



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

Mr. David R. Williams
Tri-TAC Chair
EBMUD
375 11th Street
Oakland, CA 94612

OFFICE OF
WATER

Dear Mr. Williams:

Thank you for your August 1, 2003, letter. Your letter raises concerns about the information provided at a July 8, 2003, stakeholder meeting sponsored by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the Agency's upcoming Report to Congress on the impacts and control of combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). Specifically, your letter comments on the use of CSO and SSO data, information on the human health impacts of CSOs and SSOs, and information on the environmental impacts of CSOs and SSOs.

I share your concern regarding the precision with which we characterize data on CSOs and SSOs in this Report to Congress. Your suggestions regarding our written characterizations of data and regional differences in CSO and SSO occurrence reiterate comments we received from individuals who participated in the stakeholder meetings. We are working on integrating these suggestions into the report.

Also, based on the comments we received at the stakeholder meetings, we are refining our analyses in the impacts section of the report. We are working to place relevant information in the most comprehensive and accurate context possible. The stakeholder meetings and letters such as yours are invaluable in achieving this goal.

Should you need additional information or have further questions, please contact James A. Hanlon, Director, Office of Wastewater Management, at (202) 564-0748.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Tracy Mehan, III".

G. Tracy Mehan, III
Assistant Administrator