Impacts of the September 8th Power Outage on Wastewater Facilities

California State Assembly Committee
Utilities and Commerce
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Wastewater System

Municipal Collection System

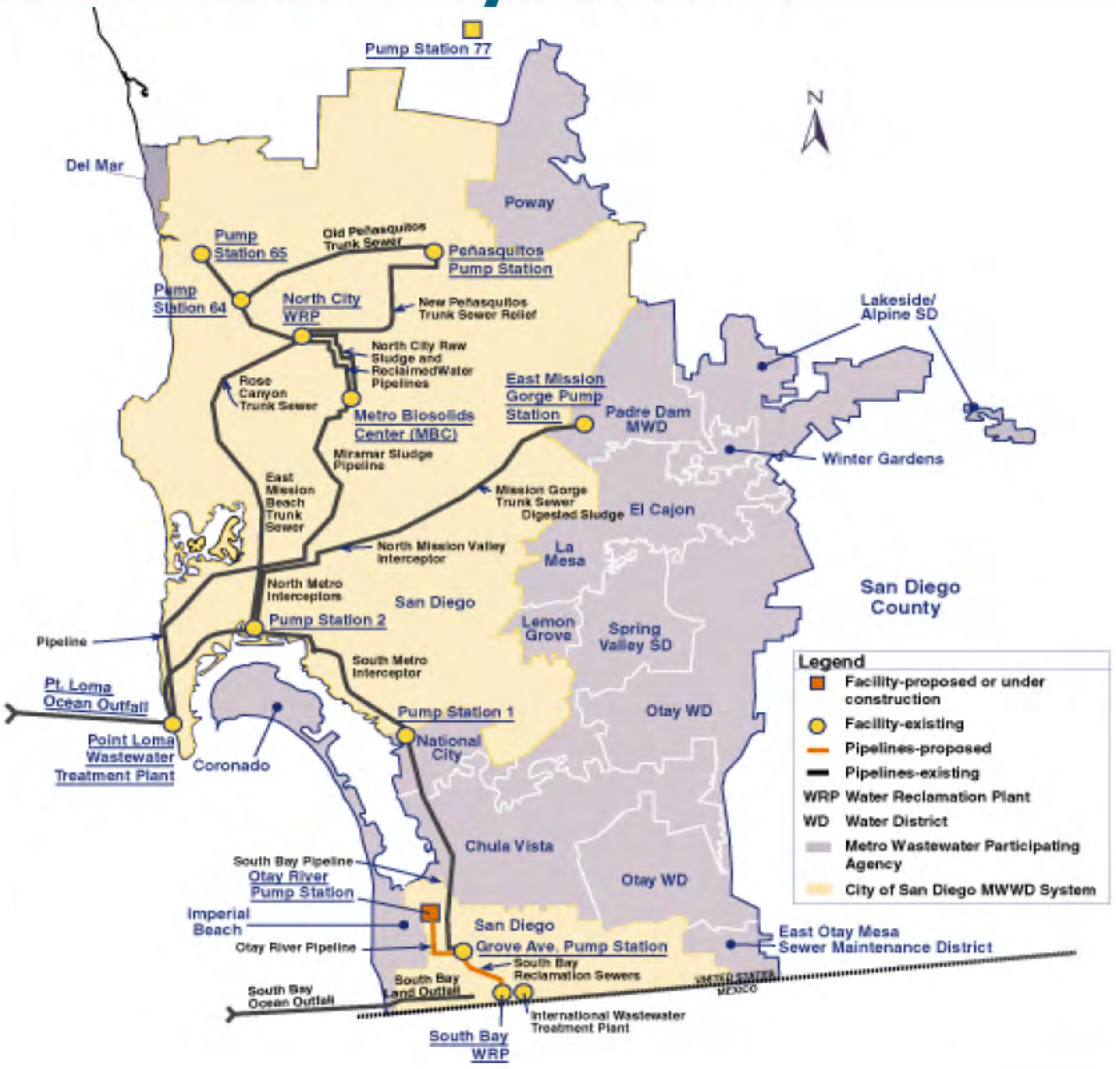
- 3,000 miles of sewer pipeline
- 74 Sewer Pump Stations

Metro System

- 8 Large Regional Sewer Pump Stations
- 3 Treatment Plants (Pt. Loma, North City, South Bay)
- Biosolids Processing Center
- 2 Ocean Outfalls

On September 8th the wastewater system collected and treated over 160 million gallons of the sewage discharged to the system.

Wastewater System



Impacts

- Two spills as a result of power loss at Pump Station 64 and Pump Station 1
  - Pump Station 64 – approximately 2.4 million gallons
  - Pump Station 1 – approximately 193,120 gallons
- Coordination with SDG&E for a backup generator
- Use of tanker trucks to protect adjacent businesses
- Posting of beaches 5 miles north and south of the spill points
- Water Quality testing
- Pumping of Los Peñasquitos Creek

Mitigation Measures

- As a result of the outage at Pump Station 64, sewage flowed into the Los Peñasquitos Creek
  - City crews, pumped out a mixture of sewage and fresh water from the creek for a period of two weeks
  - Approximately 15 million gallons pumped from three locations along the creek
  - Coordination with the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Department of Fish and Game
  - Monitoring of dissolved oxygen, pH, ammonia and fecal indicator bacteria
  - Parameters have returned to apparent stream-normal levels for a similar non-spill urban stream for this time of year
  - Bio-assessment

Electrical Power Reliability

- Wastewater
  - 82 Pump Stations
  - 60 Pump Stations have redundant electrical power
    - 54 Pump Stations have onsite generators
    - 5 Pump Stations have two separate SDG&E feeds
    - One Pump Station has two gas engine driven pumps and three separate SDG&E feeds
  - The remaining pump stations can either be shut down, overflow to the gravity system or have very low flows

Pump Station 64

Next Steps

- Department reviewing approach for electrical power reliability
- Study options for on-site generators at critical facilities
  - Operational Impacts and Risks
  - Site Constraints and Feasibility
  - Costs and Benefits
- Strengthen coordination with SDG&E

Questions ?