

Discovery Clean Water Alliance Columbia River Outfall and Effluent Pipeline Project Neighborhood Meeting Summary Report

Public Outreach Overview

On March 20, 2019, the Discovery Clean Water Alliance (Alliance) hosted an open house to share information about the Columbia River Outfall and Effluent Pipeline project at the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant (SCTP). The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for area neighbors to hear about the project, meet and get to know Alliance staff, and learn about the forthcoming Shorelines conditional use permit application to construct and operate a new 1.3-mile-long, 48" effluent pipeline and outfall diffuser from the SCTP to the Columbia River. Meeting materials and an overview presentation included information about the purpose and need, location and development design, key activities and issues that may affect neighbors, alternatives that were considered, and timeline and benefits. Input was gathered from the meeting participants orally during an open question and answer session and through written comments.

Outreach Method

Community members were invited to attend the open house via the following methods:

- Postcard mailing to area residents and property owners within 500 feet of project site (Salmon Creek Treatment Plant and permanent pipeline easements to be acquired) 15 days prior to event.
- E-mail notification to area neighbors and interested stakeholders.
- E-mail notification to Felida and Fairgrounds Neighborhood Associations.
- Signage posted near the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant.
- Notice in the Salmon Creek/Felida neighborhood news Upcoming Events section of The Columbian newspaper.

Open House

The open house for the Columbia River Outfall and Effluent Pipeline Project was held on Wednesday, March 20 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Treatment Plant, located at 15100 Northwest McCann Road. Approximately 11 people attended, as well as staff from the District, Clark County and the consultant team.

The meeting format began with an informal meet-and-greet with staff



stationed at informational displays to answer questions and talk with neighbors. This was followed by a formal 30-minute presentation at 6:15 p.m. After the presentation, participants were invited to ask questions of staff. Participants were also invited to provide written comments via written comment forms.

The informational displays, presentation, and sign-in sheets are attached in Appendix A, B and C.

Summary of Public Input

Overall

Neighbors in attendance were appreciative of the opportunity to learn about the Columbia River Outfall and Effluent Pipeline Project and were receptive to the information and the meeting format. A few residents shared concerns about noise and truck traffic due to construction. At least one resident was concerned about environmental impacts as stated in written comments provided below. At least one neighbor expressed concerns about future growth as a result of increased sewer treatment capacity.

After the presentation the following **questions** were asked orally and responded to:

Question: What are the normal operations for large truck traffic to the Salmon Creek Sewer Treatment Plant?

Answer: One large truck per day.

Question: Are there other project improvements planned at the plant?

Answer: Yes, there are other projects planned for next year, including improved odor control and additional treatment capacity. More information on those projects will be provided at an open house in June.

Question: Will a cover be placed over the clarifiers?

Answer: Yes, a cover is included in planned odor control improvements.

Question: Will the Ridgefield Plant be closed as a result of this project and will all the sewage treatment be shifted to Salmon Creek?

Answer: Yes the Ridgefield plant will be closed in about 10-years and ultimately sewer treatment for the Ridgefield area will be shifted to the Salmon Creek Plant.

Question: What kind of boats use Salmon Creek?

Answer: Kayaks, canoes and paddle boards but none are motorized.

Question: How much will the planned project improvements cost?

Answer: \$24 million which will be made up of rates and bonds.

Question: Concerns were raised about trucks bringing in sewer solids using McCann Road and how long will this continue.

Answer: The sewer solids will stop being trucked into the SCTP after the Ridgefield Treatment Plant is closed, however trucks with treated solids coming out of the plant to be used for agricultural uses would continue.

Question: Is anticipated growth being accounted for by the District?

Answer: Yes, the District is planning for growth based on that which is anticipated by the Clark County Comprehensive Plan.

Question: What can be done to improve Salmon Creek for fish?

Answer: It was explained that Salmon Creek is an important waterway for fish and that special attention will be focused maintaining the conditions on the bottom of creeks and the Columbia River where natural sands are present.

Question: How will construction of the section along Salmon Creek occur and will it remain open to the passage of fish during construction?

Answer: Only 1/2 of the creek will be closed at one time leaving the other half open for fish passage, and this will be completed using coffer dams.

Question: Will demolition of the existing sewer pipe near the Columbia River be done in a way to prevent unwanted water intrusion?

Answer: Yes, construction and restoration will be completed to prevent any water intrusion.

The following **written comment** was received via the written comment forms provided:

- Concerns that environment, wetlands, wildlife are impacted as minimally as possible. Also, continued access to the waters is important. Reducing noise as much as possible is appreciated.

Prior to and after the meeting, the following questions and comments were received by residents:

- Phone call received by nearby resident, that he owns property near Outfall Pipeline and would like more information. He was mainly concerned about the idea that we were planning on constructing portions of the project on his property, which was not the case.
- E-mail comment received from nearby resident: Thank you for hosting the presentation on Wednesday night. I have a question regarding traffic exiting the plant. I understand traffic will be using McCann to 36th Ave. At the intersection of McCann and 36th, which direction will the traffic be turning, north or south on 36th? Response provided: Thank you for your interest in the Columbia River Effluent and Outfall Pipeline project. Traffic exiting the plant via McCann Road could head either direction depending on their destination. Personal vehicles for the contractor staff could come from or go to anywhere in Clark County. Material loads and equipment arriving via I-5 might use 99th Street, 139th Street, or 179th Street, and all vehicles might arrive by one route and return by another. We appreciate your inquiry. Please let us know if you have any additional comments or questions.

Appendix A – Informational Displays

Appendix B – Presentation

Appendix C – Sign-in Sheets

Appendix A – Informational Displays

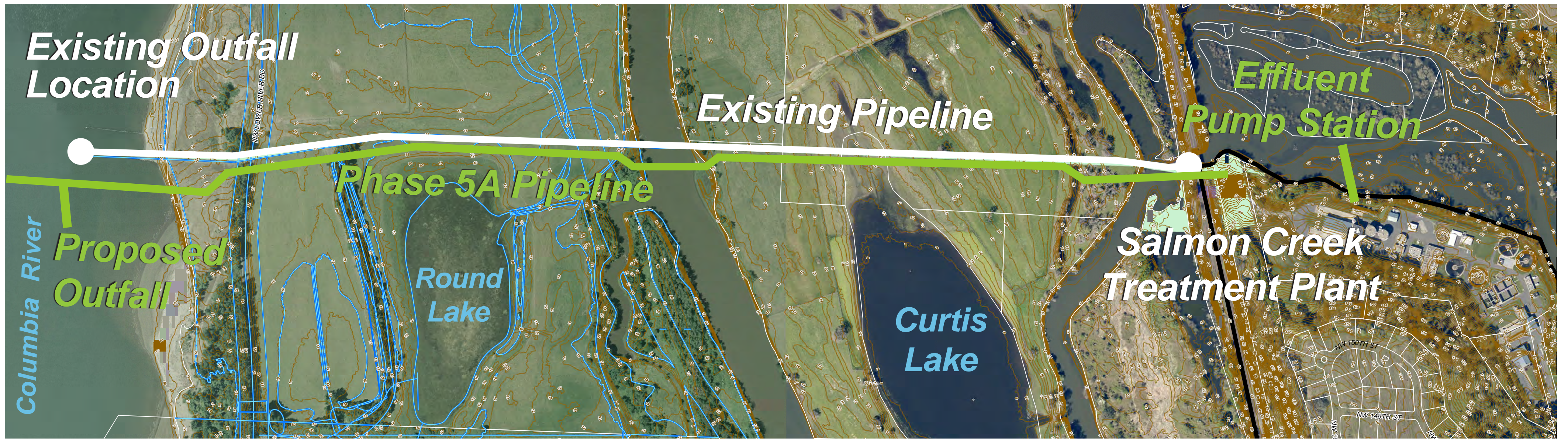
Columbia River Outfall and Effluent Pipeline Project

Welcome!



Overview

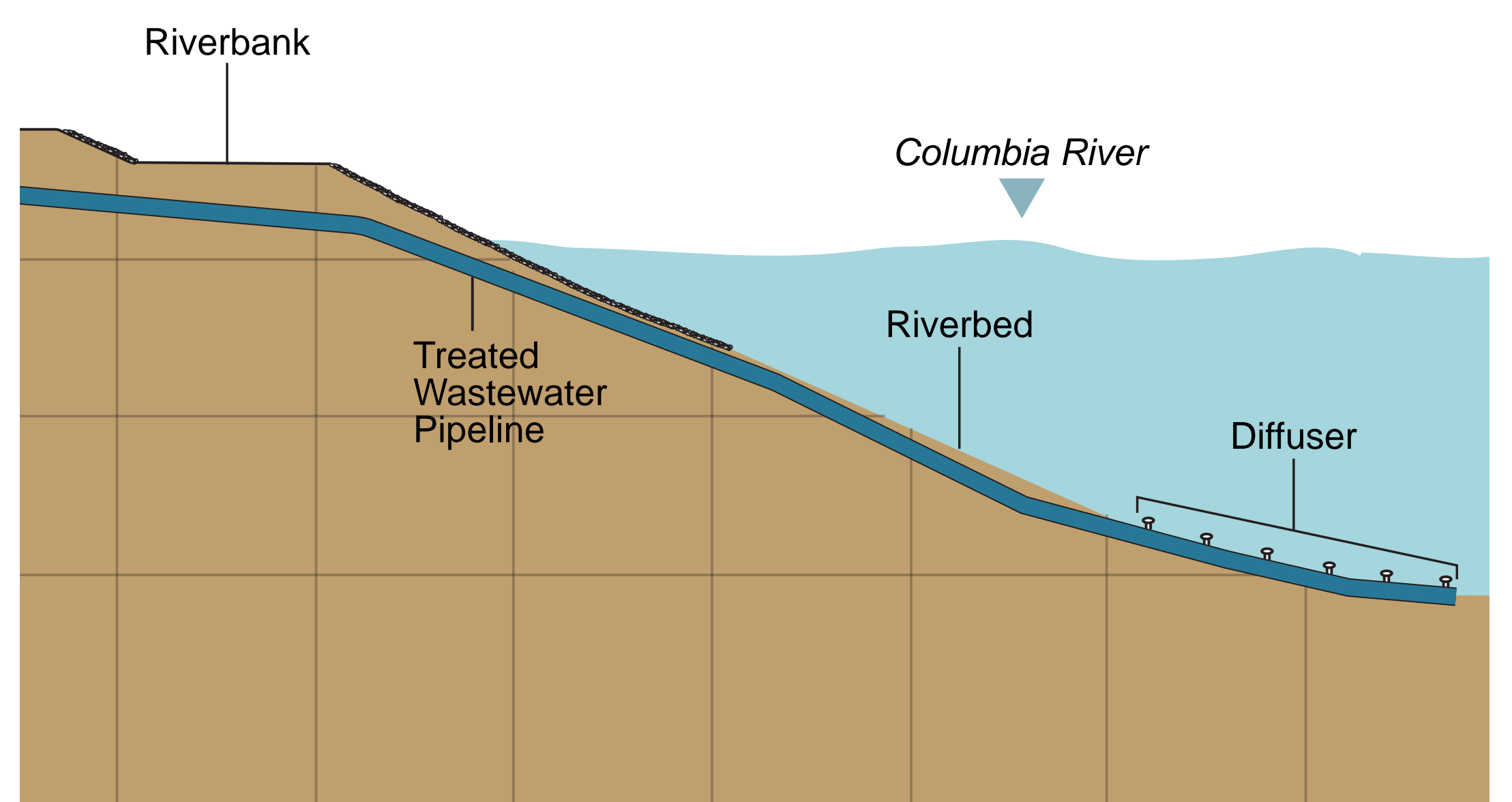
Through an existing 30-inch pipeline and diffuser, built in 1974, clean water, or effluent, is conveyed and discharged into the Columbia River. This project will build a new, 48-inch pipeline between the Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Columbia River, as well as an improved discharge assembly at the river.



Benefits

- ◇ Ensure continued reliable service at a stable, affordable rate by planning for the long term and coordinating with other projects.
- ◇ Support planned growth within the community.
- ◇ Ensure adequate mixing and dilution of treated wastewater discharged into the Columbia River.
- ◇ Manage shoreline stability at the discharge point.
- ◇ Enable future decommissioning of Ridgefield's aging wastewater treatment plant and outfall into Lake River.

Diffuser



An improved diffuser will ensure that discharge of treated water is mixed and diluted efficiently and will meet water quality standards.

Timeline

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Planning and Preliminary Design	█							
Permitting and Easements		█						
Final Design, Bidding and Construction						█		

Clark County Permitting

Nearly all the project area is within Shoreline environmental designations and the Agriculture/Wildlife zone, requiring Shorelines and Land Use conditional use permits from Clark County.

Permitting will address these critical areas:

- **Flood hazard areas:** Floodplain permit required.
- **Geologic hazard areas:** Subject to geologic hazards review.
- **Wetlands:** Wetland mitigation plan required.
- **Habitat conservation areas (HCA):** Subject to HCA review and use of best management practices (BMPs) for construction.

The project will not change land uses on site or nearby.



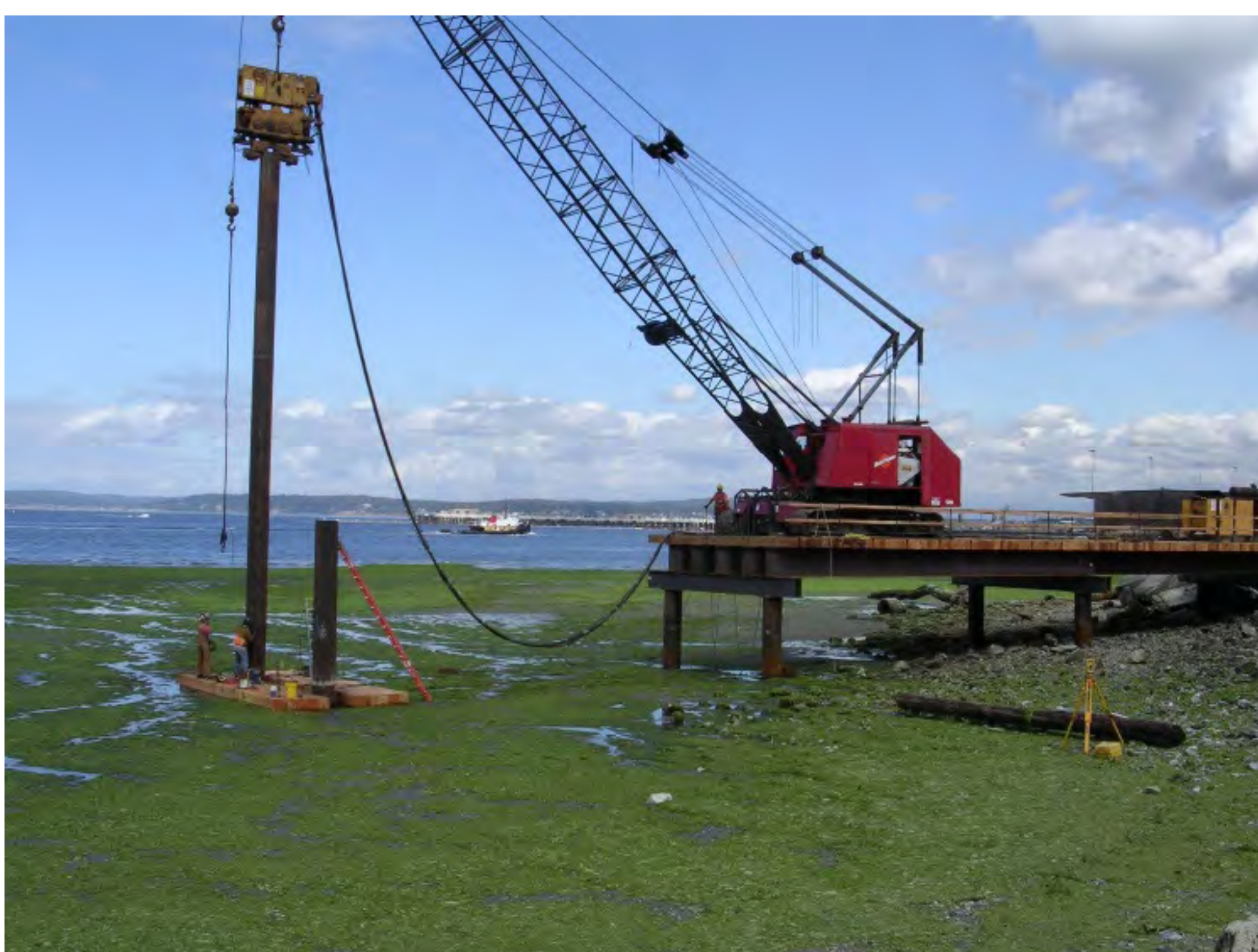
Construction Noise

This project requires noisy construction equipment*, including pile drivers and vehicles with beeping backup alarms (required by federal law). Here's how we'll keep noise under control.

Permitting will address these critical issues:

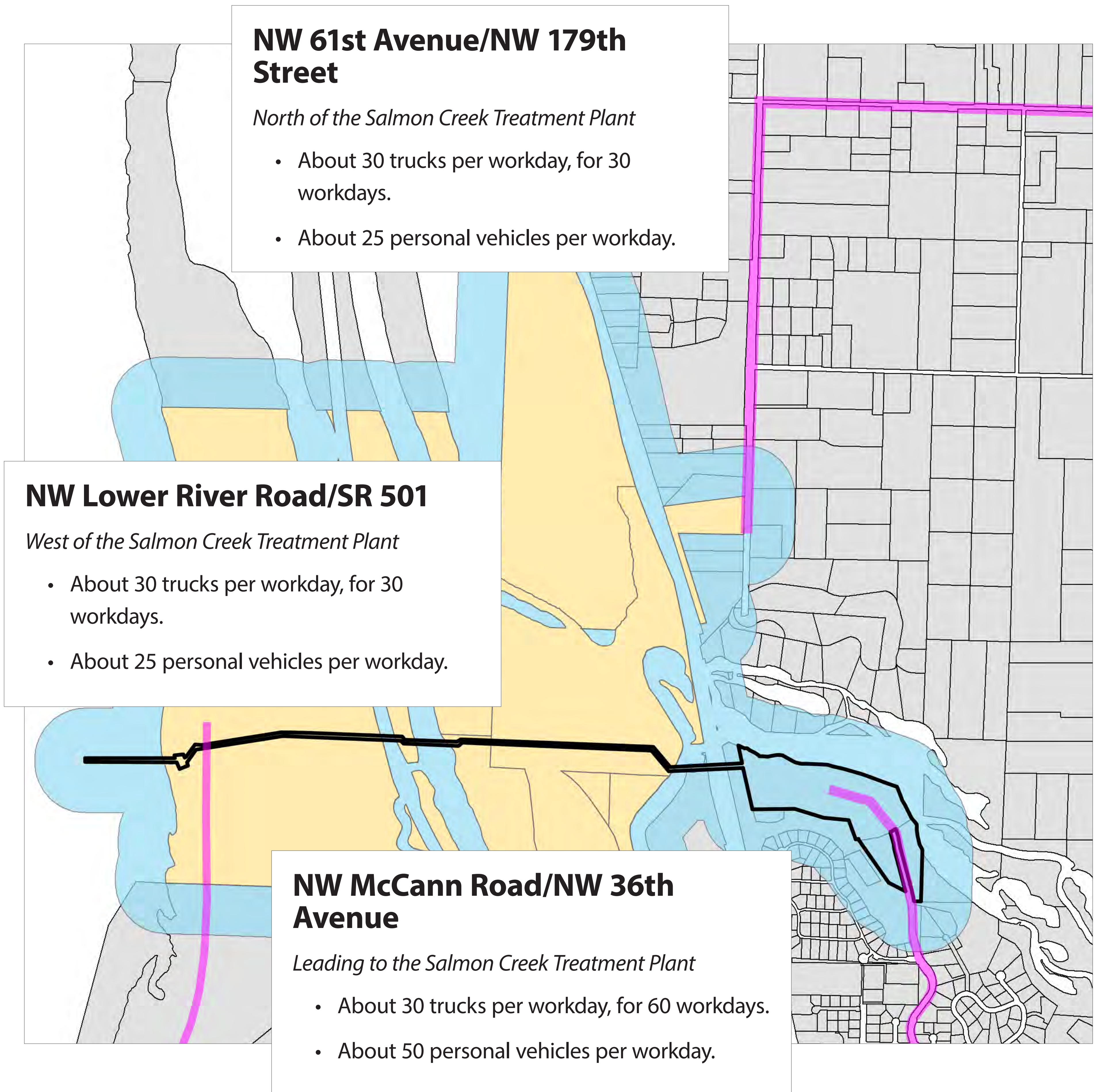
- No construction or pile driving near residences at night (8 p.m. to 6:30 a.m.), on Sundays, or holidays.
- Construction traffic will be limited to 25 mph, or as posted.
- Residents will be notified before periods of heavy construction traffic.

*Noises are likely to include a trackhoe, loader, bulldozer, water truck, concrete truck, auger-bore equipment, crane, vibratory and impact hammers for pile driving, dump trucks, trucks and trailers, pickups, flatbed, paver, roller, jackhammer, soil compactor, impact wrenches, acetylene torch, compressors, pumps, and construction barges.



Construction Traffic

Construction is expected to span 17 months off and on — but dump trucks, concrete trucks and tractor/trailers will come and go on about 60 of those workdays.



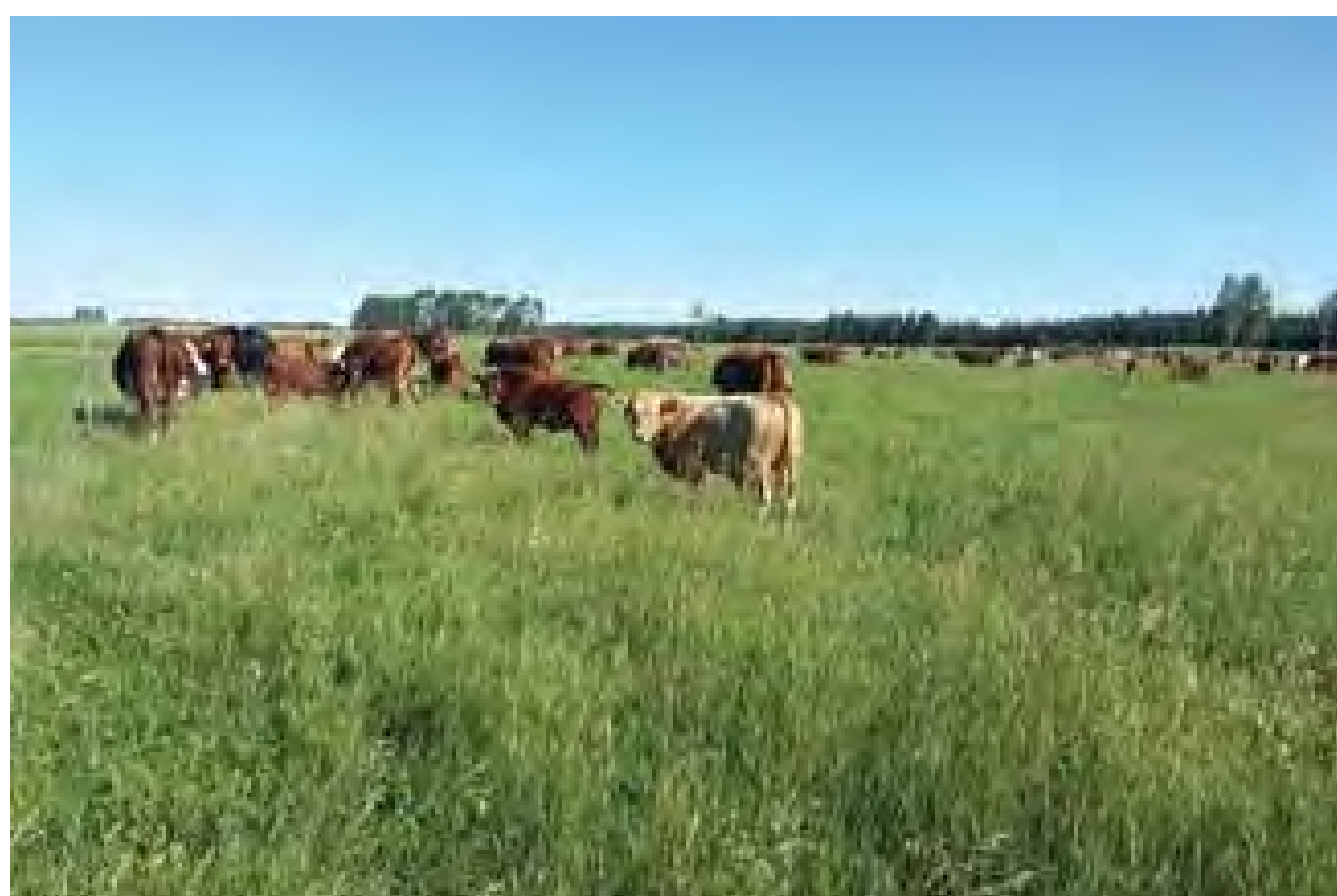
Trucks will carry gravel, haul-off material, concrete, pipe, miscellaneous equipment, and a small amount of asphalt and base course for road repair.



Restoring Land Afterward

- Open cuts will be returned to pre-construction contours.
- Topsoil will be saved when digging trenches, and replaced over filled trenches.
- Disturbed pasture soil will be seeded with appropriate forage grasses.
- Disturbed wetlands will be seeded with native plant species.
- Weeds will be controlled.
- Stream banks will be stabilized using bioengineering techniques.

The project will not raise the base flood elevation.



Appendix B – Presentation

Columbia River Outfall and Effluent Pipeline



Neighborhood Meeting:

Clark County Process for Type II-A Administrative Decisions (CCC 40.510.025)



March 20, 2019

Laying the foundation
for a **vibrant economy**
and **healthy environment**

Presentation Overview



Part 1 – Alliance Partnership

- Structure & Purpose / Regional Decision-Making

Part 2 – Project Overview

- Background & Context / Drivers

Part 3 – Project Definition

- Timeline / Design Concepts

Part 4 – Land Use and Shorelines

- Conditional Use Permits



Part 1 – Alliance Partnership



Alliance Partnership

STRUCTURE & PURPOSE

Four Alliance Members

- City of Battle Ground
- City of Ridgefield
- Clark County
- Clark Regional Wastewater District



Framework to jointly own and jointly manage regional wastewater assets



Alliance Partnership



STRUCTURE & PURPOSE

9 Regional Assets - \$132M assets transferred (2015)

- Regional gravity interceptors
- Regional pump stations/force mains
- Regional treatment plants



5

Alliance Partnership



REGIONAL DECISION-MAKING

Regional Board of Directors

- One elected official from each Member agency

Asset-based financial model


- Members pay for direct capacity purchase (capital) and actual flow utilization (operations)




Standing Committees

- Forum for Member agency staff input into process
 - MIC – Management & Infrastructure Committee
 - FAC – Finance Advisory Committee
 - OCC – Operations Coordination Committee

6



Part 2 – Project Overview



7

Project Overview

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Salmon Creek Wastewater Management System

- Four major expansion phases
 - Phase 1 - 1986-1989
 - Phase 2 - 1990-1994
 - Phase 3 - 1995-1999
 - Phase 4 - 2002-2009
- Columbia River Outfall – part of Phase 5



8

Project Overview

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Existing Effluent Pipeline, Outfall and Diffuser

- Original construction – 1974-76 (30-inch pipe)
- Multiple crossings: Railroad, WSDOT, Salmon Creek, Lake River
- Diffuser at Columbia River



Project Overview

FIVE CRITICAL DRIVERS

- 💧 Address **shoreline stability** at the discharge point.
- 💧 Ensure **adequate mixing** and dilution of treated wastewater discharged into the Columbia River.
- 💧 Provide reliable service at an affordable rate through **coordinated project planning**, especially with other planned improvements in the area.
- 💧 Provide **long-term capacity** to support planned growth within the community.
- 💧 Enable **future decommissioning** of the Ridgefield wastewater treatment plant and outfall into Lake River (after additional collection system projects are in place).

Project Overview

NEEDS FOR THE PROJECT

1. Prevent and control pollution of state waters.
2. Ensure viability of the SCTP.
3. Support the Alliance Member agencies.
4. Acknowledge the increasing demand for wastewater transmission.
5. Improve effluent mixing and dilution in the Columbia River.

PURPOSES OF THE PROJECT

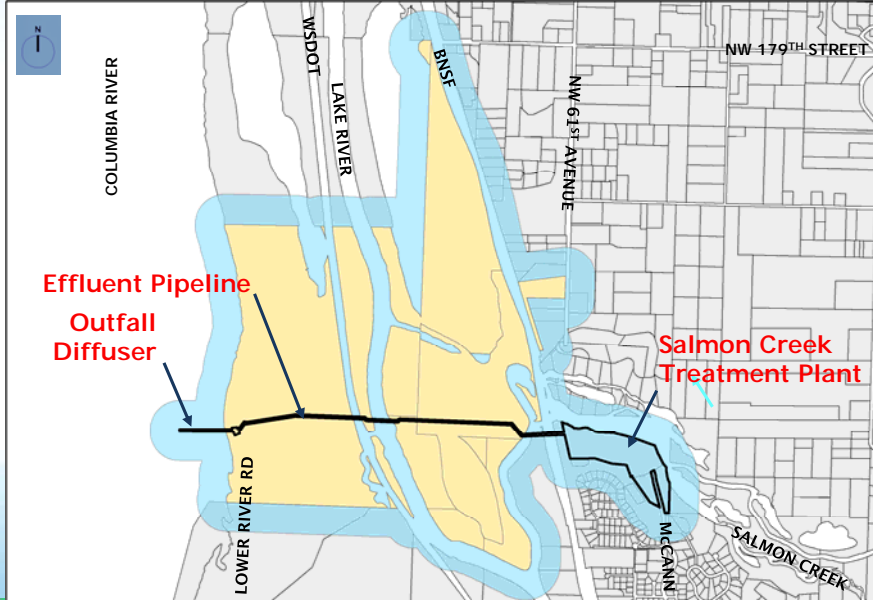
1. Replace existing effluent pipeline with a larger one to increase wastewater transmission capacity.
2. Install a replacement outfall diffuser to meet future water quality standards in the Columbia River.



Part 3 – Project Definition



Project Definition



Neighborhood

- Affected Tax Lots
- Nearby & Adjacent

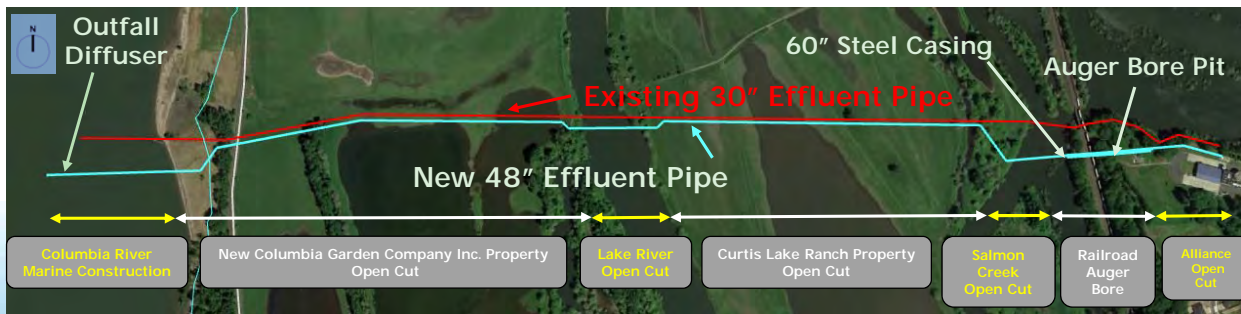
Project Definition

Effluent pipeline and outfall diffuser route



Columbia River

SCTP



Project Definition



Regulatory Permits and Approvals

Clark County

- o Shoreline Conditional Use Permit
- o Land Use Conditional Use Permit
- o Floodplain Permit
- o Grading Permit
- o Building Permit

State

- o State Environmental Policy Act
- o Water Quality Certification
- o Hydraulic Project Approval
- o DNR Aquatic Lands Lease
- o Ecology Engineering Construction
- o NPDES Construction Stormwater

Federal

- o National Environmental Policy Act
- o Clean Water Act
- o Rivers and Harbors Act
- o National Historic Preservation Act
- o Endangered Species Act
- o Marine Mammal Protection Act
- o Eagle Protection Act
- o Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- o USCG Aids to Navigation
- o USCG Bridge Permit

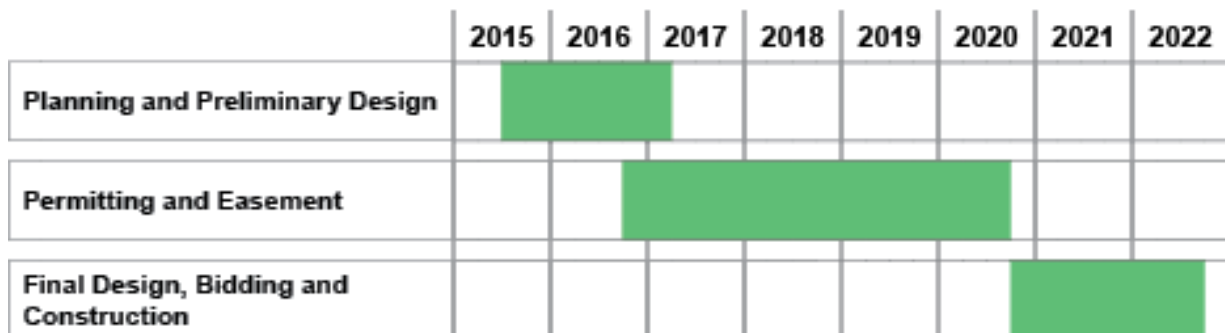
Other

- o Railroad Crossing
- o WSDOT Crossing

Project Definition



TIMELINE: 2015 - 2022



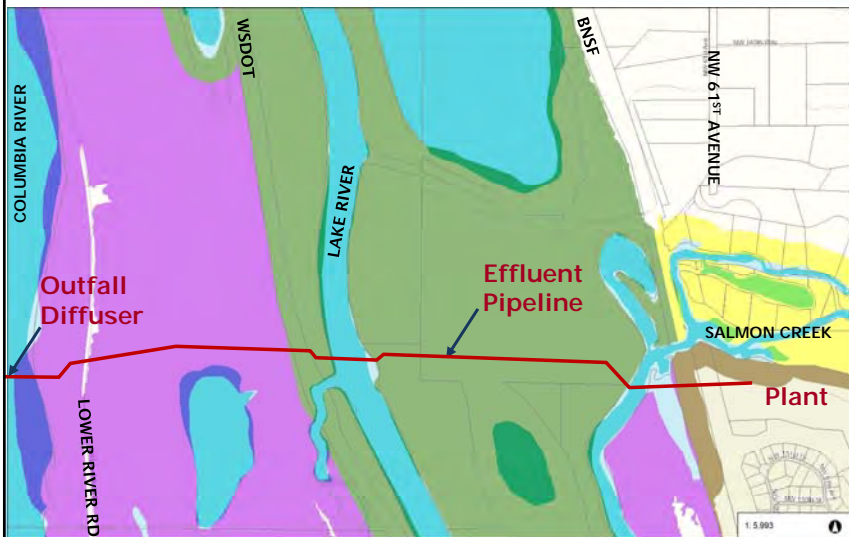


Part 4 – Land Use and Shorelines



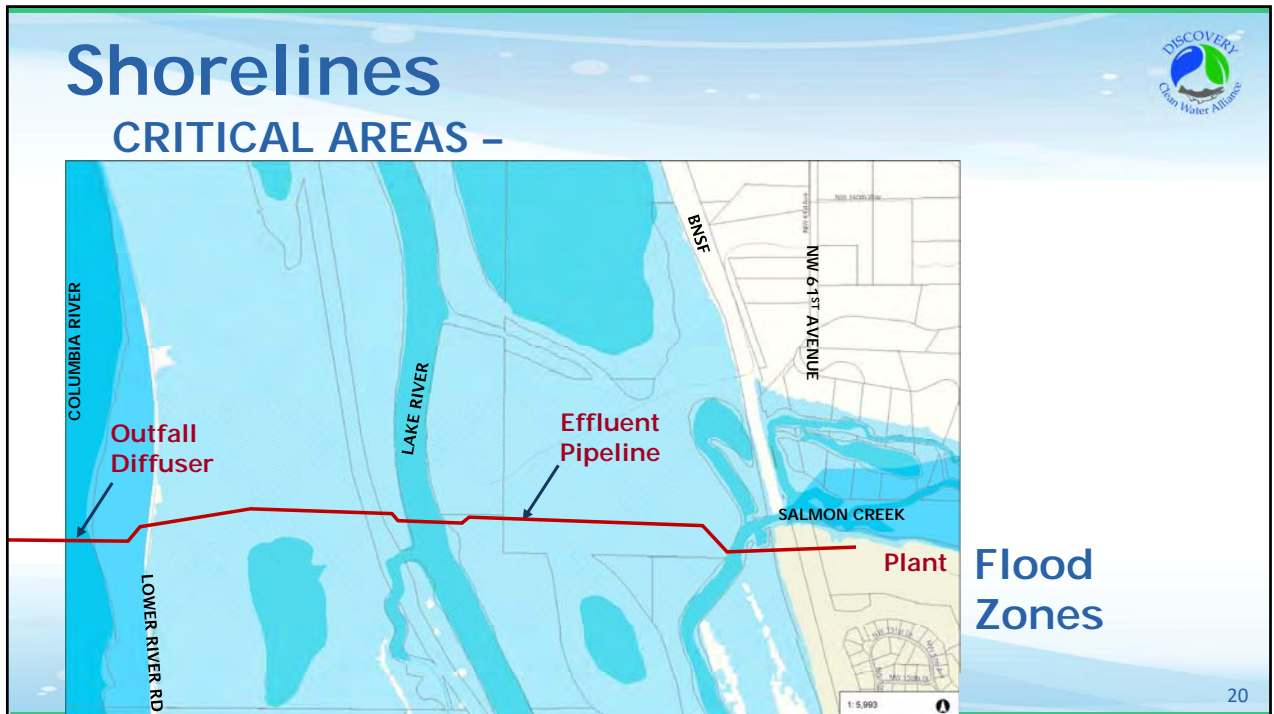
Shorelines

94% of the project site is within designated shoreline areas



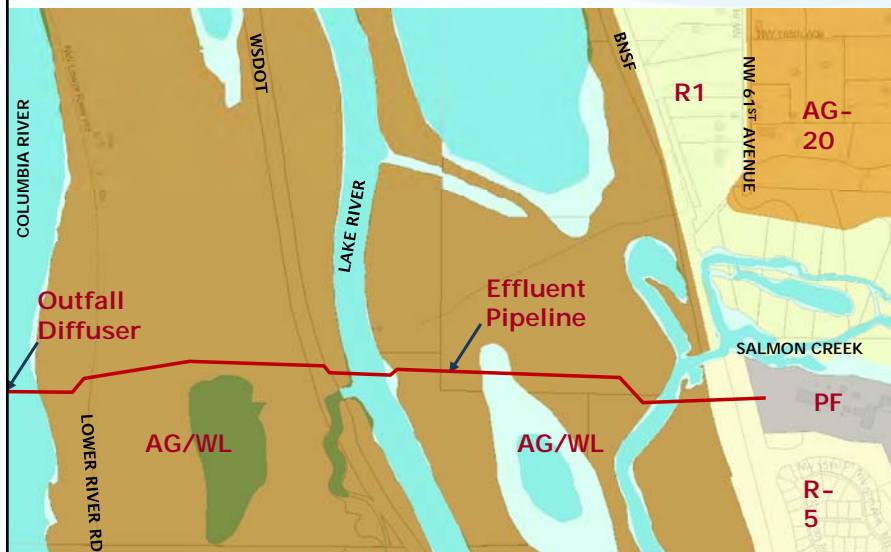
Shoreline Designations

- Aquatic
- Natural
- Urban Conservancy
- Rural Conservancy Residential
- Rural Conservancy Resource Land
- Aquatic/Natural
- Aquatic/Rural Conservancy Resource



Land Use

Conditional Use Permit required for utilities in the AG-WL zone



Zoning

- Agriculture-20 (AG-20)
- Agriculture/Wildlife (AG/WL)
- Single-Family residential
- Public facilities (PF, IP, UP)
- Rural-5 (R-5)

21

Construction Noise

What types of existing noises occur at the site?

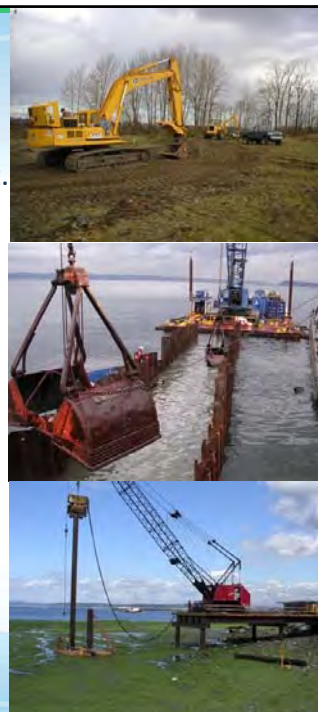
- Light traffic, service trucks, BNSF railroad, agricultural equipment.

What noises will the project generate during construction?

- Noise-generating construction equipment, including: auger-boring equipment, pile driving hammers, compressors, generators, and pumps.

How will noise be mitigated?

- Limited noise at night, on Sundays, or legal holidays.
- Traffic speed limited to 25 mph, or as posted.
- Notification in advance of heavy construction traffic periods.



Construction Traffic

Which public streets serve the site?

How much construction traffic will there be?

- NW 61st Avenue/NW 179th Street
 - About 30 trucks per workday, for 30 workdays.
 - About 25 personal vehicles per workday.
- NW Lower River Road/SR 501
 - About 30 trucks per workday, for 30 workdays.
 - About 25 personal vehicles per workday.
- NW McCann Road/NW 36th Avenue
 - About 30 trucks per workday, for 60 workdays.
 - About 50 personal vehicles per workday.

Mostly dump trucks, semi-truck/trailers, concrete trucks, street sweepers, and personal vehicles.



Land Restoration

How will temporary disturbances to agricultural land and natural areas be restored?

- Replace pre-construction contours.
- Save topsoil and reapply.
- Seed pasture and wetlands with forage grasses or native plant species.
- Control weeds.
- Stabilize streambanks using bioengineering.
- No net fill in base flood elevation.
- Maintain fish passage.



Land Use and Shorelines

SUMMARY OF EFFECTS –



How will the project affect current Shoreline Environment Designations of the site?

- Project requires a Conditional Use Permit for siting utilities within the Shorelines designations.
- Project will:
 - be compatible with other authorized uses,
 - not interfere with normal public use of shorelines,
 - not have significant adverse cumulative impacts.

Will the proposal affect current land uses in easements or on nearby properties?

- Pipeline will be buried (except for 5 manholes) without affecting existing on-site land uses.
- Construction will temporarily displace agricultural operations (i.e., Curtis Lake Ranch).
- Project will not change nearby or adjacent land uses.
- Project will maintain public recreation and navigation on Columbia River, Lake River, and Salmon Creek.

25



2019
Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant
Neighborhood Open House

June 4, 6–7:30 p.m.
15100 Northwest McCann Road
Vancouver, WA 98685

Join us to learn about your local wastewater treatment facility. Come, meet and get to know staff from Clark Regional Wastewater District and the County, and ask us questions about the facility operations and planned future improvements.

This is a great opportunity to learn about the treatment plant, get updates on improvement projects, and chat with County and District staff.

To RSVP for the event or ask questions, contact Adrienne DeDona at (360) 903-4792 or Adrienne@jla.us.com. For more information, visit www.discoverycwa.org/SCWWTP.htm



26

Appendix C – Sign-in Sheets


Sign-In Sheet

Wednesday, March 20

Name	Org/Affiliation	Email
Bob Rennells	Neighbor	[Redacted]
Bill Bauer	✓	[Redacted]
Helen Paris / Roger Crawford	Neighbor	[Redacted]
Bill Pippine	Neighbor	[Redacted]
Jim Meyer	—	[Redacted]
David Morgan	Wagon Valley	[Redacted]
Kenny	NEIGHBOR	[Redacted]

Sign-In Sheet

Wednesday, March 20

Name	Org/Affiliation	Email
PAUL & DESSIE SPEER	Home owners	
DR. MILADA ALLEN		
