



Tacoma Central WWTP Draft NPDES Permit Information Session



Overall Agenda

- 1 Informational presentation
- 2 Question and answer
- 3 Public hearing

Hello! Who is speaking today?

Kit McGurn – Zoom Host

Amber Sergent – Hearings officer

Dainis Kleinbergs – Tacoma Central WWTP Permit Writer

Steve Ogle – Municipal Operation Unit Supervisor

Eleanor Ott – WWTP Permit Writer

Stacey Callaway – Facilitator

Announcements

- Comment period for the draft NPDES permit closes at 11:59 PM on Jun. 27.
- We anticipate making a final decision on the revised permit by fall 2024

Ground Rules

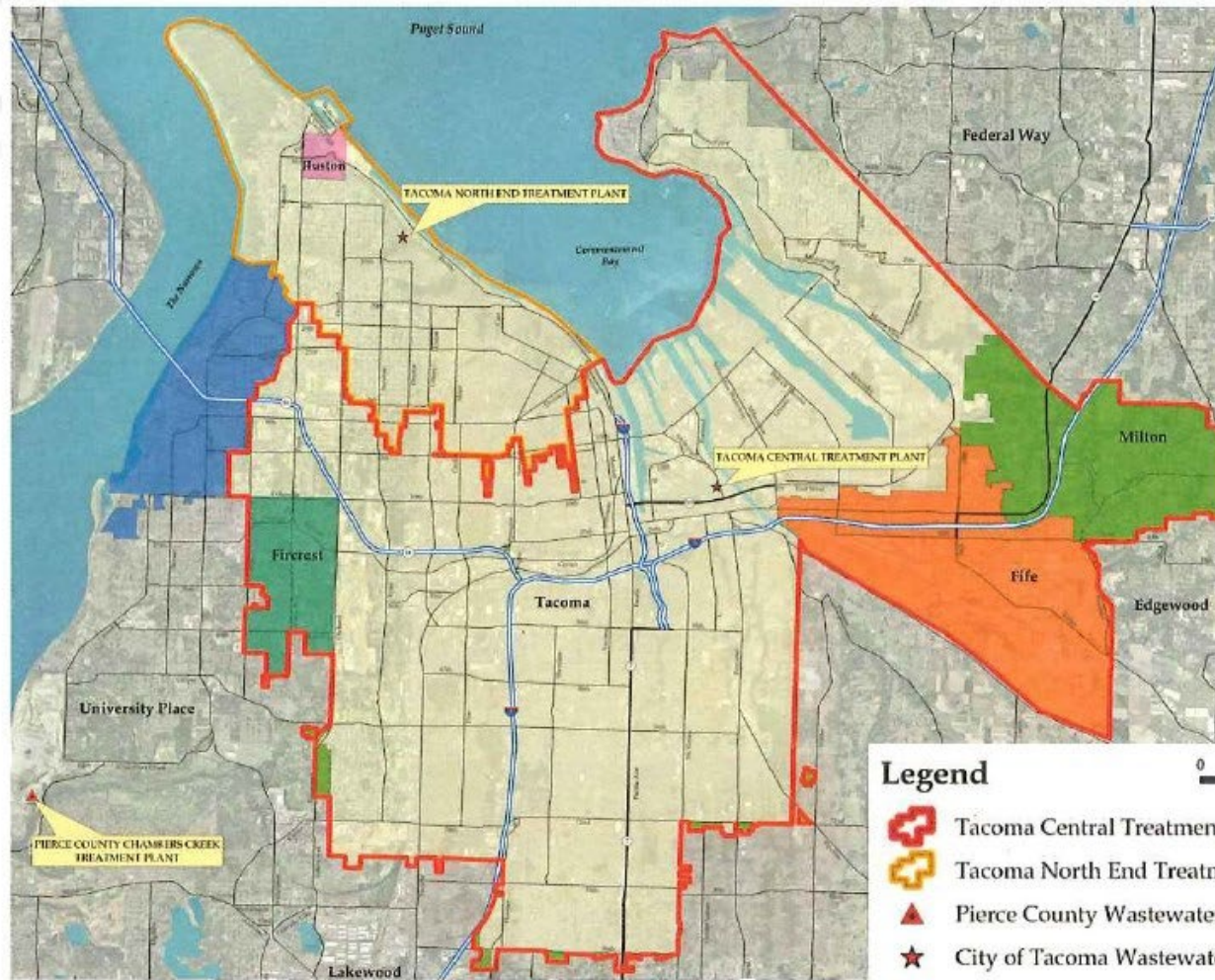
- Please use respectful language when asking questions or testifying.
- Please stay muted until we call on you.
- Please silence cell phones and listen in from a quiet space if possible.
- Each person will have 3 minutes total to testify. You can submit additional comments in written form and receive the same consideration as verbal testimony.



Tacoma Central WWTTP Draft NPDES Permit

What is a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit?

- Clean Water Act (1972)
- NPDES program implemented
 - Prohibits anybody from discharging “pollutants” through a point source into a “water of the US” unless they have an NPDES permit
 - Permit contains limits on what can be discharged, monitoring and reporting requirements, and other provisions to ensure the discharge does not hurt water quality or health of people and wildlife.
 - Protect and improve water quality through use of technology-based limits and water quality-based limits.
- EPA tasked to oversee NPDES program
 - Sets water quality standards and criteria
 - Delegate oversight to state, tribal and territorial governments.



City of Tacoma Wastewater System Service Area

Central Wastewater Treatment Plant

- ~50 square miles
- Residential Population: 291,000
- Serves Commercial, Industrial Customer Base (~35% of Resid. Flow)

Legend

- Tacoma Central Treatment Plant Service Area
- Tacoma North End Treatment Plant Service Area
- Pierce County Wastewater Treatment Plant
- City of Tacoma Wastewater Treatment Plant
- City of Tacoma Collection System
- Tacoma Collection System Treated at Chambers Creek Treatment Plant
- Pierce County Collection System Treated at Central Treatment Plant
- Town of Ruston Collection System Treated at North End Treatment Plant
- City of Fircrest Collection System Treated at Central Treatment Plant
- City of Fife Collection System Treated at Central Treatment Plant

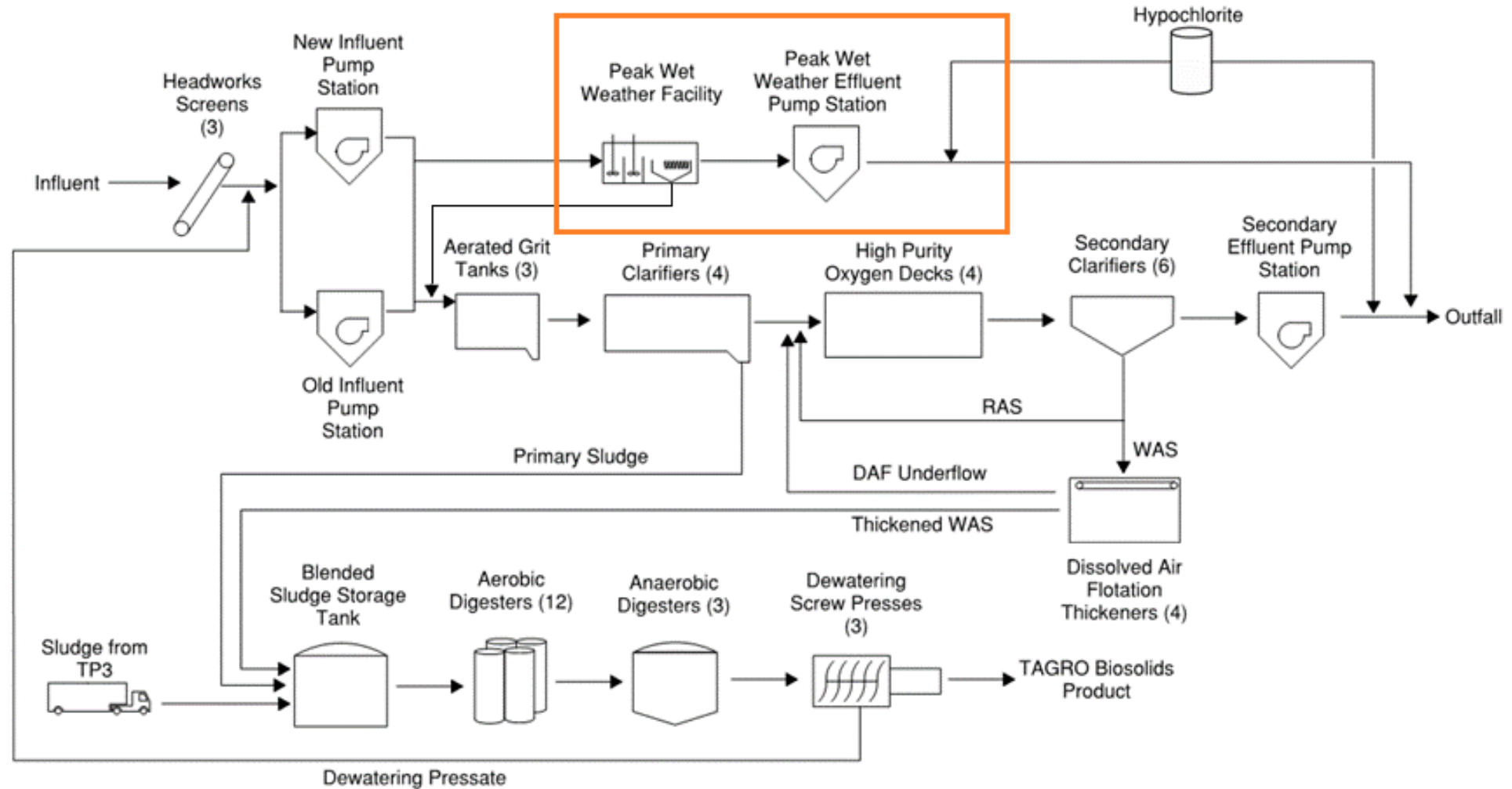


Central WWTP

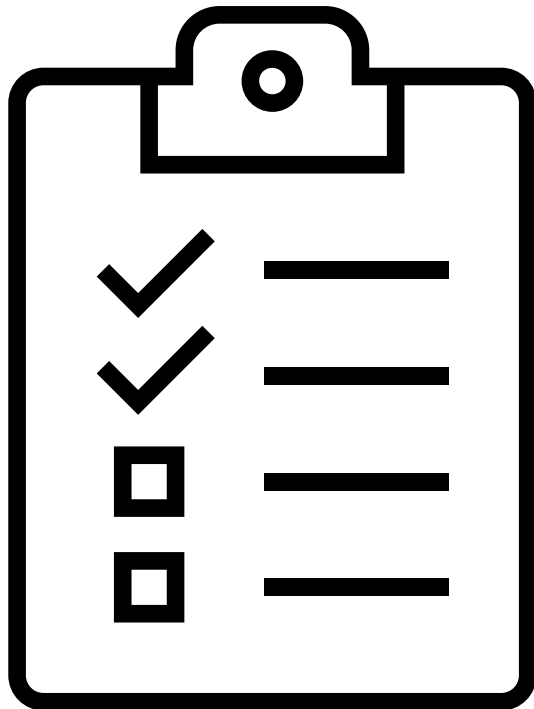
- Dry Weather Flow Limit – 60 MGD
- Wet Weather Flow Limit – 150 MGD
 - Peak flows above 75 mgd are diverted around secondary treatment and receive chemical treatment with coagulants to accelerate sedimentation.
 - Flows are blended with secondary treated flows.
 - All flows receive disinfection prior to discharge into the outfall.
- Outfall
 - 15,650 ft. overland pipe (60 in. dia.)
 - Diffuser is 1,200 feet offshore at 125 ft. depth



Central WWTP Treatment Process



Common Permit Contents



- Numeric effluent limits
- Monitoring requirements
- Testing for toxicity
- Routine reporting
- Recordkeeping standards
- Staffing requirements
- Maintenance requirements
- Outfall evaluation

New vs. Old Permits – What's Changed?

1. CBOD5 vs. BOD5 Testing
 - Increased septic system loads
 - Nitrogenous BOD demands
2. New Chlorine Limits
 - Based on reasonable potential spreadsheet and existing data
3. Pesticide Monitoring
 - Human Health Criteria exceeded for DDT and Heptachlor Epoxide
 - Increased to quarterly for next two years
4. Sediment Study Required
 - Acute/Chronic toxicity test results
 - No recent local sediment studies

New vs. Old Permits – What's Changed?

5. Enterococci Monitoring

6. Stop Flow Blending Event Monitoring

- No effluent violations
- Sampling results comparable to non-event flows

7. PFAs and PFOAs Monitoring

- Influent monitoring
- Quarterly monitoring starting 2026
- Consistent with State and Federal monitoring requirements

8. Nutrients Monitoring

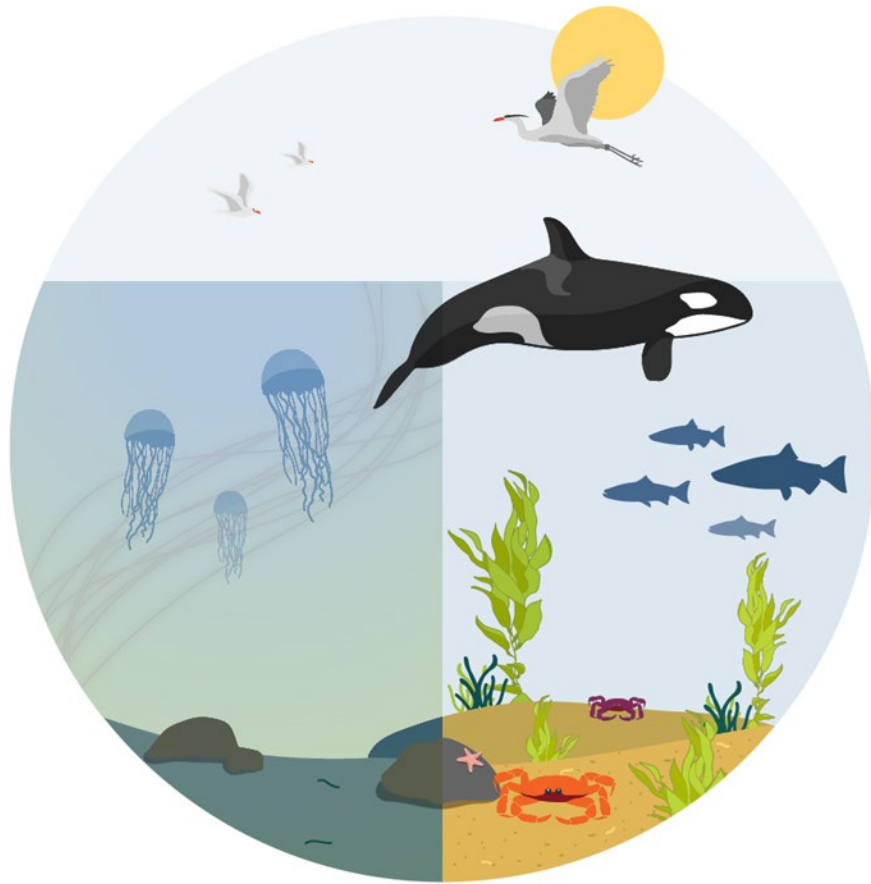
- Monitoring of nitrogen nutrient loading handled by Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit (PSNGP)
- Ammonia (NH₃) monitoring still required due to toxicity

Source control and monitoring for PFAS

- Consistent with Chemical Action Plan Ecology developed in cooperation with DOH
- Uses EPA guidance and test methods
- The City must:
 - By July 2025, identify industrial users likely to discharge PFAS.
 - By July 2025, identify BMPs to reduce PFAS from industries.
 - Begin quarterly monitoring PFAS in Tacoma influent in 2026.



Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit



- General Permit took effect in January 2022
- Was implemented to improve the health of the Salish Sea/Puget Sound
- Removed duplicate monitoring from draft individual permits

Submitting written comments

- Must be received by **June 27, 2024 at 11:59 PM**
- Electronic submittal is preferred (see link in chat)
- To mail them to Ecology, please address them to:

*Alisha Mckittrick, Permit Administrator
Washington State Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504*

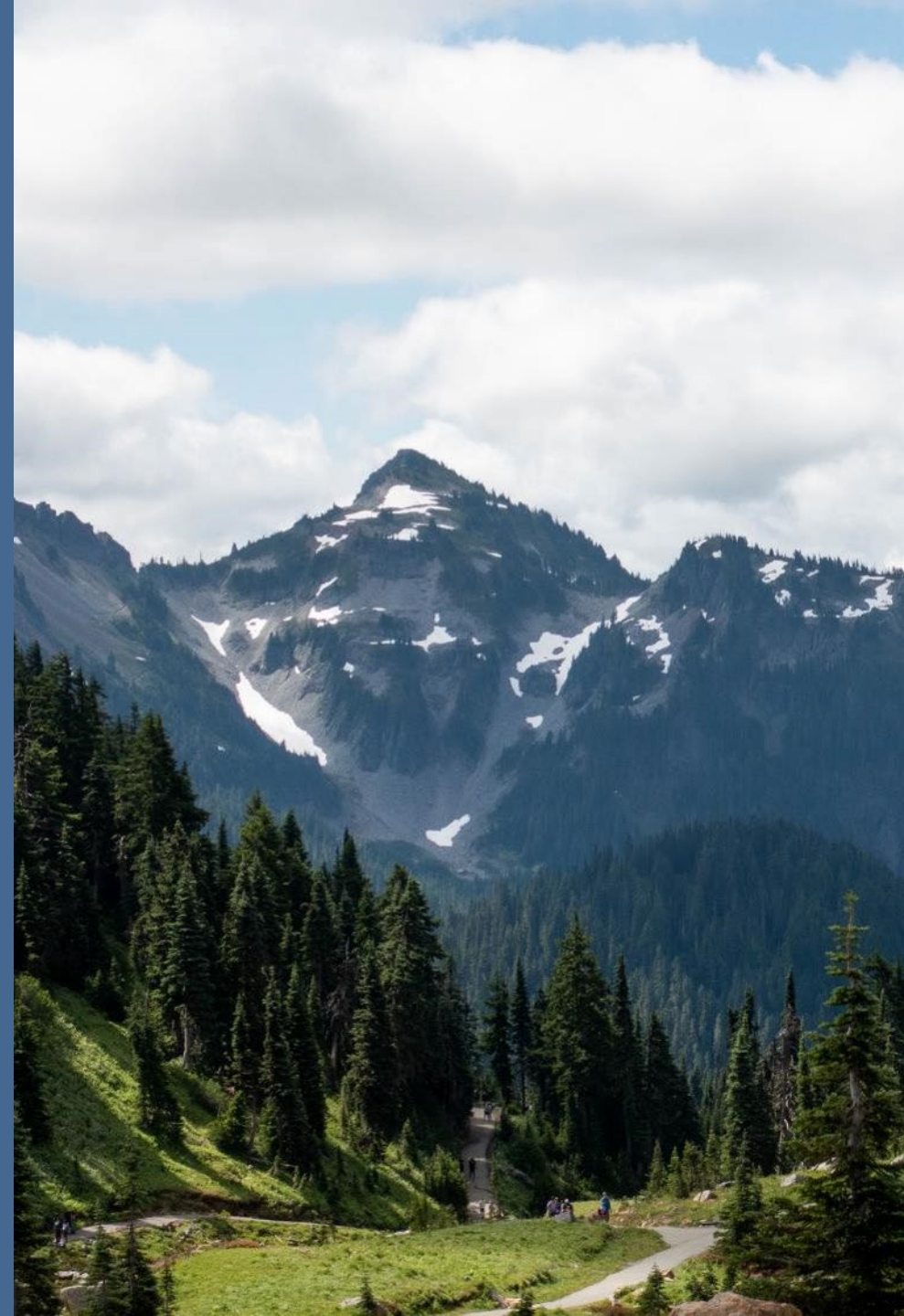
Question and Answer Guidelines

- Focus your question on the content of the draft permit
- Wait until the formal hearing to share testimony
- Send questions to
- Respect others
- Please limit to one question per turn



Break Time!

We will return shortly.





DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Formal Public Hearing

Formal Hearing Guidelines

- Use respectful language
- Raise your hand to indicate you want to speak
- Reduce background noises
 - Inform folks around you that you are on a call
 - Silence cellphones
- Limit yourself to 3 minutes



A scenic view of a river flowing through a forested area. The river is clear and blue, with many rocks visible in the water and along the banks. The sky is bright blue with some white clouds. The trees are green and dense. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Public Hearing Testimony

An aerial photograph of a large estuary system, likely the Tacoma Narrows. The water is a deep blue, and the surrounding land is covered in dense green forest. Several islands and peninsulas are visible, with a few ships in the water. The foreground shows a complex network of channels and mudflats, indicating a tidal environment.

Thank you!

Submit comments by
June 27, 2024

Have questions?
Contact Alisha Mckittrick at
alisha.mckittrick@ecy.wa.gov

Online comment form:
[https://ecology.wa.gov/T
acomaCentral-Renewal](https://ecology.wa.gov/TacomaCentral-Renewal)