



Sanitary Sewer Management Plan (SSMP)

How might these new State requirements effect our local utility rates?

Developing the SSMP according to the State's requirements has resulted in increased workload for City staff. To reduce impacts on City staff resource and the level of service to the public, consultants have been retained to assist with developing the SSMP. Nevertheless, further needs for additional City staff or consultants may arise as the SSMP is developed. Additional City staff may also be needed for the on-going implementation of the SSMP.

The City will most certainly incur additional costs in order to comply with the state mandated WDRs. The costs incurred may result in the need to increase utility rates. To estimate the order of magnitude of these costs for agencies in California, the State Water Resources Control Board analyzed costs associated with implementing a similar set of requirements previously imposed by a regional water quality control board for a limited number of cities. Based on financial summaries from 21 agencies, the State Board estimated that the increased cost (in order to comply with the WDRs) would average \$6 per household per month.

During the development of the WDR compliance program and the SSMP documents, the Utilities Department and the Department of Public Works will evaluate the cost of compliance specific to the City of Vacaville program. This will help determine staffing needs and determine if utility rates will need to be due to the implementation of this program. In order to minimize cost impacts while complying with the new requirements, Public Works and Utilities Department staff will strive to streamline the program and look for ways to increase the efficiency of existing operations related to the sanitary sewer system.
