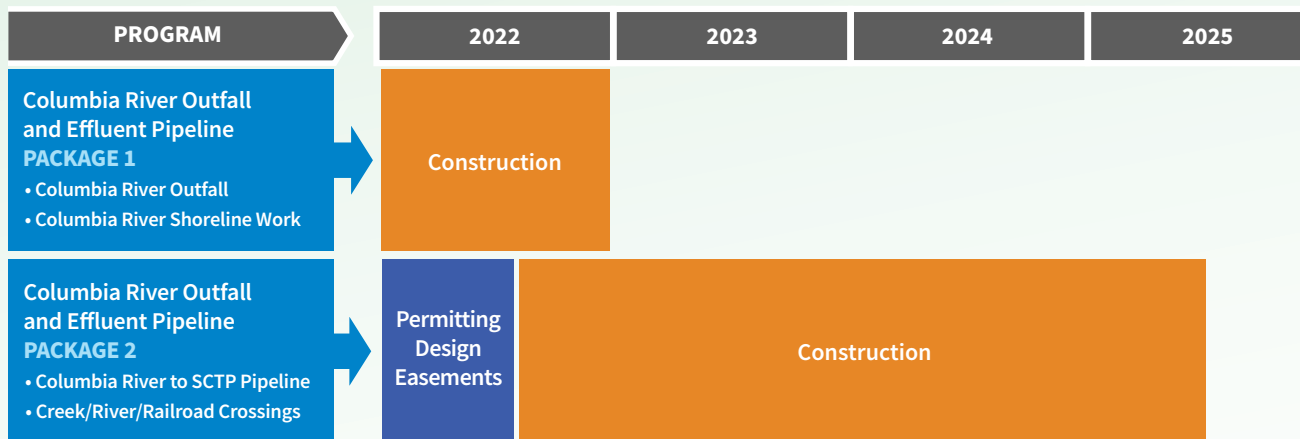


Construction is Underway

A new outfall diffuser was recently installed in the Columbia River as part of this project. Construction is underway to install a new effluent pipeline, carrying the treated wastewater from the treatment plant to the new outfall.

Project Schedule



Stay Up to Date

Throughout the project, interested community members can follow progress and provide feedback through the Alliance website, www.discoverycwa.org.

For More Information

Contact Robin Krause, P.E.
Principal Engineer at Clark Regional Wastewater District
(360) 719-1653 or rkrause@crwwd.com.

Columbia River Outfall and Effluent Pipeline Project

Fact Sheet – May 2023

This project builds on decades of planning to ensure we can meet the region’s long-term wastewater treatment needs and continue safeguarding public health, environmental quality and our community’s economic future. The project will upgrade the transmission pipeline system from the Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant to the Columbia River and improve water quality in the Columbia River.

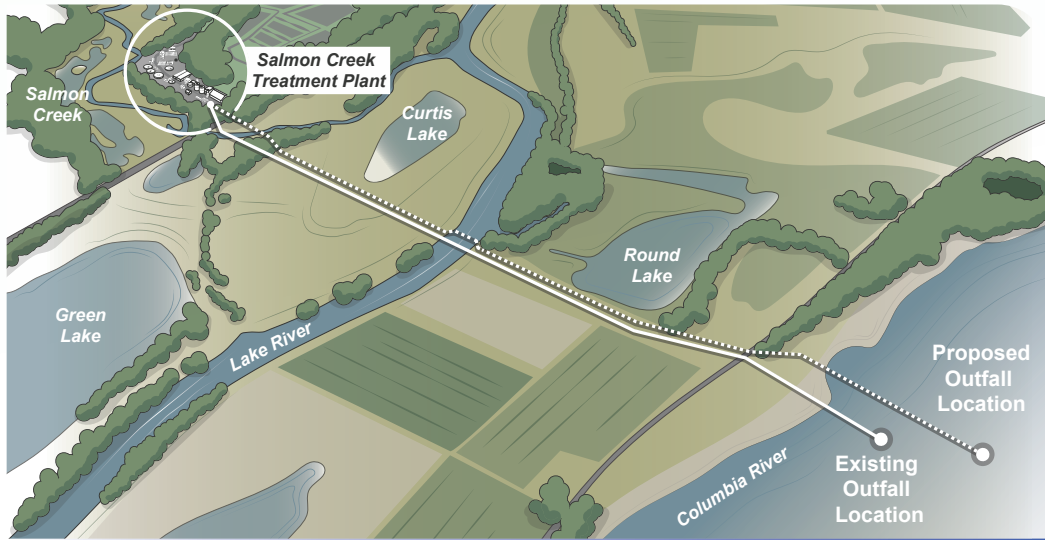
Project Overview

The Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant treats wastewater from approximately 120,000 Clark County residents. Treated water, or effluent, is conveyed and discharged into the Columbia River via a 30-inch pipeline and submerged diffuser (also called an outfall) that were built in 1974. The Columbia River Outfall and Effluent Pipeline project will plan, design and build a larger effluent pipeline and an improved outfall.

The new 48” diameter pipeline and new outfall diffuser are needed to replace the existing aging effluent pipeline and outfall, and for future increased plant capacity to support planned growth in the community. The new outfall diffuser will provide more effective discharging and mixing of the treated water into the Columbia River. The project will also reduce ongoing maintenance at the discharge location and allow future decommissioning of Ridgefield’s aging wastewater treatment plant.

About the Alliance

The Discovery Clean Water Alliance is a regional partnership made up of Clark County, Clark Regional Wastewater District, and the Cities of Battle Ground and Ridgefield. It was formed in 2013 to improve sewer service delivery to the partners’ customer bases by leveraging existing resources, controlling future capital costs, and stabilizing rates. The Alliance brings operation and expansion of treatment/transmission services under joint ownership, allowing for shared decision-making between the partners and better long-term regional planning. For more information about the Alliance, visit the website at: www.discoverycwa.org



The project will build a pipeline between the Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Columbia River, as well as an improved outfall at the river.

Visit us online at www.discoverycwa.org



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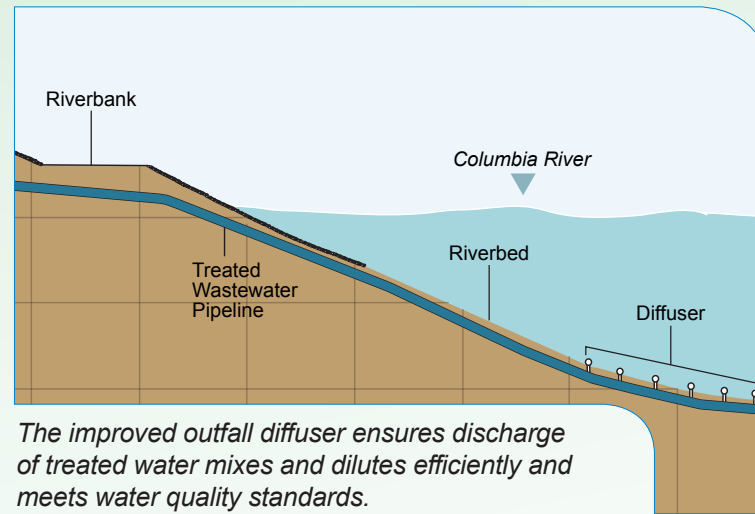


Project Design and Pipeline Route

The first task of this project was to determine the preliminary design and preferred route for the new conveyance pipeline. This step in the process has been in discussion for over a decade and is now complete. All necessary permits and easements have been obtained. The route of the replacement pipeline is parallel to the existing effluent pipeline and construction of the pipeline is now underway.

Improved Outfall Diffuser for Water Quality

As part of our goal of fostering a healthy environment, an improved river discharge assembly, called an outfall diffuser, was built at the end of the new effluent transmission pipeline. The outfall diffuser improves Columbia River water quality by better diluting and mixing discharges of treated water. Since the Department of Ecology (Ecology) monitors and regulates the health of the Columbia River, we worked closely with Ecology to determine the best location and design for the outfall (discharge location). The mixing zone meets stringent standards set by Ecology to ensure clean water for swimming, boating, fishing, and aquatic resources.



The improved outfall diffuser ensures discharge of treated water mixes and dilutes efficiently and meets water quality standards.

Aligning Planning Considerations with Community Values

Special care is being taken to make sure that construction and operation of the new effluent pipeline and outfall will be environmentally sound, cost-effective, fiscally responsible, and address neighbor and ratepayer concerns. As we work through the local, state, and federal permitting processes, we are collaborating with a variety of stakeholders to ensure responsible conservation and stewardship of the environmental and social resources that we treasure. Any landscape disturbances made during construction will be fully restored and we will work to minimize disruptions to commercial and recreational interests. Once built, the new pipeline will require minimal energy and maintenance to operate. The existing pipeline will be retained to facilitate continuous treatment plant operation during the transition and allow for routine maintenance.



An example of an improved outfall diffuser.

Project Benefits

The project will:

- Ensure continued reliable service at a stable, affordable rate by planning for the long term and avoiding the increased cost of isolated improvements, while coordinating with other planned projects in the area.
- 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 (after additional projects are in place).

Funding

Every two years, the Alliance updates and adopts a comprehensive Capital Plan that provides for infrastructure needs and outlines the funding requirements for each project. Planning and design costs for the Columbia River Outfall and Effluent Pipeline Project are covered in the Capital Plan.

In total, the project is anticipated to cost approximately \$39 million. Those costs are allocated to the two funding members of the Alliance partnership – the City of Battle Ground and the Clark Regional Wastewater District. The City and the District have included the project costs in long range financial planning efforts to ensure affordability of rates and charges.

Planning for the Future

It's important to plan for the future. Our personal health, the community's economic health, and the health of our rivers and environment depend in large part on treating the wastewater we all generate so that it can be returned safely to the environment. As our community grows, we continue to make investments to ensure our system adequately meets our needs.

The Columbia River Outfall and Effluent Pipeline Project is part of the Phase 5 expansion program, a planned future investment which will build on four previous expansions over the past 40 years. The Phase 5 expansion will take place over several years and will be performed as four separate and independent projects.

In addition to this project, Phase 5 also includes the odor control and secondary treatment improvements at the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant to increase the plant's capacity from the current 15 million gallons per day to approximately 17.5 million gallons per day. An odor containment and treatment system was recently completed to serve the Preliminary and Primary Treatment Facilities at the plant. You can read more about these projects at www.discoverycwa.org.

Staying ahead of the reliability and resiliency needs is vitally important. By proactively planning now, the Alliance ensures that ample wastewater treatment facilities will be in place to continue to provide reliable service at an affordable rate well into our future.



Reliable, expandable sewer service is essential to our economy and the health of our communities and environment.

