



Discovery Clean  
Water Alliance



# DISCOVERY CLEAN WATER ALLIANCE

## SALMON CREEK TREATMENT PLANT 2025 ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY

Prepared for:

Discovery Clean Water Alliance

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## INTRODUCTION

Since 2017, the Discovery Clean Water Alliance has hosted an annual open house at the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant. These events allow staff to share information with neighbors about the plant's role in managing the region's wastewater, provide updates on construction activities and solicit feedback on various topics.

The plant is owned by the Discovery Clean Water Alliance, a partnership formed in 2013 between Clark County, Clark Regional Wastewater District, and the cities of Battle Ground and Ridgefield.

This year, staff shared progress updates on the Columbia River Outfall and Effluent Pipeline project and the Secondary Treatment Process Improvements. The event also featured information about the General Sewer Plan and asked participants to share their thoughts on Alliance priorities.



This year's open house was held from 6-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 3 at the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant. An online open house was available June 3-July 2. [The online open house](#) is still available for public viewing, though closed for comments.

## PROMOTION

Community members were informed about the open house via:

- A banner on the Alliance website
- Postcards sent to homes near the plant
- Announcement in the quarterly e-newsletter
- Two standalone email invitations sent to the e-newsletter list

All promotion included information about both the in-person event and online open house.

## PARTICIPATION

More than 20 people attended the in-person open house, the same as last year. Participants did not leave any written comments.

Nine people completed the survey, the same as last year. Between the two events, 19 people signed up for email updates.

Those who visited each station in the online open house or attended the in-person event were provided with a gift of their choice.

## FEEDBACK SUMMARY

### IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE

Open house participants had the opportunity to visit information stations and take a tour of the treatment plant. The display boards presented at each information station, including pictures of the completed dot exercises, are shown in [Appendix A](#).

Two tours were led by staff during the open house. Nearly all participants went on a tour. Participants did not leave any written comments; however, they were able to speak directly to staff and ask questions. The majority had general questions about plant operations, ongoing and completed construction projects and biosolids.

There were three interactive boards for attendees:

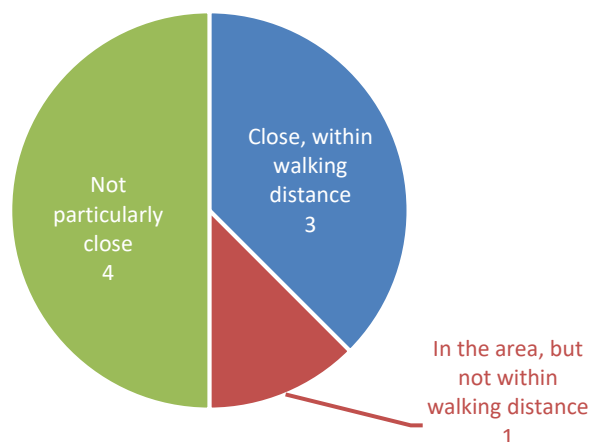
#### 1. Where do you live?

*Put a pin in the map!*

Eight people participated in this activity. Three indicated that they lived within walking distance of the plant and five indicated they lived farther away.

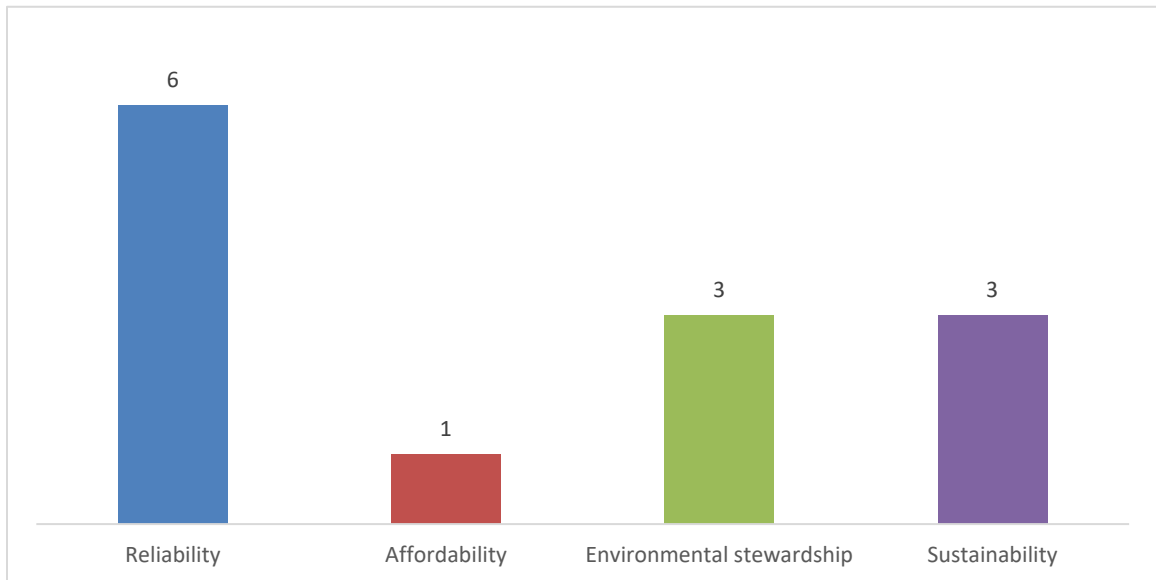


*Operations Manager Matt Jenkins takes a group on a tour of the plant.*



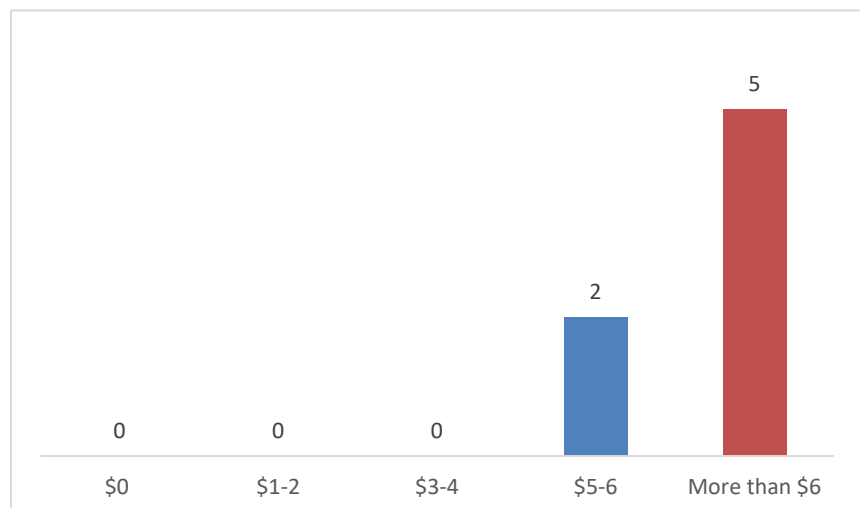
**2. Share your thoughts** *Tell us what you think the Alliance should prioritize in the coming years by placing a dot under what you think is most important.*

Each participant was given two dots to place under their desired priority. Of the 13 dots placed on the board, nearly half were under reliability. Three each were placed under environmental stewardship and sustainability, with affordability only receiving one dot.



**3. Share your thoughts** *The Alliance is committed to environmental stewardship. However, doing more than is required by law would mean higher sewer rates for you. How do you think the Alliance should approach wastewater treatment? Place your dot below the line in the spot that most closely reflects your views. [The chart consisted of five sections, with the left-most section labeled “\$0—Meet current environmental requirements at the lowest possible cost” “More than \$6—Invest in better environmental outcomes at higher rates to customers.”]*

Seven people participated in this activity, and all placed their dots toward the high end of the chart, indicating they supported higher rates in service of environmental stewardship.



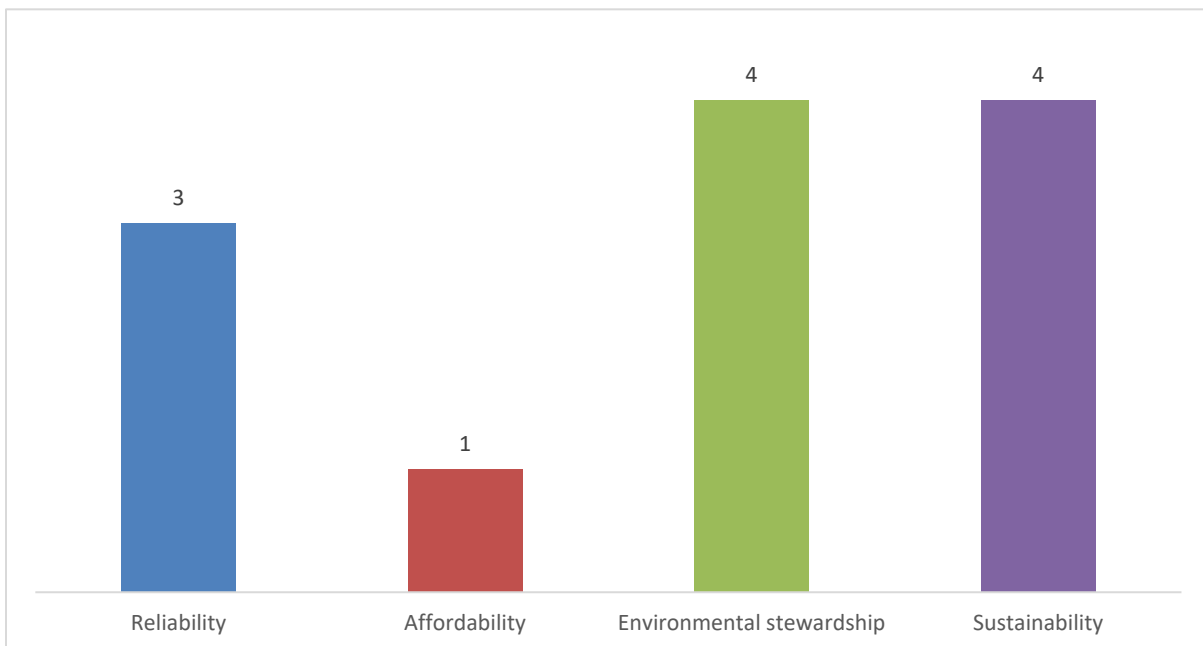
## ONLINE OPEN HOUSE

The online open house was available June 3-July 2 and was linked from the Alliance website. The survey was hosted on Jotform, a departure from previous years. The information reflected the content shared during the in-person open house, with text and pictures optimized for online viewing. Participants were given the opportunity to ask questions about the treatment plant and share topics about which they would want more information.

The online open house received nine responses, only five of which answered all the questions. Responses are summarized below. See [Appendix B](#) for the full text of comments.

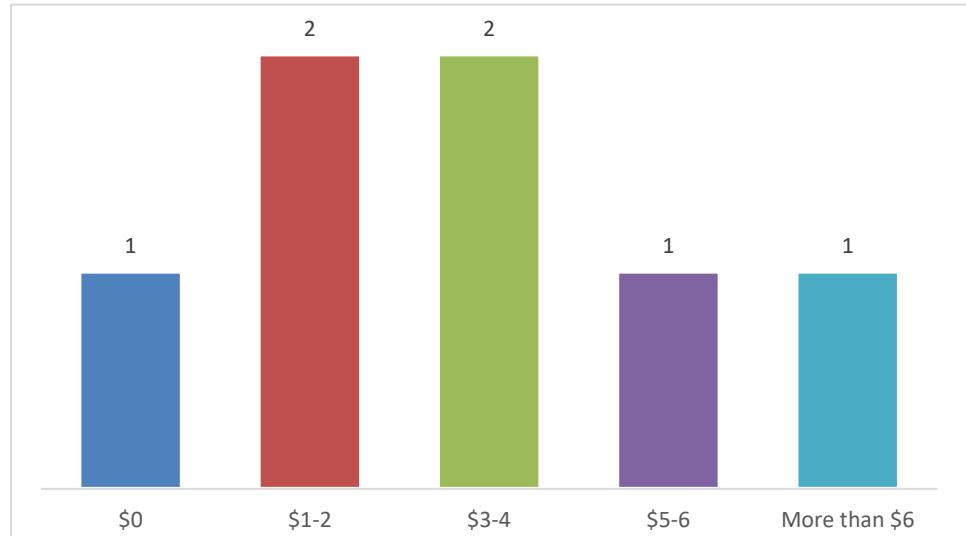
**1. What should the Alliance prioritize in the coming years? Please select the two options you think are most important.**

Of the nine people who participated in the online open house, six provided a response to this question (with each person allotted two votes). Environmental stewardship and sustainability each received four votes, while reliability received three votes and affordability received one.



2. The Alliance is committed to environmental stewardship. However, going above and beyond regulatory requirements/compliance standards could mean doing more than is required by law would mean higher sewer rates for you. How much more per month are you willing to pay to improve environmental outcomes?

Seven participants responded to this question. Most respondents were willing to pay either \$1-2 or \$3-4 additional per month to improve environmental outcomes.



3. What questions or comments do you have about the treatment plant? What do you want more information about?

Three people offered praise for the Alliance’s work, with appreciation for the prioritization of innovative technology to ensure wastewater safety. One person asked for more information about environmental stewardship as it pertains to river health and water quality. We did not receive any substantive questions for staff.

4. Where do you live relative to the treatment plant?

Almost half of the participants said they live **“Close, within walking distance” (44%)**. Only one person responded that they do not live particularly close to the treatment plant.



## NEXT STEPS

Overall, participants were appreciative of the opportunity to talk with staff and learn more about the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant. We recommend the Alliance continue to host an annual open house and online open house in the future. JLA will continue to work with staff to send quarterly email updates to neighbors to provide project updates and other relevant news. Staff could consider including more information about environmental stewardship in future outreach.

## APPENDIX A: DISPLAY BOARDS

Below are the display boards presented at the open house.



# Welcome to the Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant

Learn about plant operations and share your thoughts on future priorities

- » View information displays
- » Visit with staff
- » Tour the facility



**Thanks for attending!**  
Visit all stations to receive a thank you gift.



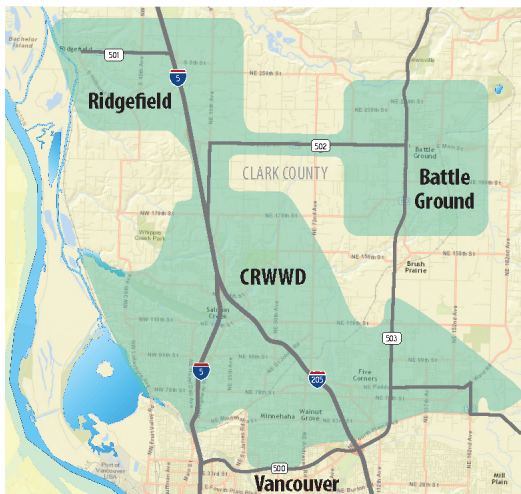
## Discovery Clean Water Alliance

The Alliance is a regional partnership created to improve sewer service delivery through joint ownership and management of regional wastewater assets. The Alliance was formed in 2013 to jointly manage wastewater infrastructure critical to the region's economic and environmental health.



### Members

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

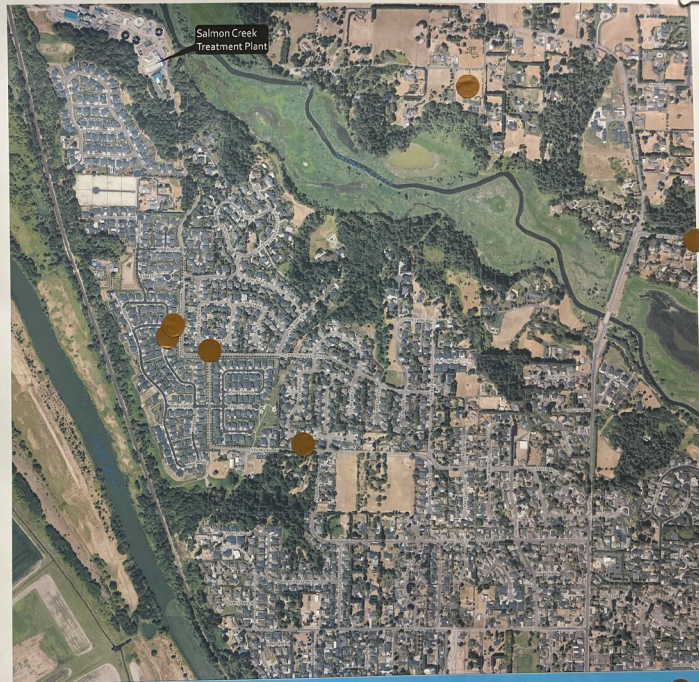


### Service Area Assets

- Gravity interceptors
- Pump stations
- Force mains
- Treatment plants

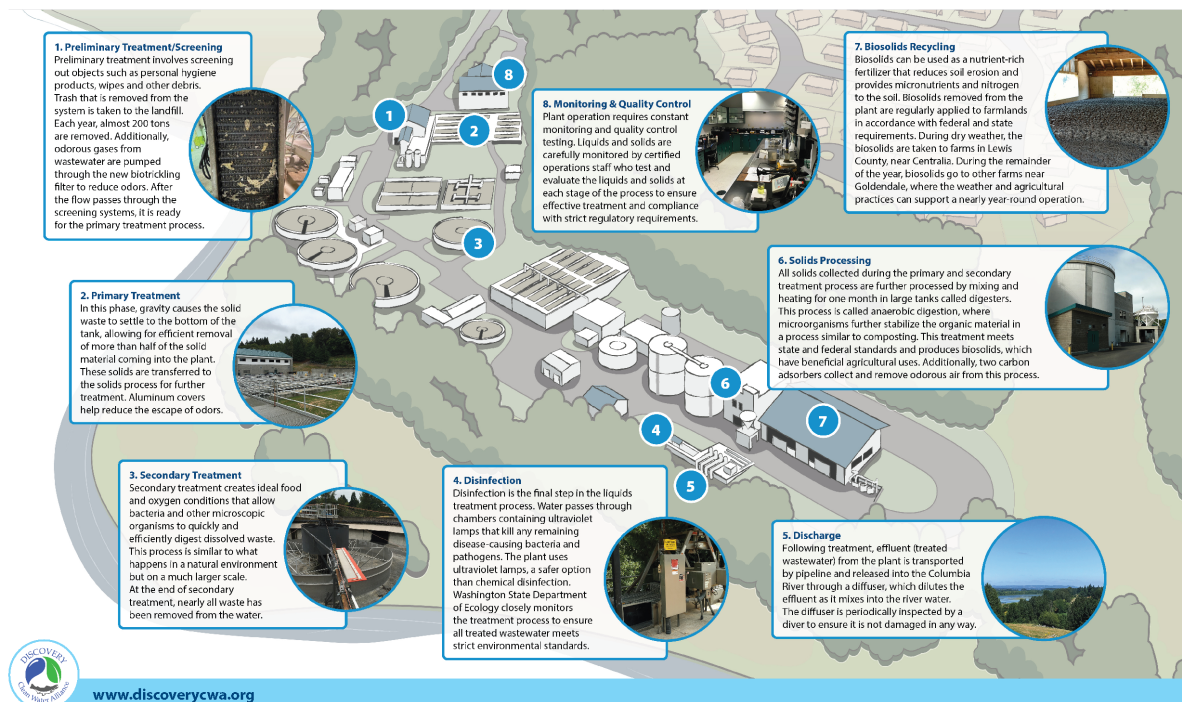
## Where Do You Live?

Put a pin in the map!



www.discoverycwa.org

## What Happens at the Treatment Plant



# Discovery Clean Water Alliance

## Salmon Creek Treatment Plant (SCTP) Phase 5 Program Delivery Timeline

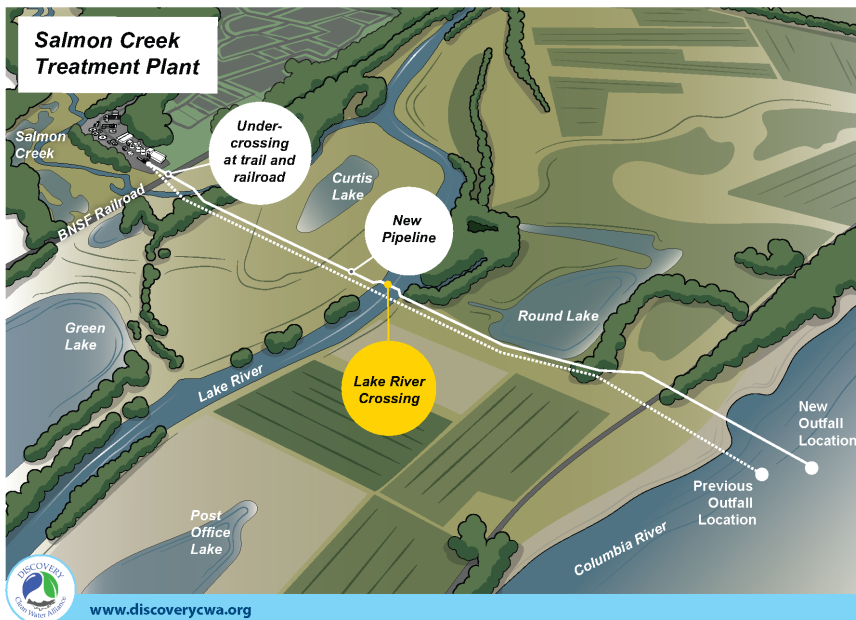
| PROGRAM                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 2022                        | 2023                    | 2024 | ★ 2025                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div>Columbia River Outfall and Effluent Pipeline PACKAGE 1</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Columbia River Outfall</li><li>• Columbia River Shoreline Work</li></ul></div>           | Construction (complete)     |                         |      | All Phase 5 work is complete. Thank you for your patience and understanding. |
| <div>Columbia River Outfall and Effluent Pipeline PACKAGE 2</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Columbia River to SCTP Pipeline</li><li>• Creek/River/Railroad Crossings</li></ul></div> | Permitting Design Easements | Construction (complete) |      |                                                                              |
| <div>SCTP Improvements PACKAGE 2</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Secondary Treatment Process Improvements</li><li>• Site Security</li></ul></div>                                    | Permitting Design           | Construction (complete) |      |                                                                              |



[www.discoverycwa.org](http://www.discoverycwa.org)

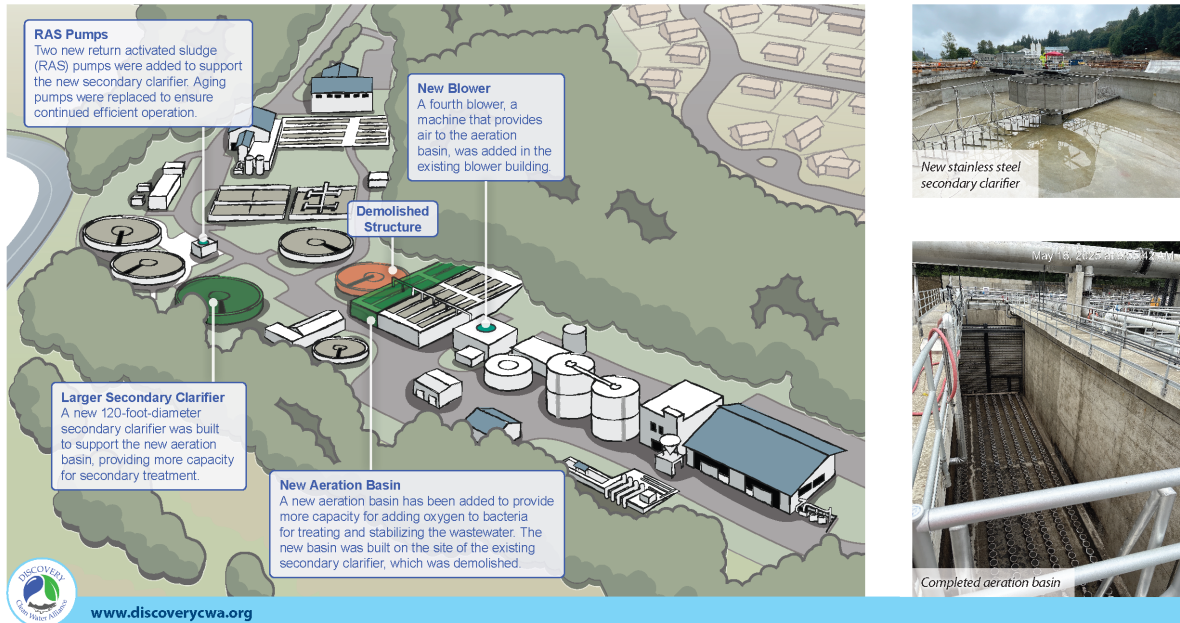
## Columbia River Outfall and Effluent Pipeline

We completed the construction and installation of a new effluent pipeline, which carries wastewater from the treatment plant to the new outfall in the Columbia River.



## Secondary Treatment Process Improvements

This project included several updates to the treatment plant to increase its capacity to serve the growing region. This work is now complete.



## The Alliance is updating its General Sewer Plan

This plan will guide sewer system decision-making over the next twenty years, providing a road map for expansion of the wastewater system and ensuring reliable service as our region grows. It will also help us better understand and plan for future capital improvements and restoration and replacement needs.

### Planning Guidance

The plan will be informed by recent growth projections, technical data and policy decisions, as well as community values. We recently sent out a survey to better understand community values as they relate to managing our sewer system, but we also want to hear from you.





# Protect your health and the environment

Simple changes you can make around the house.

Each of us plays an important role in keeping our waterways healthy. From the products we purchase to how we dispose of them, our choices impact what ends up in our water.

Below are some actions you can take to help keep our water healthy and safe.

## In the Bathroom

- Only flush toilet paper, everything else goes in the trash.
- Don't flush prescription drugs or other medications.

### WHEN SHOPPING:

- Choose products with the EWG VERIFIED™ mark.
- Avoid products with plastic micro-beads, synthetic fragrances, parabens, or phthalates.



## In the Garden

- Use pesticides carefully and as a last resort.
- If you must, spot-spray on pests; don't spray pesticides over large areas.
- Dispose of pesticides at your local household hazardous waste facility.
- Scoop, bag, and trash pet waste.

### WHEN SHOPPING:

- Choose neem tree oil as a natural pesticide.

## In the kitchen

- Put fats, oils, grease, and grit in the trash—not down the sink.
- Cook at lower temperatures if using older non-stick pans.

### WHEN SHOPPING:

- Look for products with the EPA Safer Choice label.
- Choose stainless steel, cast-iron, or cookware with a ceramic coating.
- Avoid products with "PTFE" or "FLOURO."



For more information, contact:

**Kristen Thomas** Regulatory Compliance Manager  
Clark Regional Wastewater District  
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To learn more, enter or scan:  
[crwwd.com/pollution-prevention](http://crwwd.com/pollution-prevention)



## APPENDIX B: OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

Below are the unedited, unabridged comments that participants submitted in the online open house.

### **What questions or comments do you have about the treatment plant? What do you want more information about?**

1. What does a Portlander need to do to get one of these Salmon plushes? I need one in my life. Please :)
2. More ways we can protect the waters and be sustainable
3. Thank you for ensuring the quality of our water as well as protecting our environment. Using technology and innovation are vital for the coming decades. Your work and dedication is appreciated and valued!
4. Happy to live in a place where there is concern for the safety of the wastewater and what a great job that you're doing
5. Thank you for the work that is being done at the treatment plant.