidelines and includes the following eleven (11) mandatory WDR elements:

This document includes the findings of the audit and reflects the requirements included in Attachment D of Order 2022-0103-DWQ for each of the eleven (11) elements including:

- I. Sewer System Management Plan Goal and Introduction
- II. Organization
- III. Legal Authority
- IV. Operation and Maintenance
- V. Design and Performance Provisions
- VI. Spill Emergency Response Plan
- VII. Sewer Pipe Blockage Control program
- VIII. System Evaluation, Capacity Assurance and Capital Improvements
- IX. Monitoring, Measurement and Program Modifications
- X. Internal Audits
- XI. Communication Program

## Chapter 1 - Sewer System Management Plan Goal and Introduction

### 1.1 Sewer System Management Plan Goal and Introduction

The Order requires that the plan includes a plan and schedule to (1) properly manage, operate, and maintain all parts of the District's sanitary sewer system(s), (2) reduce and prevent spills, and (3) contain and mitigate spills that do occur. The SSMP should include a comprehensive plan and schedule that will serve to:

- *Properly manage, operate, and maintain all parts of the sanitary sewer system,*
- *Reduce and prevent spills, and*
- *Contain and mitigate spills that may occur.*

The introduction of the document is to include:

- *A general description of the sewer system management program and the implementation of the SSMP activities, and as applicable, necessary updates,*
- *An overview of the service area and assets owned and maintained by the District,*
- *A schedule that reflects planned updates to the SSMP, including conducting internal audits and any milestones for incorporating activities to address the prevention of spills,*
- *An updated map of the sanitary sewer system or reference.*

The following sections include a general overview of the District's service area, a summary of its wastewater collection system, and description of the District's sewer system management program including a schedule for program updates and conducting internal audits.

### 1.2 Regulatory Context

The District completed its Master Plan Update in March 2023 which includes a thorough description of the District's service area and assets including trunk and gravity sewers and the wastewater treatment plant. Chapter 4, Existing System, includes a summary of the District's assets including the length of gravity sewer by pipe size, material, and decade constructed. Also included is an updated map of the sanitary sewer system. A copy of Figure 3-1 from the Master Plan is included in Attachment B for reference. It is recommended that information prepared as part of the Master Plan be incorporated, where applicable, into the SSMP update.

### 1.3 Sewer System Asset Overview

The District completed its Master Plan Update in March 2023 which includes a thorough description of the District's service area and assets including trunk and gravity sewers and the wastewater treatment plant. The following information was obtained from the District's Master Plan and will be incorporated into the SSMP.

The District's sewer collection system was constructed in the early 1940's to serve the present-day Oildale community, a population of approximately 71,000, north of Kern River. As the original treatment plant outgrew

its capacity to serve developing communities in the surrounding area, a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) was executed in 1990 by NORSD, CSA-71, and the City of Shafter to construct a new wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). The trunk sewer line that ranges in size from 33- to 54-inches in diameter was constructed from the original plant to the current WWTP and is commonly referred to as the “Outfall Sewer”.

As of 2022, the District's collection system includes approximately 191 miles of gravity sewers ranging in diameter from 6-inches to 54-inches, five (5) lift stations with two (2) to three (3) pumps each, approximately 2.4 miles of force mains ranging from 4-inches to 10-inches in diameter, and one wastewater treatment plant (WWTP).

**Service Areas** - Collector sewers convey flows from Oildale, Shafter and CSA-71 communities to the Outfall Sewer which gravity flows into the District's WWTP near the intersection of Palm Avenue and Seventh Standard Road. The existing plant's wastewater treatment capacity is 7.5 million gallons per day (MGD). The plant undergoes an “undisinfected secondary” treatment process and effluent is discharged into nearby storage ponds. The WWTP is monitored via a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System. Figure 3-1 shows the District's existing collection system layout.

**Trunk and Gravity Sewers** - Approximately 67% of the sewers in the District are 8-inches in diameter and approximately half of these are of VCP material. The Outfall Sewer, which is a trunk main, constitutes pipes between 33- and 54-inches, most of which are made of High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) material.

**Lift Stations** - The District owns and operates five (5) sewer lift stations with two (2) to three (3) pumps at each station. Lift Stations (LS) 1 and 3 are located in the Oildale area. LS 2 and 4 are located west of Highway 99 along Mohawk Street. LS 5 is the newest station and located in the Rosedale area towards the west end of the system.

**Force Mains** - The system includes approximately 2.4 miles of force mains ranging from 4-inches to 10-inches in diameter.

**Wastewater Treatment Plant** - The NORSD wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) has a treatment capacity of 7.5 MGD and an average monthly flow ranging between 5.4 and 5.9 MGD. The plant utilizes an undisinfected secondary treatment process whereby wastewater is oxidized until sufficient organic matter is removed to enable effluent usage for surface irrigation of limited crops. Plant effluent is currently discharged into four unlined effluent storage ponds. Water is pumped to irrigate feed and fodder crops (alfalfa, wheat, and corn).

## Chapter 2 - Organization

An organizational Chart for the District identifies the administrative, maintenance, and management positions responsible for the implementation, managing, and updating the overall measures included in the SSMP. This Chapter identifies the District staff that is responsible for implementing plans and progress included in the SSMP, responding to spill events, and meeting spill reporting requirements.

The communication plan that accompanies the organizational chart serves to define the role of each position to ensure the elements of the SSMP are addressed on a regular basis and that all appropriate staff are adequately informed. A specific response and notification plan to document the spill emergency response and reporting procedures is included in the District's Overflow Emergency Response Plan (OER) included in Appendix G.

### 2.1 Regulatory Requirement

The Order requires the SSMP to identify organizational staffing responsible for implementing the programs included in the SSMP. It must also illustrate the lines of authority, the chain of communication for reporting spills from receipt of complaint to reporting of spills to the State Water Resources Control Board, Regional Water Board, and other affected agencies, as applicable.

The Plan must identify organizational staffing responsible and integral for implementing the local Sewer System Management Plan through an organization chart or similar narrative documentation that includes:

- *The name of the Legally Responsible Official as required in section 5.1 (Designation of a Legally Responsible Official) of this General Order;*
- *The position titles, telephone numbers, and email addresses for management, administrative, and maintenance positions responsible for implementing specific Sewer System Management Plan elements;*
- *Organizational lines of authority; and*
- *Chain of communication for reporting spills from receipt of complaint or other information, including the person responsible for reporting spills to the State and Regional Water Boards and other agencies, as applicable. (For example, county health officer, county environmental health agency, and State Office of Emergency Services.)*

### 2.2 Discussion on Organizational Structure

The District's organizational structure is described in the following sections. Figure 2-1 illustrates the District Organizational Chart.

#### 2.2.1 Governance

##### DISTRICT GENERAL MANAGER

The District General Manager is responsible for overseeing the District's operations, staff, and compliance with state and federal regulations. The General Manager directs and manages the District operations,

including wastewater collection and treatment and oversees staff across departments such as operations, safety, environmental compliance, and laboratory services, implements policies set by the Board of Directors, Develops and executes long-term plans for infrastructure, service improvements, and regulatory compliance, and Coordinates capital improvement projects and system upgrades.

### OPERATIONS SUPERINTENDENT

Under the general direction of the District Manager, the Operations Superintendent oversees and manages the daily operations for the District, which includes overseeing the positions described below to ensure that the mission of the committee and the District are fulfilled. As required, establishes schedules, sets objectives and guidelines, delegates tasks among staff members, and develops strategies to optimize maintenance operations and meet District and State requirements.

### SENIOR DISTRICT OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

The Senior District Office Administrator manages day-to-day office operations and administrative staff, oversees records management, correspondence, and document preparation. As required, prepares agendas, meeting minutes, materials for the Board of Directors meetings. Additionally, the Office Administrator may act as liaison between the public, staff, and board members.

### SAFETY OFFICER / COLLECTION SYSTEM SUPERVISOR - LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL

Under general direction of the Operations Superintendent, the Safety Officer / Collection System Supervisor plans, coordinates, implements, and enforces the District's accident prevention and safety program; ensures compliance with all federal and state industrial safety codes, regulations, and standards; conducts ergonomic assessments and provides training to employees and staff. The District identifies as the Safety Officer / Collection System Supervisor as the Legally Responsible Official (LRO). As LRO, the Safety Officer / Collection System Supervisor certifies the completion of the document through the online certification process.

### ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Under general direction of the Operations Superintendent, the Environmental Enforcement Officer administers District-wide environmental compliance programs to ensure that the District remains in compliance with all federal, state, and county regulations. These regulations include but are not limited to health and hazardous materials, waste compliance, wastewater and wastewater treatment, and general environmental considerations.

The Environmental Enforcement Officer implements department policy and reviews permits for private development and expansion of the collections system. Additionally, the Environmental Enforcement Officer enforces standards of design and construction and establishes enforcement activities for grease producing facilities, stormwater runoff, and private sewage spill violations.

### WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT CHIEF PLANT OPERATOR

Under general direction of the Operations Superintendent, the Wastewater Treatment Plant Chief Plant Operator oversees the daily operation of the wastewater treatment plant ensuring compliance with environmental and safety regulations, and optimal performance of treatment processes and equipment. The

Wastewater Treatment Plant Chief Plant Operator manages plant operators and maintenance staff, ensures compliance with federal and state regulations, including NPDES permits and OSHA standards, coordinates preventive and corrective maintenance of plant systems and equipment and works with mechanical, electrical, and instrumentation teams to ensure reliability.

#### SEWER MAINTENANCE WORKER

Under the direction of the Safety Officer / Collection System Supervisor, the Maintenance Worker operates maintenance equipment and performs maintenance work on the collection system.

#### WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR

Under the direction of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Chief Plant Operator, the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator operates equipment and performs maintenance work to control processes in the treatment plant.

## 2.3 District Communication Structure for Collection System Issues

Communication of activities is essential to keep managerial staff informed of successes and potential problems. Additionally, implementation of the various elements of the SSMP will require regular coordination among the various groups identified in the organizational chart. Therefore, clearly identifying the specific positions and staff as well as establishing communication protocols is necessary to assure the appropriate personnel are properly informed to respond to sanitary sewer system related issues in the most effective and efficient manner. Included in Appendix C is a table containing the contact information for the District staff responsible for the implementation of SSMP elements.

### 2.3.1 SSMP Communication Structure

Regular communication between the Collections, Wastewater Treatment and the Environmental Enforcement groups, as well as along the levels of hierarchy, facilitates and supports activities that allow for the appropriate communication regarding the operation and management of the collection system.

Generally, the communication plan will follow the chain of command identified in the organizational chart. Specific levels of authority will be required to facilitate implementation and enforcement of the plans and procedures developed for the SSMP. As the various plans and procedures are implemented, an assessment as to the effectiveness of the plans will best be determined by the labor force that executes and evaluates the immediate impacts of the plans and procedures. Efficient and timely responses will be essential to assure the adopted plans and procedures are effective for the management and operation of the wastewater system. Included in OERP is the District's response plan.

### 2.3.2 Spill Response and Communication Structure

A communication structure related specifically to spill response and reporting is discussed in Chapter 6 of this SSMP and more thoroughly documented in Appendix G, which contains a copy of the District's Overflow Emergency Response (OER) Plan.

Calls or complaints of possible or actual sewer spills may be received via telephone calls. All telephone calls are routed directly to District staff from either the District's Customer Service or the Police Dispatch Center

(if the notification is received during non-business hours). Once a report of an actual or possible spill is received during normal business hours, it is immediately referred to the Safety / Collection System Supervisor. After hours, the On-Call Duty Staff member will respond to the notification or secure the appropriate back-up for response.

The District staff member arriving first at the location is considered the First Responder. In most cases, the Safety / Collection System Supervisor or On-Call Duty Staff will be the First Responder to an incident and will be responsible for assessing whether additional resources are needed to assist with containment and cleanup. The First Responder will determine whether to direct additional District staff and/or approved contractors to the spill location if the spill cannot be fully contained or recovered or if it has reached public waters. The information obtained during the initial notification of a possible spill may warrant the First Responder, in his/her best professional judgment, to dispatch Collections staff or other District personnel before proceeding to the reported spill location.

A response and notification procedure are documented in the District's OERP, included in Appendix G. The District's OERP illustrates the response procedure and delineates responsibilities for First Responders and wastewater maintenance crews and/or contractor assignments. Also included in the OERP is a description of the spill notification requirements, timeline, and the regulatory agencies to be notified. Additionally, contained in Appendix G, the OERP includes the names and contact information of the District staff members to be notified in the event of a spill occurrence.

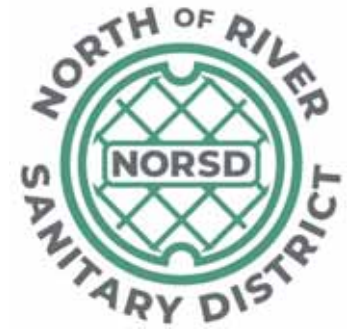
#### LIFT STATION ALARMS

District staff are responsible for responding to a possible or actual spill reported at any of the five (5) lift stations. When an alarm at any of the lift stations is activated, the alarm signal is transmitted to the District's On-Call operator who notifies additional personnel as needed during non-business hours, weekends, and/or holidays. After receiving notification of an alarm activated at a lift station, the District On-Call operator will notify crews to proceed to the lift station to assess the situation and resolve the problem as needed. If the First Responder requires assistance, he or she will contact the appropriate personnel for assistance.

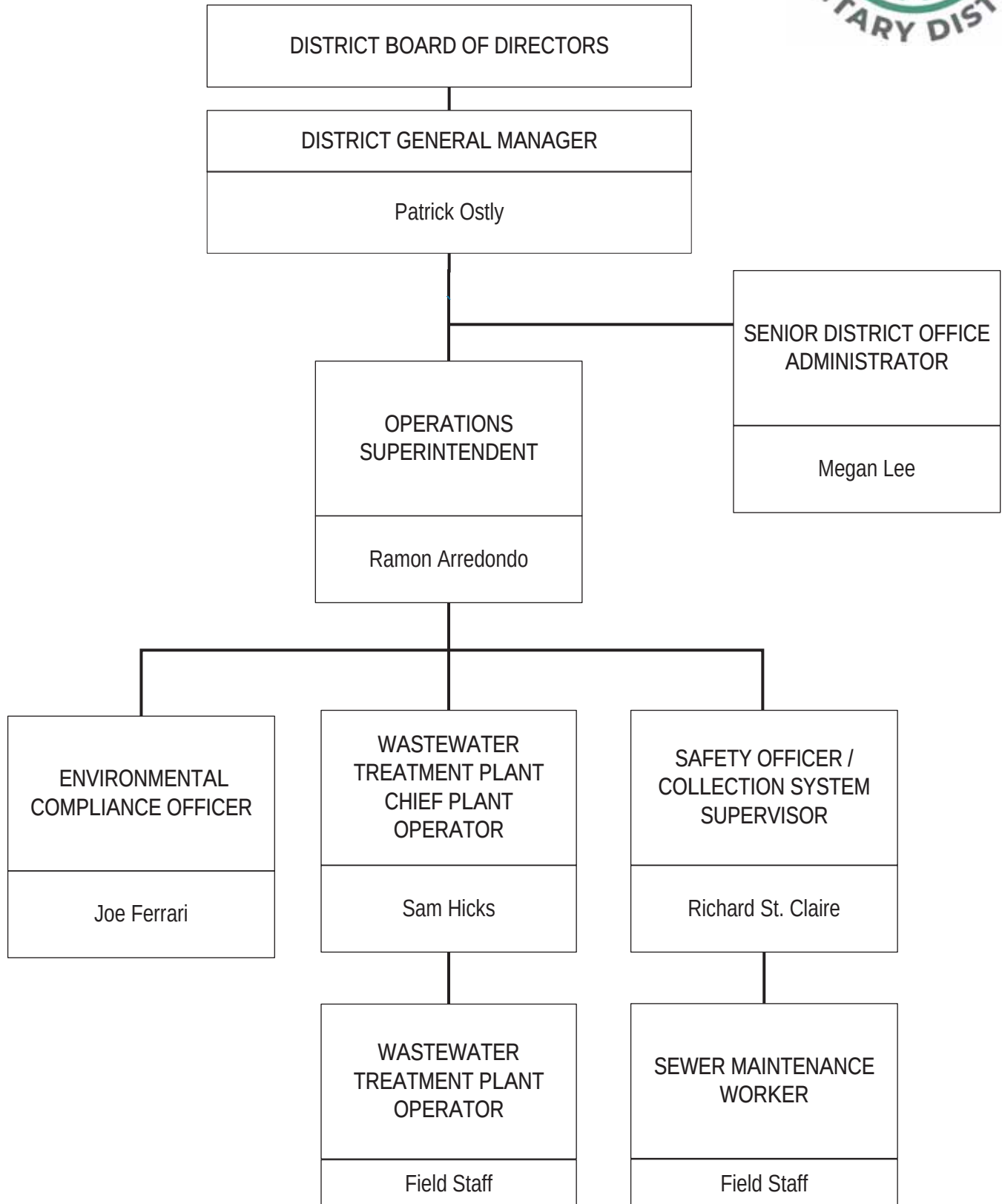
## 2.4 Summary and Continuing Efforts

When the District updates its plans and procedures, and/or revises the SSMP, the SSMP will be updated as necessary to include the specific responsibilities associated with each position.

Figure 2-1  
NORS D Organizational Chart



## Organizational Structure North of the River Sanitation District



## Chapter 3 - Legal Authority

To prevent spills to the maximum extent possible and meet state and federal requirements, each governing agency must ensure that its existing codes, ordinances, policies, and procedures include the requirements to implement and fulfill the specific needs of the agency and to protect the health and safety of people, property, and environment. This chapter of the SSMP includes a discussion of the District's current legal authority for the collection and conveyance of wastewater.

### 3.1 Regulatory Requirements for Legal Authority Provisions

The Order requires the SSMP include either a copy or an electronic link of the District's codes, ordinances, policies and procedures, service agreements and/or other legally binding procedures to demonstrate the District has the legal authority to:

- *Prevent illicit discharges into its sanitary sewer system from inflow and infiltration (I&I); unauthorized stormwater; chemical dumping; unauthorized debris; roots; fats, oils, and grease; and trash, including rags and other debris that may cause blockages;*
- *Collaborate with storm sewer agencies to coordinate emergency spill responses, ensure access to storm sewer systems during spill events, and prevent unintentional cross connections of sanitary sewer infrastructure to storm sewer infrastructure;*
- *Require that sewer system components and connections be properly designed and constructed;*
- *Ensure access for maintenance, inspection, and/or repairs for portions of the service lateral owned and/or operated by the Enrollee;*
- *Enforce any violation of its sewer ordinances, service agreements, or other legally binding procedures; and*
- *Obtain easement accessibility agreements for locations requiring sewer system operations and maintenance, as applicable.*

### 3.2 Background for Legal Authority

The California Water Code of the California Code of Regulations, the Federal Clean Water Act of the United States Code, and the California Waste Discharge Requirements grant the District the authority to establish codes, agreements, policies, and procedures for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a wastewater collection system, and the ability to enforce the necessary requirements. Below is a discussion of the relevant sections granting the District this authority.

#### CALIFORNIA WATER CODE SECTION 13271, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations prohibits the discharge of sewage and hazardous material into the waters of the State and requires the proper notification of authorized agencies in the event of a spill. Entities that do not properly follow the requirements of this section may be found guilty of a misdemeanor and punished by fine, imprisonment, or both.

### CLEAN WATER ACT, SECTION 1251 OF CHAPTER 33 OF THE UNITED STATES CODE

In 1972, the federal Congress enacted the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, commonly known as the Clean Water Act (CWA). The CWA prohibits the discharge of pollutants, including sewage, into public waters of the United States. The federal government has the authority to enforce compliance with the CWA via specific permits, such as National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, as well as court action such as administrative orders and consent decrees.

### CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 40, PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in its general pretreatment regulations (40 CFR Part 403), and the District, in its municipal code, prohibit any user from discharging or causing the discharge of prohibited substances, including but not limited to solid or viscous pollutants, such as fats, oils, and grease (FOG) wastes, in amounts which will cause obstructions (blockages) to the flow in the wastewater system and interfere with the operation of the wastewater system.

### CALIFORNIA WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

On May 2, 2006, the SWRCB adopted the Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems, Order No. 2006-0003 DWQ. The WDRs apply to all federal and state agencies, municipalities, counties, cities, and other public entities that own or operate sanitary sewer systems greater than one mile in length that collect and/or convey untreated or partially treated wastewater to publicly owned treatment facilities in the State of California.

On December 6, 2022, the State Water Board adopted General Order WQ 2022-0103-DWQ which supersedes the previous State Water Resources Control Board Order 2006-0003.DWQ and amendments thereafter. The Order became effective on June 5, 2023 and noted that all sections and attachments of the General Order are enforceable by the State Water Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards). Specifically, the Order requires all affected agencies, municipalities, counties, cities, and other public entities to take a proactive approach to ensure a system-wide operation, maintenance, and management plan is established to effectively reduce the potential, quantity, and frequency of spills that may occur and impact surface or ground waters, threaten public health, adversely affect aquatic life, and impair the recreational use and aesthetic enjoyment of surface waters.

## 3.3 NORSD's Existing Legal Authority

The Order requires the District demonstrate, through wastewater collection system use ordinances, service agreements, or other legally binding procedures, that it possesses the necessary legal authority to require, implement, and enforce compliance with the elements of the SSMP, all applicable regional, State, and Federal requirements under the Clean Water Act, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and requirements of the current General Order.

Pursuant to the California Government Code, Sections 37100 and 54350, the Board of Directors, as the local legislative body, may, by ordinances and resolutions, make and enforce all rules and regulations necessary for the administration of the District's operations and maintenance program. Such actions include, but are not limited to, cleaning, repair, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, replacement, operation, and maintenance of the wastewater collection system within the District boundary.

NORSRD's legal authority and powers pertaining to the wastewater collection system are granted by the State and Federal governments and are codified in NORSRD's Ordinance No. 2000-01, An Ordinance Regulating the Domestic, Commercial, and Industrial Use of Public Sewers, that is specific to the sewer system. Requiring compliance with its existing ordinance and permitting procedures allows the District to require and enforce various measures for ensuring the proper and efficient operation, management, and maintenance of the wastewater collection system. Additionally, the District has prepared a Fats, Oils, and Grease Discharge Ordinance currently in draft format.

These mechanisms include, but are not limited to, limiting the types of substances allowed to be discharged into the wastewater collection system, establishing requirements for the proper design, construction and connections to the collection system, ensuring access to sewer pipelines for inspecting, monitoring and enforcing activities, limiting the discharge of unauthorized substances including chemicals, debris, roots, trash, rags, fats, oils, grease, and other types of debris that cause blockages, and enforcing violations of its sewer related ordinances.

Ordinance No. 2000-01 outlines the rules and policies for the use of the District's sewage collection and treatment facilities and is intended to provide a comprehensive description of the manner in which NORSRD regulates its wastewater system and serves its customers. The following is a summary of the sections included in Ordinance No. 2000-01 which illustrates compliance with the Order requirement as noted above.

The following sections include a summary of the NORSRD's existing ordinance, as it applies to its sanitary sewer system. A copy of the Ordinance No. 2000-01 and the draft FOG ordinance referenced are included in Appendix D.

#### PREVENT ILLICIT DISCHARGES

NORSRD is required to prevent discharges of illicit and undesirable substances from entering the wastewater collection system. Illicit discharges include, but are not limited to, the release of I/I, storm water, chemical dumping, unauthorized debris and constituents, roots; fats, oils, and grease; and trash, including rags and other debris that may cause blockages. The District's legal authority to prevent illicit discharges to the wastewater collection is addressed in various parts of Section of the District's ordinance. Chapter 5 of the Ordinance includes a general description of the various types of substances restricted from being directly or indirectly discharged into the collection system and provides the authority to regulate the specific type of substances permitted to be discharged into its wastewater collection system.

The District's Fats, Oils, and Grease Discharge Ordinance specifically addresses the requirements for the control of FOG in the wastewater collection system. Section 1.05, General FOG Discharge Prohibitions specifically prohibits Food Service Establishments (FSEs) from discharging FOG into the sewer system. Section 1.06 includes prohibitions that apply to FSE.

#### COLLABORATION WITH STORM SEWER AGENCIES

The District is continuing to coordinate with neighboring agency Kern County that is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the storm drain system.

## PROPER CONNECTIONS AND CONSTRUCTION

NORSD's requirements for the design and construction of new, rehabilitated, and replaced sewer system facilities, including mains, tie-ins, service laterals, cleanouts, manholes, and other system appurtenances, necessary to ensure the proper operation of the sewer system are documented in Chapter 2, Sewer Connections – Permits and 3, Construction of Sewage Works of Ordinance No. 2000-01. The Technical Specifications section of the District's Standard Specifications for Sanitary Sewer Improvements includes the requirements for the installation of sewer laterals.

## ACCESSIBILITY FOR MAINTENANCE, INSPECTION, AND REPAIR

While the District does not own or maintain service laterals, Chapter 4, Inspections, of the Ordinance clearly documents the District's authority to access premises for the purpose of investigation, inspection, observation, measurements, sampling and testing. Additionally, authorized personnel of the District are provided access to every facility that is involved directly or indirectly with the discharge of wastewater to the District's sewer systems including, but not limited to, sewers; sewage pumping plants; pollution control plants; all industrial processes; industrial wastewater generation, conveyance and pretreatment facilities, devices and connection sewers; and all similar sewerage facilities.

The District's Standard Specifications for Sanitary Sewer Improvements includes the authority to require an easement included in the design of new infrastructure.

## VIOLATION ENFORCEMENT

NORSD's authority to enforce penalties for violations of the Ordinance provisions and other adopted policies as they pertain to its wastewater collection system is included in Chapter 1, Enforcement, of the Ordinance. The chapter codifies the District's authority to enforce violations with respect to the sanitary sewer system. Enforcement procedures for violations of the Ordinance provisions may include:

- Administrative
- Injunctions
- Compliance Costs
- Termination of Service
- Civil Penalties
- Criminal Penalties

## EASEMENTS

Chapter 3, Construction of Sewage Works, of Ordinance 2000-01, includes requirements that extensions or improvements to the wastewater collection system shall be located only on land owned by the District in fee, in streets with an acceptable encroachment permit, existing public utility easements, or in an easement granted to the District. Additionally, Section 3-7, Easements and Permits, of the District's Standard Specifications for Sanitary Sewer Improvements includes the requirement for easements for construction and / or maintenance of sewer facilities, prior to approval of the improvement plans.

## Chapter 4 - Operations and Maintenance Program

The District manages approximately 191 miles of gravity sewer system comprising of manhole structures and their connecting pipeline segments. The District also operates and maintains five (5) lift stations with two (2) to three (3) pumps each, approximately 2.4 miles of force mains, and one wastewater treatment plant (WWTP).

This chapter of the SSMP discusses the District's operations, maintenance, and other related measures and activities as they pertain to its sanitary sewer system.

### 4.1 Regulatory Requirements for Operation and Maintenance Program

The Order requires the SSMP to contain descriptive measures of the District's Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Program implemented by District staff to facilitate proper and efficient management and maintenance of the sanitary sewer system. The WDRs require the SSMP to include a description of each of the following components as they apply to the District's sanitary sewer system:

- *Maintenance of up-to-date sanitary sewer system map showing all gravity line segments and manholes, pumping facilities, pressure pipes and valves, and applicable stormwater conveyance facilities within the sewer system service area boundaries;*
- *Routine preventive operation and maintenance activities by staff and contractors, including a system for scheduling regular maintenance and cleaning of the sanitary sewer system with more frequent cleaning and maintenance targeted at known problem areas. The preventive maintenance program should have a system to document scheduled and conducted activities, such as work orders;*
- *Development of a rehabilitation and replacement plan to identify and prioritize system deficiencies and implement short-term and long-term rehabilitation actions to address each deficiency. The program should include regular visual and TV inspections of manholes and sewer pipes, and a system for ranking the condition of sewer pipes and scheduling rehabilitation. Rehabilitation and replacement should focus on sewer pipes that are at risk of collapse or prone to more frequent blockages due to pipe defects. Finally, the rehabilitation and replacement plan should include a capital improvement plan that addresses proper management and protection of the infrastructure assets. The plan shall include a time schedule for implementing the short and long-term plans plus a schedule for developing the funds needed for the capital improvement plan;*
- *Provide appropriate training on a regular basis for staff in sanitary sewer system operations and maintenance, and require repair contractors to be appropriately trained; and*
- *Development of equipment and replacement part inventories, including identification of critical replacement parts.*

## 4.2 District's Preventative Maintenance Program

The District is committed to a regular sanitary sewer system maintenance program. To minimize and prevent system blockages and preserve and extend the useful life of the sanitary sewer system, its preventive maintenance activities primarily include scheduled maintenance of wastewater facilities including sewer lift stations and wet wells and the routine cleaning of the wastewater collection system pipelines. Activities also include increased cleaning and frequency of known sewer system problem areas and response to customer complaints. The District's O&M Program includes information pertaining to the following components:

- Inventory and mapping of sanitary sewer system assets in GIS
- Preventive maintenance activities
- Overflow Emergency Response Plan (OERP)
- Fats, Oils, and Grease Control Program
- Pipeline inspection and assessment
- Capital Improvement Program project identification
- Equipment and replacement part inventories
- Training

## 4.3 Discussion of Regulatory O&M Components

To address the components listed in Section 4.2 and as required by the WDRs, the following subsections provide a summary of the District's O&M activities and procedures being implemented.

### 4.3.1 Updated Map of the Sanitary Sewer System

An essential element of the operation and maintenance program is to have accurate mapping of the collection system inventory. NORSD regularly updates its system mapping using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. Using the GIS system, the District maintains an up-to-date map of the sanitary sewer system that illustrates the gravity pipelines, manholes, lift stations, force mains, valves, and the wastewater treatment plant.

As Sewer Maintenance crews conduct O&M activities, discrepancies between the field conditions and information noted on maps are documented. The information is submitted to the Safety Officer / Collection System Supervisor. On a quarterly basis the information is provided to the District's GIS staff for updating the information in the GIS.

Included in Appendix B is a copy of the District's existing wastewater collection system including the service area boundary, force mains, the lift stations, and the wastewater treatment plant. The District is continually working with Kern County to obtain a map the stormwater conveyance facilities which are owned, operated and maintained by Kern County.

### 4.3.2 Preventive Maintenance Activities

NORSD uses its GIS and AIMS for scheduling and documenting operation and maintenance (O&M) activities including system inspections using Closed Circuit Television (CCTV), manhole inspections, cleaning of the wet wells, and hydro-flushing the pipelines. The activities are performed by staff and contractors.

NORSD uses AIMS to document data from system inspection and maintenance activities, including system areas/components prone to root-intrusion potentially resulting in system backup and/or failure. The activities performed are logged into AIMS for record keeping and used for tracking and reporting purposes. Also documented are the locations designated as problem areas that require a higher frequency of maintenance.

NORSD performs routine inspections of its collection system facilities which includes manholes, lift stations, force mains, and CCTV inspections of its sewer mains. Known problem areas in the collection system are logged in AIMS and categorized into frequency of cleaning. Routine main flushing also includes areas requiring frequent cleaning or referred to as 'hot spot' areas of the system.

Using the information derived from the AIMS system, the District develops a rehabilitation and replacement plan to identify and prioritize collection system deficiencies and implement short-term and long-term rehabilitation actions to address each deficiency. The projects are prioritized based on type and severity of the defected documented per Pipeline Assessment & Certification Program (PACP) standards.

Operation and maintenance activities include the following:

- Target metrics (cleaning, inspections)
- Maintenance activities for lift station(s) including
  - Components
  - Frequency
  - Documentation
- Root treatment program
- Odor control program
- System cleaning activities
- Approximate LF cleaned (daily, quarterly, etc.,)
  - Pipelines – documentation process
  - Manholes – frequency – documentation process
- Higher Frequency Maintenance / Cleaning Locations
  - Frequency - Bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, annually
- Inspection and assessment activities
  - Approximate LF CCTV'd (daily, quarterly, etc.,)
  - Pipelines – frequency – documentation – assessment process
  - Manholes – frequency – documentation – assessment process

## LIFT STATIONS

Maintenance activities at lift stations include weekly visual inspections and valve exercising, monthly valve cleaning, FOG removal, annual backflow prevention inspections, annual inspection of submersible pumps, maintenance of spare pumps.

The District operates and maintains five (5) lift stations with two to three pumps at each station. Lift stations (LS) 1 and 3 are located in the Oildale area. LS 2 and 4 are located west of Highway 99 along Mohawk Street. LS 5 is the newest station and is located in the Rosedale area towards the west end of the system. LS 1 is the only station equipped with an on-site emergency generator, and LS 2 is the only station of the 5 without a connection for a portable emergency generator and bypass pump.

## PRIVATE LATERALS

Laterals in the District are privately owned, and the District Standard Specifications require each property owner to maintain laterals in good working condition. Should it be required that the District perform service on a private lateral, a charge will be made equal to the District's cost of the service all or a fee established by the District, whichever is greater.

## CROSSINGS

District staff monitor the infrastructure located near areas that may be directly and/or indirectly affected by flooding and/or erosion due to increased storm volumes, or other impacts due to climate change events. Locations of under-crossings and associated assets are listed in the table below.

| Location                                         | Description                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Friant-Kern Canal Crossing at Madison Grove Park | 85-feet of 36-in diameter HDPE sewer pipe with 48-in diameter steel casing underneath canal                                              |
| Kratzmeyer Road and Santa Fe Way                 | 103-feet of 42-in diameter HDPE sewer pipe with 54-in diameter steel casing underneath Santa Fe RR tracks                                |
| Kratzmeyer Road and Santa Fe Way                 | 85-feet of 42-in diameter HDPE sewer pipe with 54-in diameter steel casing underneath canal                                              |
| Beardsley Canal crossing                         | 8-in VCP sewer main with 81-feet of 18-in diameter steel casing underneath canal                                                         |
| Between Barber Honda and Unicorn Road            | 8-in diameter PVC force main underneath on-ramp to CA-99 and Golden State Highway                                                        |
| Norris Road RR crossing                          | 24-in diameter VCP sewer pipe with 128-feet of 40-in diameter steel casing underneath Santa Fe RR tracks                                 |
| CA-99                                            | 159-feet of 33-in diameter VCP sewer pipe with 60-in diameter steel casing underneath highway                                            |
| Beardsley Canal crossing at Roberts Lane         | 10-in diameter VCP sewer main underneath canal                                                                                           |
| Roberts Lane S.P. RR crossing                    | 40-feet of 24-in diameter cast iron sewer pipe underneath tracks with 8-in concrete collars from manhole to manhole                      |
| Beardsley Canal crossing at Olive Drive          | 57-feet of 24-in diameter cast iron sewer pipe with 8-in concrete collars from manhole to manhole for 72-feet                            |
| Beardsley Canal crossing at Oildale Drive        | 65-feet of 10-in diameter ductile iron force main above canal and underneath bridge                                                      |
| N. Chester Ave and McCord Ave                    | 15-in diameter VCP sewer pipe with 30-in diameter steel sleeve encased in 9'x9' concrete box, running perpendicular to 72-in storm drain |

### CORRECTIVE MAINTENANCE

Corrective maintenance is performed in response to planned or unexpected failure of an asset, component or part, or a critical utility outage. When managed assets critical to the process fail, corrective maintenance is scheduled on either an urgent or routine basis. Some repairs may be capitalized as follow-up activity depending on asset cost and life expectancy. These types of corrective maintenance activities are documented and include, but are not limited to:

- Emergency or unplanned cleaning to eliminate a pipe blockage
- Spot repair or replacement of a failed pipe
- Repair of damage caused by construction or failure of another utility (e.g., water or gas main breakage)
- Respond to, investigate and mitigate customer complaints and sewer overflows
- Repair after vandalism

### 4.3.3 Training

Training for operation of District equipment includes “on-the-job” training in conjunction with regular “tailgate” meetings to discuss safety issues and operating procedures. The District provides training for staff involved with sanitary sewer system operations and maintenance activities and requires contractors to be appropriately trained. Staff are trained on a regular basis on wastewater operations and maintenance policies, procedures, safety policies, and the equipment used. In compliance with the Order, the following trainings are conducted:

- Purpose and requirements of this General Order:
  - o Discuss quarterly with NORSD Collections Operators
- The Spill Emergency Response Plan procedures and practice drills:
  - o Spill response discussed quarterly with NORSD Collections Operators
  - o SSO practice drills performed 2X/year at a minimum
- Skilled estimation of spill volume for field operators:
  - o Estimation practice performed 1X/yr with NORSD Collections Operators
- Electronic CIWQS reporting procedures for staff submitting data:
  - o Discuss frequently with NORSD Collections Operators in documented tailgates the importance of detailed information – collected and communicated
- Importance of following all safety policies and procedures:
  - o Discuss frequently with NORSD Collections Operators in documented tailgates

- Procedures for tracking and documenting all job-related information:
  - o NORSD Safety Officer tracks ongoing
- Hands-on field demonstrations performed quarterly to ensure preparedness of personnel, test equipment, response time, training effectiveness, resources, and staff capabilities:
  - o Practice drills for use of bypass pump and/or the emergency generator at all pertinent lift stations and at the WWTP are performed every other month. Both are hands-on training to ensure the preparedness of personnel for SSOs in the District.
- Confined space entry
  - o Annual training into a training manhole of 14-feet deep using fall arrest and tripod set up.

#### 4.3.4 Equipment Inventory

The SSMP notes that District staff maintains a comprehensive inventory of equipment and materials necessary to properly perform the operations and maintenance activities required for maintenance of the wastewater collection system. Included in Appendix E is a list of the District's inventory of equipment maintained and the vendors from which equipment purchases are made.

The inventory list will be updated to include critical parts and equipment and catalog the more essential items to assure consistent system performance and response in the event of an emergency. The inventory of parts and equipment is updated annually by the Collections Supervisor or at the time of any specific equipment status change such as addition, removal, or replacement to facilitate the sewer maintenance program.

#### 4.3.5 Summary and Continuing Efforts

To remain in compliance with the Operations and Maintenance element of the SSMP, the District is continuing to maintain comprehensive O&M procedures that include:

- Maintaining up-to-date maps of the District's wastewater collection system;
- Coordinating with Kern County to obtain a current map of the stormwater conveyance facilities that are located within the sewer system service area boundary
- Scheduling and performing regular and routine visual and CCTV inspections of manhole and pipelines;
- Updating its rehabilitation and replacement plan to identify and prioritize system deficiencies for short-term and long-term planning;

## Chapter 5 - Design and Performance Provisions

NORS's Ordinance 2000-01 and Standard Specifications for Sanitary Sewer System Improvements include standards for the design and construction of wastewater system components. Both are available on the District's website. A copy of Ordinance 2000-01 is included in Appendix D and the Standard Specifications for Sanitary Sewer System Improvements is included in Appendix F for reference.

### 5.1 Regulatory Requirements for Design and Performance Provisions

The Order requires the SSMP include the design and performance provisions or include the following:

- **Updated Design Criteria and Construction Standards and Specifications:** *Updated design criteria, and construction standards and specifications, for the construction, installation, repair, and rehabilitation of existing and proposed system infrastructure components, including but not limited to pipelines, pump stations, and other system appurtenances. If existing design criteria and construction standards are deficient to address the necessary component-specific hydraulic capacity as specified in section 8 (System Evaluation, Capacity Assurance and Capital Improvements) of this Attachment, the procedures must include component-specific evaluation of the design criteria.*
- **Procedures and Standards:** *Procedures, and standards for the inspection and testing of newly constructed, newly installed, repaired, and rehabilitated system pipelines, pumps, and other equipment and appurtenances.*

To address the components listed in Section 5.1 and as required by the WDRs, the following subsections provide a summary of the applicable provisions currently being implemented by the District. Further detailed information pertaining to the design and performance standards and guidelines is included in the Standard Specifications for Sanitary Sewer System Improvements.

### 5.2 Discussion on Design and Performance Provisions

NORS's Ordinance 2000-01 and Standard Specifications for Sanitary Sewer System Improvements include general provisions, technical specifications, and standard details associated with sanitary sewer improvements. Additionally, the standards include procedures and standards for inspecting and testing the installation of new sewers, pumps, and other appurtenances and for rehabilitation and repair projects meeting the requirements of the State Order. In addition to sewer system design criteria, Standard Specifications for Sanitary Sewer System Improvements include specification for the following:

- Vitrified Clay Pipe and Fittings
- Polyvinyl Chloride Sewer Pipe and Fittings
- Connections to Existing Sewer Pipe
- Sewer Laterals
- Precast Concrete Manholes
- Chemical Resistant Coatings for Manholes
- Sewer Cleanouts

### 5.2.1 Updated Design and Construction Standards and Specifications

Criteria for the design and construction of new, rehabilitated, and replaced sewer system facilities, including main, tie-ins, service laterals, cleanout, manholes, and other system appurtenances, are necessary to ensure the proper operation of the wastewater collection system.

To evaluate the potential capacity needs, and evaluate performance standards, NORSD completed the update of its Master Plan in March 2023 which included an update of the hydraulic model and capacity analysis. Planning criteria for sewer mains, lift stations, and force mains were reviewed and confirmed and used to evaluate the hydraulic capacity of the sewer system. A summary of the Planning Criteria for Gravity Mains is included in Table 6-1 of the Sanitary Sewer Master Plan. Section 6.3 includes the criteria for lift stations and force mains.

Construction standards are included in the Standard Specifications for Sanitary Sewer System Improvements. Additionally, Chapter 3, Construction of Sewage Work, of Ordinance 2000-1 includes additional construction requirements.

### 5.2.2 Procedures and Standards

The Order also requires that procedures and standards for the inspection and testing of newly constructed, newly installed, repaired, and rehabilitated system pipelines, pumps, and other equipment and appurtenances be established.

NORSD requires new sewers to be tested for leakage and inspected using CCTV technology prior to sewer improvement projects being accepted. Inspection services are conducted by contractors / owners for new sewers and sewer rehabilitation projects.

The Standard Specifications for Sanitary Sewer System Improvements and Ordinance 2000-1 include requirements for inspection and testing of newly constructed, installed, repaired, and rehabilitated system pipelines, pumps, and other equipment and appurtenances.

## Chapter 6 - Overflow Emergency Response Plan

NORSD updated its Overflow Emergency Response Plan (OERP) in compliance with the Order requirements. The purpose of the OERP is primarily to document spill response procedures and assist District staff in achieving the following:

- Efficient response to reported spills and dispatch of appropriate crews and equipment in a timely manner
- Notification of all appropriate agencies of reported spills in a timely manner
- Containment of sewer spills so they do not reach a surface water
- Elimination of the cause of a sewer spill
- Protection of public and private property
- Sufficient cleanup of the impacted spill area
- Documentation of all spills and response activities
- Ensure appropriate staff is knowledgeable of the SERP procedures and appropriately trained
- Preparation of reports for submittal to regulatory agencies and other interested parties
- Compliance with SWRCB Order No. WQ-2022-0103-DWQ

The OERP includes the procedures for District staff to contain, correct, and clean up spills and is intended to provide the District with a document that includes components necessary for minimizing the effects of spills on the environment while protecting the public's health and safety.

### 6.1 Regulatory Requirements for Spill Emergency Response Plan

The Order requires the SSMP include a current Overflow Emergency Response Plan (OERP) that documents measures implemented to protect public health and the environment and ensure prompt detection and response to spills, to reduce spill volumes, and collect information for prevention of future spills. The OERP must include procedures to:

- *Notify primary responders, appropriate local officials, and appropriate regulatory agencies of a spill in a timely manner;*
- *Notify other potentially affected entities (for example, health agencies, water suppliers, etc.) of spills that potentially affect public health or reach waters of the State;*
- *Comply with the notification, monitoring and reporting requirements of this General Order, State law and regulations, and applicable Regional Water Board Orders;*
- *Ensure that appropriate staff and contractors implement the Spill Emergency Response Plan and are appropriately trained;*
- *Address emergency system operations, traffic control and other necessary response activities;*
- *Contain a spill and prevent/minimize discharge to waters of the State or any drainage conveyance system;*

- *Minimize and remediate public health impacts and adverse impacts on beneficial uses of waters of the State;*
- *Remove sewage from the drainage conveyance system;*
- *Clean the spill area and drainage conveyance system in a manner that does not inadvertently impact beneficial uses in the receiving waters;*
- *Implement technologies, practices, equipment, and interagency coordination to expedite spill containment and recovery;*
- *Implement pre-planned coordination and collaboration with storm drain agencies and other utility agencies/departments prior, during, and after a spill event;*
- *Conduct post-spill assessments of spill response activities;*
- *Document and report spill events as required in this General Order; and*
- *Annually, review and assess effectiveness of the Spill Emergency Response Plan, and update the Plan as needed.*

## 6.2 Discussion on the Overflow Emergency Response Plan

To address the components listed in Section 6.1 and as required by the Order, the following subsections provide a summary of the applicable procedures included in the OERP. Further detailed descriptions of the policies and procedures as they pertain to responding to spills are included in the OERP document included in Appendix G.

### 6.2.1 Notification Procedures

The OERP includes procedures for notification of a spill to primary responders, appropriate regulatory agencies and potentially affected entities. Calls or complaints of possible or actual sewer spills may be received via telephone calls. Telephone calls are routed to District personnel. The on-call personnel will respond to the notification or secure the appropriate back-up for response.

*Lift Station Alarms:* District staff are responsible for responding to a possible or actual spill reported at any of the five (5) lift stations. When an alarm at any of the lift stations is activated, the alarm signal is transmitted to the District's On-Call operator who notifies additional personnel, as needed, during non-business hours, weekends, and holidays. After receiving notification of an alarm activated at a lift station, the District On-Call operator will notify available crews to proceed to the lift station to assess the situation and resolve the problem. If the First Responder requires assistance, he or she will contact the appropriate personnel for assistance.

### SPILL RESPONSE

The District's OER includes response procedures including overflow containment, correction, and clean-up measures for potential or actual spills. Actions to be performed by District staff and additional crews for public spills are outlined and described.

### Private Lateral Spills (PLSSs)

Notifications are received in various ways, yet they are all addressed the same. District operators will notify upper management of sightings of open cleanouts or pooling of sewage in yards upon discovery. District administration also receives calls from customers/landowners/property management of open cleanouts or pooling of sewage in yards. The individual that receives the notification creates a service order in AIMS to notify the Collections Supervisor once a call is received.

After the notification of a PLSD is made, the Collections System Supervisor dispatches a Collections operator to confirm flow is not restricted in the sewer main. The Sewer Maintenance Worker then visits the site, documents the incident with pictures of sewage spills, and contacts the property owner. Once information is gathered about the PLSD, all information is documented and sent to Kern County Code Enforcement who follows up with the PLSD and has the situation remedied right away once information makes contact with a County official.

### PROCEDURES FOR NOTIFICATION OF REGULATORY AGENCIES

The volume, impact, and location of spill determine the level of notification required to comply with regulatory requirements. Included in the OERP is information that summarizes the officials and agencies to be notified of a spill and under what conditions they are to be notified. Contact information for California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and local agencies, including Kern County Environmental Health Services, County Sheriff, Police Department, County of Kern, and other agencies are listed and contact information included.

### TRAINING OF STAFF AND CONTRACTOR

The District provides quarterly training for staff in sanitary sewer system operations and maintenance for unscheduled reenactments of spills including quizzes and online tests. The District also requires contractors to be appropriately trained. Personnel are trained on safety, proper manhole entry, operation and maintenance of lift stations, flusher equipment, and other related duties and tasks. Appropriate staff are trained to assist response crews with awareness of their responsibilities and executing their duties. The Safety Officer / Collection System Supervisor is responsible for maintaining records of all OERP related training.

### EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

Guidelines for traffic and crowd control to limit public access to areas potentially impacted by un-permitted discharges of sewage based on the various types of spills are also provided. The OERP notes that traffic control and/or barricades will be incorporated into the response procedures and deemed required. Additional response activities may include the posting of notices, which shall be done as soon as practicable following the initial response to the overflow.

Elements of the response procedures include the following:

- Initial Inspection, Documentation and Notification
- Relieving the cause of the spill
- Spill Containment and Recover
- Cleanup and Disinfection

- Sign Posting and Barricading (if needed)
- Sampling and Lab Tests (if needed)

#### SPILL PREVENTION AND CONTAINMENT

The District's preventative maintenance activities include procedures that serve to prevent spills including routine cleaning and inspection of the wastewater pipelines and specifically the pipelines identified as requiring a higher frequency of cleaning and/or inspection.

The OERP provides guidance to facilitate the proper response to an actual or potential spill occurrence and includes information for District staff to mobilize labor, material, tools, and equipment to contain, mitigate, and clean-up residuals from a spill and correct or repair conditions which may cause or contribute to a spill. Mitigation measures including containment of the spill and recovery of spilled sewage to minimize the impact to the public or environment are included.

### 6.3 Conclusion

NORSD will continue efforts to incorporate the following elements into the OERP:

- Process to implement pre-planned coordination and collaboration with storm drain agencies and other utility agencies/departments prior, during, and after a spill event;
- Process to conduct post-spill assessments of spill response activities;
- Process to annually, review and assess effectiveness of the Overflow Emergency Response Plan, and update the Plan as needed.

## Chapter 7 - Sewer Pipe Blockage Control Program

NORSD's Sewer Blockage Control Program is designed to minimize the occurrence and impact of spills caused by blockages in the collection system. The program includes proactive and preventive measures implemented to identify, monitor, and mitigate potential sources of blockages, including fats, oils, and grease (FOG). Through a combination of routine maintenance, targeted cleaning, and public education, the program aims to protect public health, safeguard the environment, and ensure compliance with the requirements of the Order.

### 7.1 Regulatory Requirements for Pipe Blockage Control Program

The Order requires the SSMP include procedures for the evaluation of the District's service area to determine whether a sewer pipe blockage control program is needed to control fats, oils, grease, rags and debris. If the Enrollee determines that a program is not needed, the Enrollee shall provide justification in its Plan for why a program is not needed. The procedures must include, at minimum:

- *An implementation plan and schedule for a public education and outreach program that promotes proper disposal of pipe-blocking substances;*
- *A plan and schedule for the disposal of pipe-blocking substances generated within the sanitary sewer system service area. This may include a list of acceptable disposal facilities and/or additional facilities needed to adequately dispose of substances generated within a sanitary sewer system service area;*
- *The legal authority to prohibit discharges to the system and identify measures to prevent spills and blockages;*
- *Requirements to install grease removal devices (such as traps or interceptors), design standards for the removal devices, maintenance requirements, best management practices requirements, recordkeeping and reporting requirements;*
- *Authority to inspect grease producing facilities, enforcement authorities, and whether the Enrollee has sufficient staff to inspect and enforce the fats, oils, and grease ordinance;*
- *An identification of sanitary sewer system sections subject to fats, oils, and grease blockages and establishment of a cleaning schedule for each section; and*
- *Implementation of source control measures for all sources of fats, oils, and grease reaching the sanitary sewer system for each section identified above.*

### 7.2 Discussion on the Sewer Pipe Blockage Control Plan

NORSD implements preventive maintenance activities to maximize beneficial public use of its sanitary sewer system while preventing blockages of the sewer lines and reducing the adverse effects on sewage treatment operations resulting from discharges of fats, oils, grease, rags and debris into the system.

The District implements preventive maintenance activities to maximize beneficial public use of the District's sanitary sewer system while preventing blockages of the sewer lines and reducing the adverse effects on sewage treatment operations resulting from discharges of fats, oils, grease, rags and debris into the system.

The preventive maintenance program includes elements of public education and outreach, facility inspections, and the legal authority of enforcement. Included in the facility inspections is the right to view disposal records and physical inspection of on-site grease traps and interceptors. Legal authority of pipe blocking substances, including the authority to prohibit unauthorized discharges into the collection system and perform inspections, is included in the District's Ordinance. NORSD legal authority within its Ordinance serves to prevent, require, ensure, limit, and enforce specific control of discharges.

### 7.2.1 Implementation Plan and Schedule for a Public Education and Outreach Program

The public outreach element pertaining to FOG control includes maintaining information on the website ([Keep FOG \(Fats, Oils, Grease\) out of the drains! - North of River Sanitary District \(specialdistrict.org\)](http://specialdistrict.org)) and a concentrated effort to educate FSE staff regarding proper management of FOG generated on site. During the site inspections, District staff provide information to FSE staff that results in the reduction of FOG discharged into the District's wastewater collection system. The District inspector provides the facility with a list of Best Management Practices (BMPs) during the site inspection.

Information is also circulated regarding the threat of excessive quantities of FOG as a cause of potential and actual spill using a tri-fold pamphlet available to citizens that is included in Appendix E of the District's OERP. Also, on a seasonal basis, such as during the Thanksgiving holiday, the District hosts an event to collect grease from residents and provide an alternative to grease disposal.

### 7.2.2 Legal Authority to Prohibit Discharges and Identify Measures to Prevent Spills and Blockages

The District's legal authority and powers pertaining to the wastewater collection system are codified in the District's Ordinance No. 2000-01 (Ordinance), titled *An Ordinance Regulating the Domestic, Commercial, and Industrial Use of Public Sewers*. The Ordinance outlines the rules and regulations for the use of the District's sewage collection, treatment, and disposal facilities and are intended to provide a comprehensive description of the manner in which the District operates and serves its customers. The Ordinance provides the District the authority to prohibit discharges to the system, inspect grease producing facilities, and enforcement authority should violations of the Ordinance be detected.

The District developed a Fats, Oil, and Grease Discharge Ordinance, currently in draft form, that has been presented to the State Water Resources Control Board for review and comment. This intent of the FOG Ordinance is to establish uniform requirements for FOG source control throughout NORSD's wastewater collection system, enables the District to comply with administrative provisions of the Clean Water Act, the water quality requirements set by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, applicable effluent limitations, national standards of performance, toxic pretreatment effluent standards, and other discharge criteria which are required or authorized by State or Federal law.

**PREVENT ILLICIT DISCHARGES:** The District's legal authority to prevent illicit discharges to the wastewater collection is addressed in various parts of Section of the District's ordinance. Chapter 5 of the Ordinance includes a general description of the various types of substances restricted from being directly or indirectly discharged into the collection system and provides the authority to regulate the specific type of substances permitted to be discharged into its wastewater collection system.

The District's Fats, Oils, and Grease Discharge Ordinance specifically addresses the requirements for the control of FOG in the wastewater collection system. Section 1.05, General FOG Discharge Prohibitions specifically prohibits Food Service Establishments (FSEs) from discharging FOG into the sewer system. Section 1.06 includes prohibitions that apply to FSE. This ordinance augments the District's legal authority to regulate and control disposal of substances into the wastewater collection system that may compromise the effective and efficient operation of the system and which may cause blockages and increase the potential of a sewer spill.

**INSTALLATION OF GREASE REMOVAL DEVICES:** The FOG Ordinance includes proposed requirements pertaining to the installation of grease removal devices, design standards for the removal devices, maintenance requirements, best management practices, and recordkeeping requirements.

**ACCESSIBILITY FOR INSPECTIONS:** Chapter 4, Inspections, of the FOG Ordinance documents the District's authority to access premises for the purpose of investigation, inspection, observation, measurements, sampling and testing. Additionally, authorized personnel of the District are provided access to every facility that is involved directly or indirectly with the discharge of wastewater to the District's sewer systems including, but not limited to, sewers; sewage pumping plants; pollution control plants; all industrial processes; industrial wastewater generation, conveyance and pretreatment facilities, devices and connection sewers; and all similar sewerage facilities.

### HIGH FREQUENCY MAINTENANCE LOCATIONS

GIS is used to document data from system inspection and maintenance activities, including system areas/components prone to root-intrusion and/or FOG potentially resulting in system backup and/or failure. Locations designated as problem areas are documented and tracked. As required, the frequency of required maintenance activities is adjusted, documented, and reported.

NORSD maintains a current list of the High Frequency Locations / Hot Spots. Cleaning frequencies include bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, and yearly. The specific locations are included in the GIS and AIMS. The table below includes a summary of the number of HFMLs for each cleaning frequency.

| Frequency     | # of Locations |
|---------------|----------------|
| Bi-weekly     | 13             |
| Monthly       | 17             |
| Quarterly     | 9              |
| Semi-annually | 1              |
| Annually      | 2              |

## 7.3 Plan and Schedule for the Disposal of Pipe-Blocking Substances Generated

Chapter 3, FOG Control Facilities, of the FOG Ordinance includes the requirements for the installation, operation and maintenance of an approved type and in compliance with the requirements of the chapter. Grease interceptors and other grease control devices must be cleaned, maintained, and have FOG removed and disposed of in a proper manner at regular intervals.

### 7.3.1 Requirements for Grease Removal Devices, Design Standards, Maintenance Requirements, BMPs, Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements

Chapter 5, Discharge Quality Limits, included in the District's Ordinance 2000-1, defines the prohibited discharges into the District's sanitary sewer system. Section 2.02, Prohibited Discharges, lists the maximum allowable levels of constituents prohibited unless specifically authorized by the District under a permit. Chapter 6, Domestic, Commercial, and Waste Hauler Discharges, defines the conditions under which the District may require a grease trap, sand trap, and /or interceptors. Chapter 7, Industrial Discharges, includes the requirements for discharges from industrial users. Primary requirements include the following:

- Food facilities are required to install, operate and maintain an approved and adequately sized grease interceptor
- Fixtures that are expected to convey FOG will be connected to the grease interceptor. Dishwashers and other fixtures that use emulsifying agents shall be connected to the sewer system directly.
- Grease interceptors shall be used in all new FSEs where determined necessary to install a grease control device
- Grease interceptors are to be sized in accordance with District, County or City Standards that are in effect at the time of installation of such device.

Section 3.06, Grease Interceptor Maintenance Requirements, of the FOG Ordinance, includes grease control device operation and maintenance and record keeping requirements. The primary requirements included are:

- It is required that interceptors to be maintained in an efficient operating condition by periodic removal of all contents of the devices which include wastewater, accumulated FOG, floating materials, sludge and solids.
- No FOG that has accumulated in a grease interceptor shall be allowed to pass into any sewer lateral, sewer system, storm drain, or public right of way during maintenance activities.
- Food Service Establishments that are located in an area that is considered to be a hot spot will be required to submit data and information necessary to establish a maintenance frequency for their grease interceptor.
- Wastewater, accumulated FOG, floating materials, sludge/solids, and other materials removed from the Interceptor shall be properly disposed of off-site by waste haulers in accordance with federal, state, and/or local laws.

- FSE owner and/or operator must allow authorized inspectors entry and access to FSE premises during normal business hours, for purposes of inspecting the grease control devices, reviewing the manifests, receipts and invoices relating to cleaning, maintenance and inspection of the grease control devices.

Section 3.08.5 includes the requirement that FSEs keep all manifests, receipts, and invoices of all cleaning, maintenance, grease removal of/from the grease removal device, disposal carrier and disposal site location for no less than three years. Food Service Establishments shall, upon request, make the manifests, receipts and invoices available to representatives of the District.

Section 1.07, Best Management Practices, of the FOG Ordinance, includes the BMPs to be included in the FOG Wastewater Discharge Permit and include the following:

- Installation of Drain Screens. Drain screens shall be installed on all drainage pipes in food preparation areas.
- Segregation and Collection of Waste Cooking Oil. All waste cooking oil shall be collected and stored in recycling receptacles such as barrels or drums. Such recycling receptacles shall be maintained to ensure that they do not leak. Licensed waste haulers or recycling facilities must be used to dispose of waste cooking oil.
- Disposal of Food Waste. All food waste shall be disposed of directly into the trash or garbage and not in sinks that drain to the District sewer collection system.
- Employee Training. Employees of the Food Service Establishment shall be trained by ownership/management periodically as specified in the permit
- Maintenance of Mechanical Exhaust Ventilation Filters. The wastewater generated from cleaning the exhaust ventilation filters shall not be disposed of into the sewer system.
- Best Management Practices and waste minimization practices shall be posted conspicuously in the food preparation and dishwashing areas at all times.

### 7.3.2 Authority to Inspect Grease Producing Facilities, Enforcement Authorities, Enforcement of FOG Ordinance

Chapter 4, Inspections, of the FOG Ordinance provides the District the necessary authority to enter the premises of facilities regulated by the FOG Ordinance, for the purpose of investigation, inspection, observation, measurements, sampling and testing in accordance with the provisions of the FOG Ordinance.

Section 1.08, Enforcement Response Plan – Food Service Establishment, of Chapter 1, General Provisions, includes a description of the various levels of enforcement actions that may be taken when conditions that are listed in the Food Service Establishment's FOG Wastewater Discharge Permit are violated. The order in which the types of enforcement are listed is not necessarily the order in which enforcement is applied.

### 7.3.3 Implementation of Source Control Measures

The District's measures to control sources of FOG from reaching the sanitary sewer system including the following:

- Conducting public education and outreach programs as part of the FSE Inspection Program
- The District has legal authority to prohibit and prevent unauthorized discharge of illicit substances to the wastewater collection system.
- The District's legal authority within its ordinances serves to prevent, require, ensure, limit, and enforce specific control of discharges.
- Requiring grease interceptors for all FSEs unless a variance or waiver has been issued to allow alternative measures to control FOG
- Inspecting FSE grease control devices and BMPs
- Identifying sewer hotspots, including those due to FOG
- Providing frequent cleaning of sewer hot spots related to FOG

## Chapter 8 - System Evaluation, Capacity Assurance and Capital Improvements

This section discusses the District's capacity management measures to address the current and future capacity requirements of its collection system and the recommended capacity improvement projects.

### 8.1 Regulatory Requirements for System Evaluation, Capacity Assurance, and Capital Improvements

The General Order includes a requirement that the SSMP include procedures to assure capacity management measures that address the current and future capacity requirements of its collection system. Also required is that the District prepare and implement a capital improvement plan that will provide hydraulic capacity of key sanitary sewer system elements for dry weather peak flow conditions, as well as the appropriate design storm or wet weather event. At a minimum, the plan must include:

- *Routine evaluation and assessment of system conditions;*
- *Capacity assessment and design criteria;*
- *Prioritization of Corrective Action*
- *Capital Improvement Plan*

### 8.2 Discussion on System Evaluation, Capacity Assurance, and Capital Improvements

The District's 2023 Master Plan Update presents an assessment of the hydraulic capacity of the existing major sewer pipelines located within the service area. The capital improvement projects identified were considered to be required to correct system deficiencies under existing and build-out peak design flow conditions. Additionally, the sewer system was evaluated for existing, near-term future, and buildout conditions.

The Master Plan also includes a summary of the established design criteria for peak dry and wet weather flows, projected population density, per capita sewage generation rates, pipe design criteria, and addressed infiltration. The evaluation included a review of dry weather peak flow conditions and identified areas of the system that required modification and/or expansion. The hydraulic analysis included evaluation of the impact of storm events on the wastewater collection system. Based on the analysis, the design storm did not result in potential spill events. Section 8.4 below includes a summary of the historical overflows and demonstrates that spills have not been capacity related.

The capital improvement projects were identified as required to correct system deficiencies under existing and build-out peak design flow conditions. Recommendations for assessing current and future capacity requirements and a proposed schedule to complete the modifications were also included.

The following subsections include a summary of the modeled system, flow estimates, and evaluation criteria used for the District's sewer system capacity evaluation to address the components required by the General Order.

### 8.3 System Evaluation and Assessment of System Conditions

The District performs routine inspections of its collection systems facilities including, manholes, lift stations, force mains, and using Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) camera inspections, documents the condition of the sewer gravity mains. Known problem areas in the collection system are logged in to the GIS and categorized into frequency of cleaning including bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, and annually. Routine sewer main flushing also includes areas requiring an increased frequency of cleaning.

Maintenance activities at lift stations include weekly visual inspections and valve exercising, monthly valve cleaning, FOG removal, annual backflow prevention inspections, annual inspection of submersible pumps, maintenance of spare pumps, etc. Work orders are generated and archived in the GIS system and are associated with specific sewer system assets.

Using the information derived from the District's AIMS program, the District has developed a rehabilitation and replacement plan to identify and prioritize collection system deficiencies and implement short-term and long-term rehabilitation actions to address each deficiency. For example, CCTV inspections that are performed by staff on a weekly basis are coded in accordance with NASSCO's Pipeline Assessment & Certification Program (PACP) standards. Observations are noted and assigned a grade of 0 to 5. The higher grade indicates a further state of degradation. Defects graded 5 are placed on a rehabilitation list typically for replacement or spot repair. All other grades are monitored and reviewed for further degradation.

### 8.4 Capacity Assessment and Design Criteria

The General Order requires the SSMP to include procedures to identify system components that are experiencing or contributing to spills caused by hydraulic deficiency and/or limited capacity, including procedures to identify the appropriate hydraulic capacity of key system elements for:

- Dry-weather peak flow conditions that cause or contribute to spill events
- The appropriate design storm(s) or wet weather events that cause or contribute to spill events
- The capacity of key system components; and
- Identify the major sources that contribute to the peak flows associated with sewer spills

The District has several Smart Covers throughout that monitor water levels. Readings are provided every 6 minutes. District staff are notified whenever these levels rise above normal flow level.

Findings included in the Master Plan reveal that, due to low precipitation, groundwater table levels are below the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile of normal levels and therefore, groundwater and rainfall were assumed to be non-significant factors in the capacity analysis.

The capacity assessment completed as part of the District's Master Plan was based on hydraulic modeling of the District's collection system under existing, Near-term, and Buildout Peak Design Flow (PDF) conditions and each evaluated to identify deficient pipelines for each time frame.

- **Average Dry Weather Flow:** The Average Dry Weather Flow (ADWF) included base wastewater flow and groundwater infiltration. Based groundwater flow is domestic (or sanitary) wastewater flow from residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial wastewater. Groundwater is defined as groundwater entering the collection system through pipe joints and manhole walls due to structural defects or improper construction.
- **Peak Dry Weather Flow:** Domestic sewer flows vary throughout the day due to different customer water use patterns. Peak Dry Weather Flow (PDWF) was the highest hourly peak flow during a dry period and was determined by multiplying a peaking factor to the ADWF.
- **Peak Wet Weather Flow:** Peak Wet Weather Flow (PWWF) is the highest hourly flow during a significant rain event and is estimated as Peak Dry Weather Flow (PDWF) plus Peak Rainfall Dependent Infiltration/Inflow (RDII). Typically, peak RDII was derived from flow monitoring data collected for wet weather events. However, flow monitoring data for the wet weather condition was not available during this master plan, so PWWF could not be determined.
- **Peak Design Flow:** As metered flow data was not readily available, Peak Design Flow (PDF) was used for system capacity evaluation in the Master Plan. PDF was determined based on peak daily flow data recorded at the treatment plant over the past five (5) years and peaking factors used by neighboring agencies.

The system evaluation was performed to identify improvements necessary to adequately convey existing wastewater discharges and support future wastewater flows through build-out conditions. A summary of the average, peak dry weather and peak wet weather flow estimates used in the hydraulic analysis is included in the Master Plan. Additionally, included in the Master Plan is a summary of the dry and wet weather capacity issues for the system limits a summary of improvement projects and planned sewer facilities to improve hydraulic capacity and provide increased system reliability.

### 8.5 Prioritization of Corrective Action

The District's CCTV inspection program includes assessing the condition of the pipelines and assigning a PACP grade / rating between 1 and 5, with 5 being the poorest condition. The assets rated as 5s are identified and prioritized as CIP projects. The District performs rehabilitation via spot-repair or remove and replace methodology. Generally, pipelines with a rating of 5 are noted with structural issues including large cracks along the pipeline and/or at joints, severe sags, or other forms of degradation that reduces its capacity to efficiently convey flows. Pipes with a rating less than 5 are monitored and reassessed during routine inspections. The Master Plan includes a summary of the condition assessment findings which revealed the highest percentage of pipelines rated at 4 and 5 included VCPs constructed prior to 1960. The CIP program includes a comprehensive list of capacity and condition related projects necessary to optimize the system hydraulics.

As part of the facilities assessment, an evaluation of the District's five (5) lift stations were conducted and included assessment of the electrical, mechanical, and civil components of each facility. The evaluations were performed based on visual inspections, record drawing reviews and interviews with District staff. Details of the assessments including site visit photographs to substantiate observations are documented in an appendix included in the Master Plan. Findings reveal the lift stations are generally in fair to good condition. Recommended improvements and proposed schedule are included.

The District completed several studies of its force mains. Included in the Master Plan is a summary of the existing force mains, expected useful-life expectancy and a schedule for potential replacement. Also included is a summary of efforts by the District to assure resiliency and redundancy in the force mains.

### 8.6 Capital Improvement Plan

The District's 2023 Master Plan includes a comprehensive list of capacity and condition related CIP projects necessary to optimize the system hydraulics and correct deficiencies. Projects are summarized and prioritized based on the design criteria, criticality, and the time frame in which they will be required based on growth projections at the time the Master Plan was completed. Proposed improvements were grouped into projects CIP No. 1 through CIP No. 13. A description and illustration for each project is included in the Master Plan.

Recommendations for condition related projects include replacement of gravity mains with a severity rating of 5 which were constructed prior to 1960 be replaced as they have reached or are near reaching the life cycle. At the time the Master Plan was prepared, there were no projects identified such that capacity and condition related deficiencies overlapped.

Sources of funding for the CIP projects include the Wastewater Enterprise Fund, sewer service charges for maintenance and repairs and capacity fees, loans, grants and bonds for new construction.

Development and prioritization of the CIP projects include coordination between operation and maintenance staff and engineering staff, and may include consultants as necessary for planning, design, and construction of capital improvement projects. District staff regularly coordinate with other agencies affected by the O&M activities and implementation of CIP projects.

The District began CIP projects in 2018. Since then, there have been 22 projects that include slip lining (CIPP) and cut and replacement. These projects are aimed at removing deficiencies in the District's sanitary system. CIP projects address poor flow due to sags, cracked pipes and aging infrastructure. The goal of CIP projects is to remove all hot spots from the system that can realistically be removed and to ensure a reliable removal of wastewater from homes and businesses for the safety of every citizen in the District.

### 8.7 Summary and Continuing Efforts

The following items are items the District will continue to incorporate as part of the System Evaluation, Capacity Assurance and Capital Improvement Program:

- Evaluate the District's sewer budget to determine if there is sufficient funding for the CIP that was developed as part of the 2023 Sewer Master Plan.

## Chapter 9 – Monitoring, Measurement and Program Modifications

This chapter of the SSMP discusses the parameters the District will utilize to track and monitor the progress of implementing elements of the SSMP, the effectiveness of the SSMP, and update the SSMP to keep it current.

### 9.1 Regulatory Requirements for Monitoring, Measurement and Program Modifications

The Order requires the SSMP include an adaptive management section which is to include a description of the process to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the SSMP and the methods to continually improve the process based on the evaluation process. It requires the District document the planning and implementation of the SSMP elements and the regular review of the SSMP to assure the programs remain relevant and current. The SSMP must include the following:

- *Process to maintain relevant information, including audit findings, to establish and prioritize appropriate SSMP activities;*
- *Process to monitor the implementation and measure the effectiveness of each SSMP element;*
- *Process to assess the success of the preventive operation and maintenance activities;*
- *Process to update the SSMP procedures and activities, as appropriate, based on results of monitoring and performance evaluations; and*
- *Process to identify and illustrate spill trends, including spill frequency, locations and estimated volumes*

### 9.2 Discussion on Monitoring, Measurement and Program Modifications

To date, NORSD has effectively managed and maintained information pertaining to the wastewater infrastructure by means of recording preventive maintenance activities and documenting notifications received regarding potential and actual spill occurrences in GIS. The District has tracked performance measures through logs and reports including, but not limited to, the length of pipe cleaned and televised, the quantity, cause and location of stoppages, spills, and the scheduled maintenance of high frequency maintenance locations. The District will continue to monitor the performance measures it currently tracks.

To address the components listed in Section 9.1 and as required by the Order, the following subsections provide a summary of the procedures implemented to properly monitor program progress and implement necessary modifications.

#### 9.2.1 Process to Maintain Relevant Information to Establish and Prioritize Appropriate SSMP Activities

Development of the District's 2023 Master Plan included updating the District's GIS to incorporate current and relevant data pertaining to the District's wastewater system assets including recently constructed or replaced sewer mains. Additionally, CCTV inspections were performed for approximately 81 percent of the system to document the condition of the system assets to facilitate assessment, identification and prioritization of necessary O&M activities.

### 9.2.2 Process to Monitor the Implementation and Measure the Effectiveness of Each SSMP Element

As the SSMP elements continue to evolve the District will continue to implement the program elements and identify potential enhancements and execute its rehabilitation program through CIP implementation.

To monitor the effectiveness of the SSMP elements, the City will develop specific parameters to measure and compare on a yearly basis. The parameters selected will be quantitative, result focused and align with the District's overall objectives. Parameters the District may consider tracking include:

1. Pipe age;
2. O&M cost/mile/year;
3. District staff/100 miles;
4. Percent of system maintained, repaired, and/or replaced each year;
5. Sewer Pipe Blockage Control Program activities;
6. I&I monitoring; and
7. Planning goals status.

### 9.2.3 Process to Assess the Success of the Preventive Operation and Maintenance Activities

At least once every three (3) years, the District will evaluate the effectiveness of its O&M Program elements and staffing levels. Recommendations for appropriate adjustments and an implementation schedule will be developed. Implementation of any changes will be based on the urgency of the need, coordination with other program elements, and management approvals.

### 9.2.4 Process to Update the SSMP Procedures and Activities Based on Results of Monitoring and Performance Evaluations

In compliance with the General Order, audits of the SSMP will be conducted every six (6) years and serve to measure and document implementation and effectiveness of the SSMP. The District will document the findings and develop, document and/or modify procedures and activities for each of the SSMP elements, as applicable, to improve program and system performance.

Included in this SSMP is a Change Log to document the revisions / updates needed to be incorporated into the SSMP update. The Change Log is to be used for tracking of the modifications required which will be incorporated into the SSMP document at the time the District conducts its next SSMP update. Records of all SSMP element reviews will be saved and revisions are tracked and available for the following SSMP Audit or SSMP Update.

### 9.2.5 Process to Identify and Illustrate Spill Trends, Including Spill Frequency, Locations, and Estimated Volumes

The District process to identify and illustrate spill trends, including frequency, location, and estimated volumes is to document the information using AIMS technology. This allows the District to retrieve information by spill date, location and cause. Additionally, using information contained in the GIS allows for illustration of this information in figures.

The District submits Spill information on the CIWQS website, which is accessible to the public. The District will continue to document spill trends. Additional information included in the documentation process is the frequency and approximate volume of the spill.

Per the State Water Resources Control Board's SOO reporting website, and as reported by the District, spill occurrences in the District's system between 2011 and 2020 included a total of 11 spills and were primarily Category 3 spills, and two (2) Category 2 spills. The Category 3 spills were less than 1,000 gallons and did not reach any surface waters or waters of the State. The events were not due to capacity-related deficiencies.

The following is a summary of the spill occurrences since 2009:

- 2009: Norris & Hurrle – Grease
- 2014: McCord & Oildale Dr – Grease
- 2016: Hageman & Mohawk – Contractor Error (Heavy Equipment damaged riser during roadwork)
- 2017: Oildale Drive & McCord -Grease
- 2017: Norris Road – Wedge in sewer
- 2018: Krebs & Mohawk – Contractor Error (Blown Riser @ LS4)
- 2019: Ferguson @ Standard School – Debris in MH plugged sewer main
- 2020: Airport Drive – Contractor Error (bypass pump malfunction)
- 2022: Plymouth & Roberts – Grease
- 2024: 106 Wilson – Contractor Error (concrete in sewer main)

## Chapter 10 – Internal Audits

This chapter of the SSMP discusses the District's SSMP Auditing Program.

### 10.1 Regulatory Requirements for SSMP Program Audits

The Order requires the SSMP include internal audit procedures for the District to conduct periodic internal audits, appropriate to the size of the system and the number of spills and include operations staff. The current Order requires that, at a minimum, these audits must occur every three (3) years and a report must be prepared and kept on file. Per the Order, at a minimum, the audit will document the following:

- *Findings of the evaluation of the implementation and effectiveness of the SSMP in preventing spills;*
- *Compliance with the General Order;*
- *SSMP deficiencies in addressing on-going spills and discharges to waters of the State;*
- *Necessary modifications to the SSMP to correct deficiencies*

Additionally, the District must submit a complete audit report that includes the following:

- *Audit findings and recommended corrective actions;*
- *A statement that sewer system operators' input on the audit findings were considered, and;*
- *A proposed schedule to address the deficiencies*

The designated LRO will submit the audit report into the online CIWQS Sanitary Sewer System Database per the requirements in Section 3.10 of Attachment E1 of the General Order.

### 10.2 Discussion on Internal Auditing Program

In compliance with ORDER WQ 2022-0103-DWQ, the District is conducting this audit in response to the SSMP requirements. The audit will be completed by the August 2, 2025 due date and allow the District to prepare and adequately address changes anticipated and incorporate required information as the District develops the updated SSMP.

Recommended changes to the SSMP and District operations are summarized. The District LRO will certify the SSMP Audit and submit to the online CIWQS Sanitary Sewer System Database.

#### 10.2.1 Findings of the Evaluation of the Implementation and Effectiveness of the SSMP in Preventing Spills

In compliance with 2022-0103-DWQ, the District is completing an audit in August 2025. The audit report includes a summary of the evaluation conducted for each of the eleven (11) elements in accordance with the most 10.2.1 Compliance with the General Order.

### 10.2.2 Compliance with the General Order

With the completion of the August 2015 audit and development of a plan to implement recommendations developed through the audit process, the District met the requirements of Order WQ 2022-0103-DWQ for this element.

### 10.2.3 SSMP Deficiencies in Addressing On-Going Spills and Discharges to Waters of the State

Overall, based on information provided and the number of the spills noted during the audit, the District continues to proactively maintain the collection system using the overall program for managing the sewer systems is effective and operates at a high level of performance.

### 10.2.4 Necessary Modifications to the SSMP to Correct Deficiencies

The District is committed to maintaining compliance with the most current Order and has developed a comprehensive summary of the modifications to be implemented. Recommendations for modifications were developed during the audit process to address deficiencies in each element to achieve compliance with Order WQ 2022-0103-DWQ.

## 10.3 Conclusions

The following items will continue to be evaluated in the audit process and records will be maintained:

- Findings of the evaluation of the implementation and effectiveness of the SSMP in preventing spills
- SSMP deficiencies in addressing on-going spills and discharges to waters of the State
- Necessary modifications to the SSMP to correct deficiencies
- A summary of audit findings and recommended corrective actions
- A proposed schedule to address the deficiencies
- Completed audit documents and findings
- Name and contact information of staff and/or consultants that conducted or were involved in the audit
- Follow-up actions based on audit findings

## Chapter 11 – Communication Program

A good communications program can serve to keep the District's constituents informed, educated, engage support and participation in the proper utilization of the District's sanitary sewer system, and comply with the General Order requirements. The program can demonstrate the short and long-term benefits of implementing the SSMP by providing effective asset management to the publicly owned system while protecting the health and welfare of all who utilize it.

### 11.1 Regulatory Requirements for Communication Program

The primary objective of the Communication Program is to increase public awareness of sanitary sewer system issues, to promote a sense of stewardship for the District's system and facilitate its efforts towards the effective and efficient management, operation, and maintenance of the sanitary sewer system. The purpose of this element is to discuss the District's efforts to educate and inform the public and affected agencies regarding the proper use of the District's sanitary sewer system. The SSMP must include procedures to communicate with:

- *The public for:*
  - *Spills and discharges resulting in closures of public areas, or that enter a source of drinking water, and*
  - *The development, implementation, and update of its SSMP, including opportunities for public input to SSMP implementation and updates.*
- *Owners/operators of systems that connect into the District's system, including satellite systems, for:*
  - *System operation, maintenance, and capital improvement-related activities.*

### 11.2 Discussion on the Communication Program

The following includes a summary of the District's effort to communicate, educate, inform and engage support and participation by the public in the proper utilization of the District's sanitary sewer system, and comply with the General Order requirements.

### 11.3 North of the River Sanitary District Official Website

NORSD's outreach efforts include maintaining a website ([North of River Sanitary District \(specialdistrict.org\)](http://North of River Sanitary District (specialdistrict.org))) to inform the public about District activities. The District's website is an effective communication channel for providing alerts and news to the public. The main page of the website provides access to various District departments and includes links to information, agendas for Board meetings, as well as other key information for residents. The District can utilize the website to publish its SSMP, providing the public with the opportunity to view and offer input to the District as the SSMP elements are implemented. Furthermore, the District can utilize the website to notify the public of important upcoming activities related to sewer system management.

## 11.4 North of the River Sanitary District FOG Control

The public outreach element pertaining to FOG control includes maintaining information on the website ([Keep FOG \(Fats, Oils, Grease\) out of the drains! - North of River Sanitary District \(specialdistrict.org\)](http://specialdistrict.org)) and a concentrated effort to educate FSE staff regarding proper management of FOG generated on site. During the site inspections, District staff provide information to FSE staff that results in the reduction of FOG discharged into the District's wastewater collection system. The District inspector provides the facility with a list of Best Management Practices (BMPs) during the site inspection. On a seasonal basis, such as during the Thanksgiving holiday, the District hosts an event to collect grease from residents and provide an alternative to grease disposal.

## 11.5 Public Meetings

Public meetings to discuss District-related issues are held regularly in the Board Council Chambers, located at 204 Universe Avenue. The District encourages residents to attend Board meetings to become better informed about how the District works and to learn about various issues. The Board meetings provide the residents and concerned citizens with a forum to provide the Board with input on particular programs through the Public Comment session portion of each Board meeting. During the Public Comment session, each person who wishes to address the Board on an item not on the agenda may do so. Copies of the Board Agenda are made readily available to the public on the District's website.

## 11.6 Conclusions

The District has identified the following revisions / updates:

- Maintain the SSMP available for public review at the District office(s) and facilities and be made available to the public through CIWQS and/or on the website
- Document procedures providing opportunities for public input to SSMP element implementation and updates
- Document procedures to communicate the actual or potential occurrence of a spill and/or actual or potential discharges resulting in closures to public areas
- Document procedures to communicate the actual or potential occurrence of a spill and/or actual or potential discharges entering a source of drinking water
- Develop procedures to communicate with Owners of systems that connect to the District's system regarding O&M and CIP related activities