

**REPORT TO CORE AREA LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2025**

SUBJECT **Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee 2025 Mid-Year Capital Projects and Operations Update**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To provide a mid-year update on the Core Area Wastewater System capital program and operations.

BACKGROUND

Capital Program Update

The Core Area Wastewater (CAWW) capital program reflects the planned capital spending for the next five years and forms part of the annual service budget that is approved in March each year by the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board. In 2025, there were 34 capital projects identified, some of which are programs containing several sub-projects. The approved 2025 budget is \$16.8 million. The status of the major projects progressing in 2025 is detailed in Appendix A. Additional smaller projects will also progress based on criticality and resourcing.

Operations Update

Odour

Preventative maintenance tasks and system upgrades with a higher risk of odour emissions are scheduled outside of seasonally warmer periods to reduce community impacts. Standard operating procedures include a review of factors such as wind, temperature, and tide patterns to reduce the risk of odour emission beyond the facility boundary during maintenance activities.

The backwash tank cleaning project completed this spring was the largest maintenance project conducted since the construction of the Plant. This project took place over a 21-day period and utilized all the administrative improvements developed over the last three years to mitigate the odour impacts. During this project window, two odour complaints were received, and only one was likely attributed to the maintenance work at McLoughlin Point Wastewater Treatment Plant (MPWWTP).

Year	Number of days complaints received	Number of complaints	Number of unique complainants
2022	85	101	29
2023	116	151	46
2024	47	73	33
To Date 2025	24	34	9

When complaints are received, each is investigated to establish the nature of the odour. Following the commissioning of the MPWWTP in 2021, odour complaints have continued to trend down with 149 complaints in 2023 and 73 in 2024. Based on the 34 complaints received by mid-July, we expect this trend to continue for 2025. System upgrades (listed below) scheduled for the fall and winter of 2025 should also positively impact results for 2026.

2025 System Upgrades

Infrastructure work scheduled in 2025, to improve the system performance and reduce odour emissions, includes:

- **Secondary Odour Control System Upgrades:** Reduced moisture through the pre-filter improves odour elimination and extends the lifespan of the product and reduces maintenance activities. The contractor has been selected, and project completion is planned by December 2025.
- **Densadeg No. 1 Scum Removal System:** Improved scum removal eliminates an odour source and reduces the required frequency of Plant Maintenance. Project management by CRD, with equipment scheduled for delivery in October 2025 and construction to be completed by December 2025.
- **MBBR Odour Extraction Ducting Improvements:** The addition of mist eliminators and increasing the duct diameter will improve odour extraction from the MBBR tank. Parts are currently being manufactured with an installation date in Q4 2025.
- **Dirty Backwash Tank Odour Treatment System Upgrade:** Upgrading the current passive system to a larger fan unit. A purchase order has been issued to the supplier with an installation date in Q4 2025.

Compliance

Compliance monitoring is performed to ensure regulatory requirements are being met and reported.

The table below is a summary of non-compliance events to the end of June 2025:

Month	# of times out of Compliance	Reasons for Non-Compliance
January	0	In compliance
February	2	Equipment error and a discharge of blended effluent due to a transformer fault
March	1	Suspected testing error
April	1	Wastewater biology recovery following a 21-day shutdown
May	0	In compliance
June	1	Wastewater biology recovery following a 21-day shutdown
Total to end of June	5	5 Non-compliance events due to; two equipment faults, one testing error, and two wastewater biology recovery events

The non-compliance events at the end of April and the start of June were both due to the Plant having to restart after a 21-day shutdown for maintenance. The wastewater biology requires some time to recover and reestablish itself to operate at regular levels.

In comparison, there were eight non-compliance events in 2024 through the end of May of 2024. These events are similar in nature regarding the type of non-compliance.

Budget

Aside from the noted ongoing odour system improvements and compliance events, the remainder of the system has had minimal unexpected operational issues to date in 2025. The operating expenditures are in alignment with the budget, with the exception of the \$1.6 million amendment at the end of June to account for the mixing and trucking of Biosolids from the Residual Treatment Facility (RTF).

CONCLUSION

This report provides the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee with updates on both ongoing capital programs for the Core Area Wastewater System and the Core Area Wastewater Treatment Project. In addition, information has been provided regarding operational issues and non-compliance events and budget anomalies.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

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ATTACHMENT(S)

Appendix A: Core Area Wastewater Capital Program – Current Status