

# Overview of Statewide Sanitary Sewer Systems General Order

CARMEL AREA WASTEWATER DISTRICT (CAWD)  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
8/31/23

ORDER WQ 2022-0103-DWQ  
ADOPTED DECEMBER 6, 2022  
EFFECTIVE JUNE 5, 2023

# This is an Update to the Existing Order

Reissued Order updates the 16-year-old statewide Waste Discharge Requirements to:

- Clarify existing Water Code regulations and compliance expectations to:
  - Address **spills to waters of the State**
  - Address **climate change impacts** on a system-specific level
- Clarify Order enforceability:
  - Full electronic reporting into California Integrated Water Quality Systems (CIWQS)
  - Penalty of Perjury clause for failure to report, or intentionally reporting false data

# Waste Discharge Requirements Protects Waters of the State

- Reissued Order 2022-0103-DWQ emphasizes the protection of waters of the State
- Waters of the State include surface waters and groundwater
- Order addresses pathways that spilled sewage enters both surface waters and groundwater



# Overview of Order 2022-0103-DWQ

# Major Changes from Order 2006-0003-DWQ

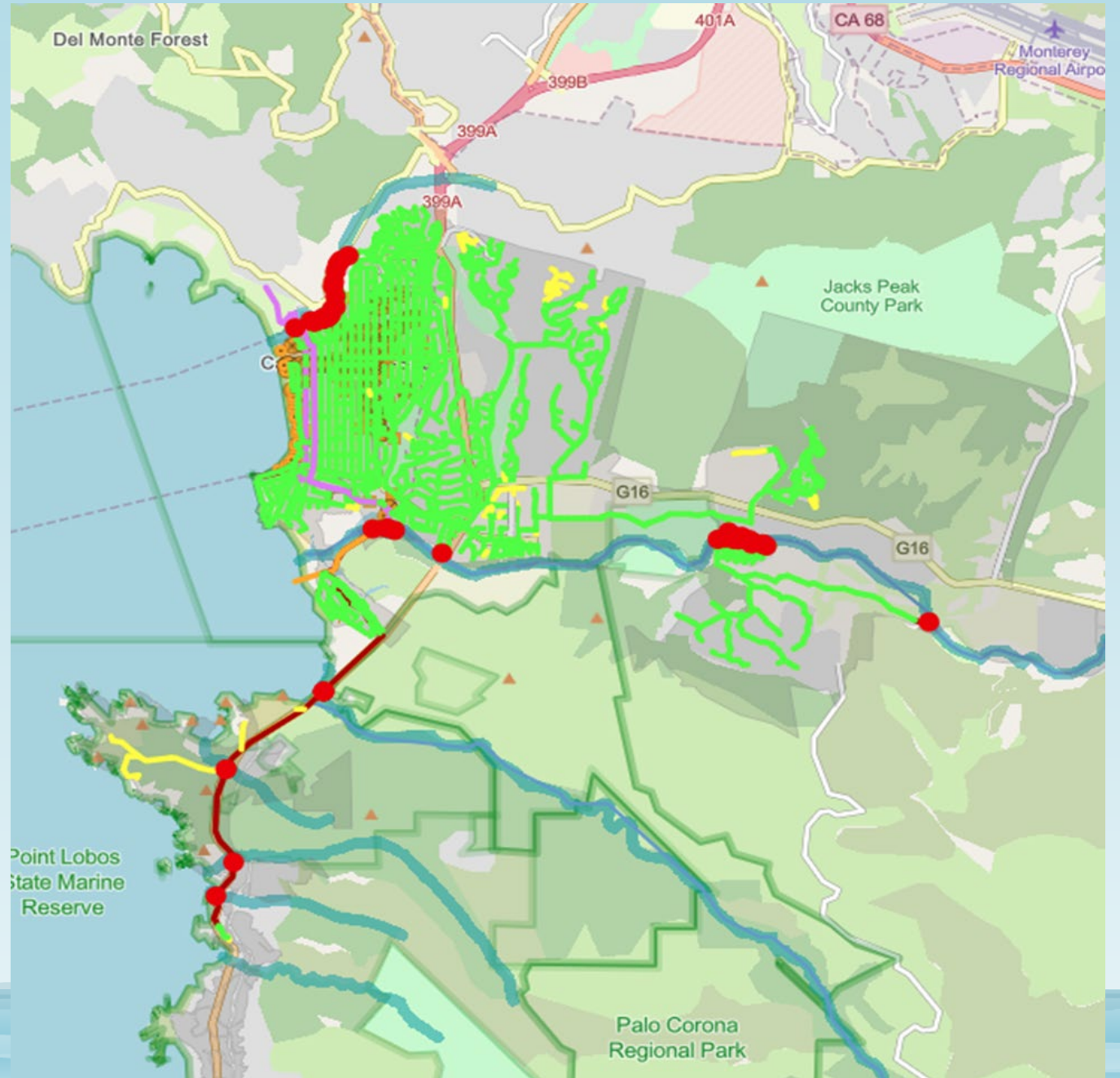
- **Expanded regulatory coverage for privately-owned, federally-owned, and non-governmental sewer systems**
  - At Regional Water Boards discretion
- Expanded implementation of State Water Board authority per the Water Code to **prohibit sewage discharges to waters of the State** (versus only waters of the U.S.)
- **New prohibition of potential** sewage discharge to a surface water unless properly cleaned up and reported



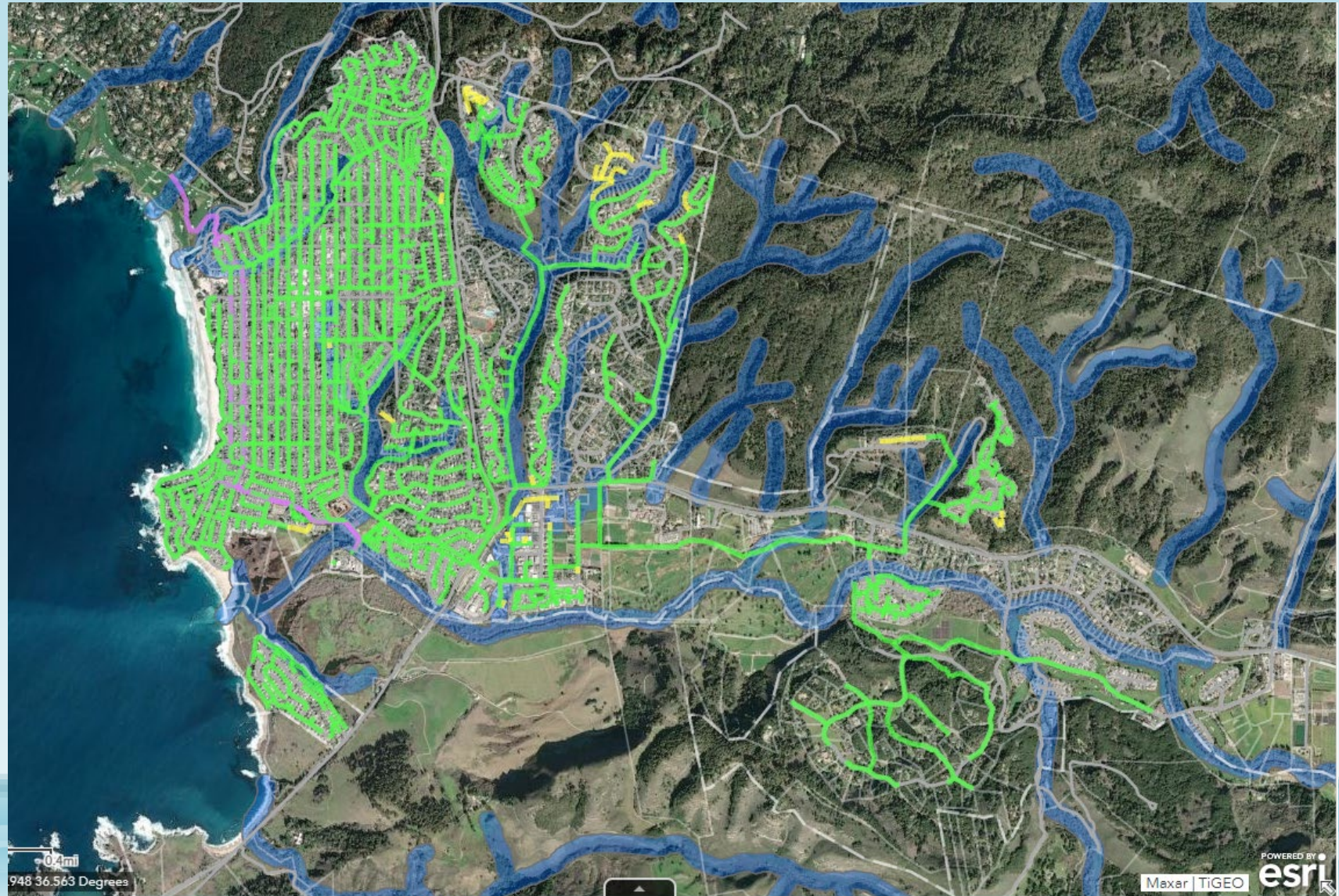
# What does “prohibit sewage discharges to waters of the State” mean to CAWD?

- In short, states' definitions of their waters are likely to be much broader than the federal definition of “waters of the U.S.” This means that states may exert jurisdiction over waters within their boundaries that are not covered by the Clean Water Act.

# Waters of US



# Waters of the State





# Major Changes from Order 2006-0003-DWQ

- Requirements to address system-specific **climate change impacts**
- **Reduced timeframe for receiving water sampling** of 50,000+ gallons spills to surface water
- Requirements to **address tree roots** due to water conservation or other factors
- Reduced reporting for smaller spills



Storm Drain Overflow



Localized Flooding



Tree roots

# Prohibitions

- 4.1. **Any** sewage discharge that has the **potential** to discharge to surface waters unless promptly cleaned up and reported.
- 4.2. Any sewage discharge directly or indirectly through a drainage conveyance system or other route, to waters of the State.



- 4.3. Any sewage discharge that creates a nuisance or condition of pollution.



# Items of interest to CAWD Regarding Attachment D of WDR

- Requires a **Sewer Pipe Blockage Control Program** that evaluates whether sewer pipe blockages are caused by fats, oils, grease, rags and debris.
- District will need to **improve the existing Fats, Oils, & Grease (FOG) program** to comply since we are aware of restaurants with issues. The District is in the process of working on this item.



# Items of Interest to CAWD: *Attachment D of WDR*

- Requires prioritization of areas that:
  - Are located in or within the vicinity of **surface waters, steep terrain, high groundwater elevations, and environmentally sensitive areas**
  - Are within the vicinity of a **receiving water with a bacterial-related impairment** on the most current Clean Water Act section 303(d) List
  - Are **subject to increased infiltration and inflow** due to larger and/or higher-intensity storm events as a result of climate change.
  - Are **subject to increases of erosive forces in canyons and streams near underground and above-ground system components** due to larger and/or higher intensity storm events.

# Spill Categories Have Been Updated

## Category 1

Any volume of sewage that discharges to:

- A surface water, including a surface water body that contains no flow or volume of water, or
- A drainage conveyance system that discharges to a surface water, when the sewage is not fully captured and returned to the sewer system or disposed of properly.

## Category 2

A spill of 1,000 gallons or greater that does not discharge to a surface water.

# Spill Categories Have Been Updated

## 2006 Order

### Category 3

A spill of less than 1000 gallons, that does not discharge to a surface water.

## Reissued Order (2022-0103-DWQ)

### Category 3

A spill equal to or greater than 50 gallons, and less than 1000 gallons, that does not discharge to a surface water.

### Category 4

A spill of less than 50 gallons that does not discharge to a surface water.

# Order Requirements Due in Near Future

| Requirement                                     | Continuing Enrollee Due Dates     |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Annual Report                                   | April 1, 2024                     |
| Sewer System Management Plan Update             | 2025 or 2026                      |
| Sewer System Management Plan Audit              | 2024 or 2025                      |
| Sanitary Sewer System Service Area Boundary Map | July 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 |

QUESTIONS?



# 8.1 System Evaluation & Condition Assessment

## WDR Attachment D

8.1 System Evaluation and Condition Assessment The Plan must include procedures to:

- Evaluate the sanitary sewer system assets utilizing the best practices and technologies available;
- Identify and justify the amount (percentage) of its system for its condition to be assessed each year;
- Prioritize the condition assessment of system areas that:
  - a) Hold a high level of environmental consequences if vulnerable to collapse, failure, blockage, capacity issues, or other system deficiencies;
  - b) Are located in or within the vicinity of surface waters, steep terrain, high groundwater elevations, and environmentally sensitive areas;
  - c) Are within the vicinity of a receiving water with a bacterial-related impairment on the most current Clean Water Act section 303(d) List;
- Assess the system conditions using visual observations, video surveillance and/or other comparable system inspection methods;
- Utilize observations/evidence of system conditions that may contribute to exiting of sewage from the system which can reasonably be expected to discharge into a water of the State;
- Maintain documents and recordkeeping of system evaluation and condition assessment inspections and activities; and
- Identify system assets vulnerable to direct and indirect impacts of climate change, including but not limited to: sea level rise; flooding and/or erosion due to increased storm volumes, frequency, and/or intensity; wildfires; and increased power disruptions.