

SOLVING OUR REGIONAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT CHALLENGE: SOLIDS-HANDLING CAPACITY

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Protecting public health and the environment at the most economical cost

Clackamas County Water Environment Services (WES) serves the Tri-City Service District (TCSD) and Clackamas County Service District No. 1 (CCSD#1) by providing high-quality wastewater treatment services to 150,000 homes and businesses.

CCSD#1 provides services to unincorporated areas of North Clackamas County, the cities of Happy Valley and Milwaukie, the western edges of Damascus, and the communities of Boring, Fischer's Forest Park, and the Hoodland area. CCSD#1's wastewater is treated at multiple facilities including Boring, Fischer's Forest Park, Hoodland, the Kellogg facility in Milwaukie, and the Tri-City facility in Oregon City.

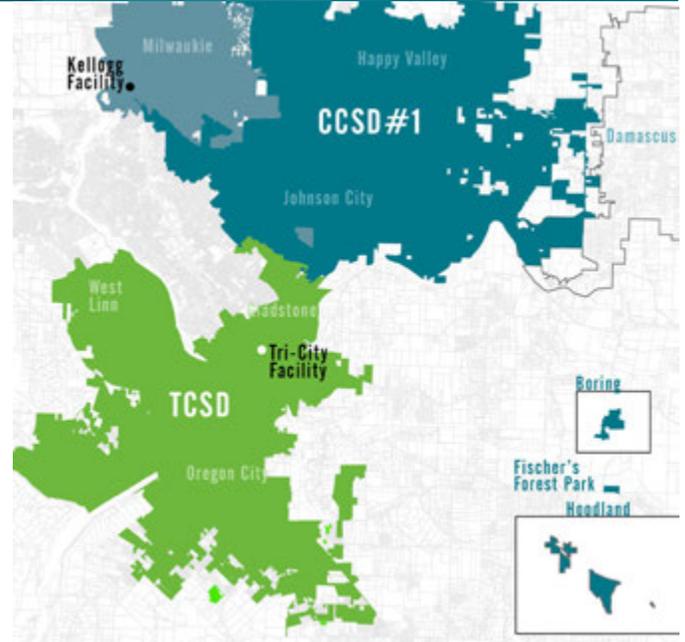
TCSD provides wastewater treatment services at the Tri-City facility in Oregon City for the cities of Gladstone, Oregon City and West Linn, each of which are responsible for their own collection systems as well as billing customers for services. In addition to the treatment rate charged by the district, each of the cities charges their own additional fees for their local collection systems.

More capacity is needed to process solids

After 30 years of excellent service—now serving a population that has more than doubled—the Tri-City plant has exceeded its capacity to handle solids. This



Pictured above is a WES operations staff member educating young residents about the treatment process. A digester is a closed container where bacteria decompose solids, which are byproducts of sewage from homes and businesses. Solids handling is a critical step in the wastewater treatment process.



The districts use physical, biological and chemical treatment to clean more than 15 million gallons of wastewater from houses and businesses each day. Following the treatment process, cleaned water is released from district facilities into the Willamette and Sandy rivers. Maintaining a wastewater treatment system that is reliable and highly functioning is essential for protecting public health, keeping rivers healthy, and allowing the economy to thrive.

faster-than-expected growth combined with aging equipment has put a significant strain on our shared wastewater treatment system.

Our digesters, which play an important role in the solids handling process, are at a high risk of failure. If the system fails before capacity is added, public and environmental health would be at risk.

The most cost-effective solution to the problem is an equitable co-investment by both districts to build additional solids handling capacity at the Tri-City facility for the districts to share.

Treating wastewater is a regional effort

Although the districts were formed as separate entities, they've worked together over the years to provide the best service possible while saving ratepayers money. The districts have a history of partnering to pay for significant facility improvements and the costs associated with meeting stringent water quality regulations. This collaboration has saved millions of dollars for each district and their customers.

Advisory committees guide policy and investment decisions

CCSD#1 and TCSD are governed by the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners (BCC). As the governing body for both districts, the BCC sets policies that are carried out by WES.

Each district has an appointed advisory committee composed of local representatives, which provides valuable input and recommendations on policy and budget issues to the BCC.

In addition to district-specific committees, the Regional Wastewater Treatment Capacity Advisory Committee is a coalition of regional partners represented by the cities of Damascus, Gladstone, Happy Valley, Milwaukie, Oregon City, West Linn, and portions of unincorporated Clackamas County. The BCC has asked these jurisdictions to work together to develop a timely solution for the shortage of solids handling capacity. This will ensure dependable, high-quality, cost-effective wastewater treatment services to both districts' residents and businesses.

All advisory committee meetings are open to the public. Meeting materials and video recordings are posted online at clackamas.us/wes

WATER IS VALUABLE We *treat* it that way



The Tri-City facility, serving the Tri-City Service District and Clackamas County Service District No. 1, is a model of social, economic and environmental sustainability. It recycles energy, reuses water, and produces some of the cleanest treated water in the country.

Water is our most valuable natural resource. We treat it that way.

clackamas.us/wes

Stay Involved and Learn More

- Visit clackamas.us/wes
- Attend an advisory committee meeting or watch a video recording online
- Request a presentation
- Sign-up to receive emails about important WES updates from the County. At the bottom of the County homepage click on "Get Email Updates" and enter your email to sign up for WES notices
- Sign up for the monthly eNewsletter that includes WES news

