

Simi Valley

The City of Simi Valley (City), in collaboration with the Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program (VCSQMP), continues addressing water quality exceedances, including the elevated *E. coli* levels identified during the 2024-2025 wet weather sampling. The City recognizes the challenges of mitigating bacteria from abundant local wildlife and the vast upstream undeveloped vegetation. Nevertheless, the City has implemented multiple programs to reduce future exceedances.

In 2014, 73 samples were collected throughout Ventura County as part of a SMP Study to further quantify the populations represented in the *E. coli* levels. Data indicated that none of the samples had human feces markers HF 183, but 11% had dog markers, 37% had bird markers, and the remaining sources were unidentified. While source investigations for bacteria are still ongoing, the City has implemented outreach programs targeting some of the known sources of contamination, such as pet waste. The City participates in the Countywide media campaign which messages the importance of properly collecting and disposing of pet waste. There are pet waste stations installed in areas with frequent pet traffic and dog waste dispensers with bags are distributed at City outreach events, such as the Simi Valley Street Fair and Coastal Cleanup Day. Additionally, focused outreach is being developed to engage with specific areas with known livestock populations that may be contributing to elevated bacteria levels.

The City also has a comprehensive Industrial / Commercial Inspection Program, and an Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Program, which are designed to educate and prevent stormwater pollution and reduce water quality exceedances. For example, the Stormwater Inspection Program requires that commercial businesses complete a Stormwater Pollution Control Plan (SWPCP), which identifies potential sources of pollution, details best management practices, and provides employee training. Food establishments are inspected annually for both pretreatment and stormwater, ensuring grease treatment devices are maintained and trash enclosure are kept clean, minimizing pollution. Furthermore, reports of illicit discharges are investigated immediately, ceased and areas remediated, followed by outreach and progressive enforcement. Currently, the City is also working on updating its Stormwater Ordinance and developing more comprehensive enforcement for stormwater treatment systems operating on private property, systems which may aide in capturing stormwater pollutants such as bacteria.

The City is also addressing exceedance levels by conducting inspections and preventative maintenance for both the sanitary sewer and storm drain system. The City conducts sewer line maintenance, rigorous source control and preemptive line flushing to prevent sanitary sewer blockages and overflows. The City's Sanitation staff maintains 380 miles of sewer infrastructure through routine cleaning, inspections, and rehabilitation. The entire system is cleaned on a two-to-three-year cycle, with priority areas addressed quarterly to annually. Daily closed-circuit television (CCTV) line inspections aim for a six-year total system goal, and additional inspections are conducted for emergencies and engineering projects. Current initiatives include a capital improvement project (CIP) for cured-in-place-pipe (CIPP) sewer mains lining and manhole rehabilitation. Additionally, staff conducts outreach to educate residents on proper sewer maintenance. The City's storm sewer system is also inspected and cleaned routinely by the City's Streets Maintenance staff, who are actively working on identifying and repairing leaky infrastructure. In FY25-26 the City will also be acquiring a new maintenance contractor to clean and inspect storm drain catch basins with full trash capture, Connector Pipe Screen (CPS) units. The new contractor will be required to conduct more thorough inspections of the catch basins and quantify the amount and type of trash removed. This will help the City identify sources of trash

that may be contributing to bacteria loads which will guide future efforts. The City is also in the process of installing additional CPS units and conducts routine street sweeping to reduce trash and bacteria in the streets. In addition, trash and catch basin requirements for permitted special events are enforced. The City of Simi Valley remains committed to reducing *E. coli* pollution and improving water quality standards by improving current local programs, strengthening collaboration with the County and fellow MS4 Permit co-permittees, and executing the strategies detailed below:

- FY25-26 – FY28-29: Increase installation of more CPS units - The City has recently increased funding to procure and install more CPS units.
- FY25-26: New maintenance contractor to clean and inspect CPS units- quantify the amount and type of trash observed- this will help the City identify sources of trash that may be contributing to bacteria loads and guide future outreach efforts.
- FY25-26: Update outreach materials and provide focus outreach to areas of concern
- FY25-26-FY26-27: Update Stormwater Ordinance to improve enforcement of stormwater treatment systems operating on private property.
- FY 26-27: CCTV Line inspections of entire sewer system.
- Calander year 2035-Capital Improvement Project for sewer mains and manhole rehabilitation- goal to rehabilitate 120 miles of sewer line in the next 10 years.
- Ongoing: Inspect and repair/ replace stormwater infrastructure.