



Discovery Clean
Water Alliance

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Public Involvement

DISCOVERY CLEAN WATER ALLIANCE

2022 ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY

Prepared for:

Discovery Clean Water Alliance

Prepared by:

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INTRODUCTION

The Salmon Creek Treatment Plant is owned by the Discovery Clean Water Alliance, which is a partnership consisting of Clark County, the Clark Regional Wastewater District, and the cities of Battle Ground and Ridgefield. The Alliance was formed in 2013 to jointly manage wastewater infrastructure critical to the region's economic and environmental health.

Every year, the Alliance hosts an open house for neighbors and other interested parties to learn more about the functions of the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant (SCTP) and share information about recent and upcoming improvements to the plant and the Columbia River Outfall and Effluent Pipeline project.

This year the Alliance hosted an in-person open house on June 28 as well as an online open house from June 13 – July 10. The online open house was available at <https://openhouse.jla.us.com/project/sctp22>.

OVERALL PARTICIPATION AND NOTIFICATION

Overall, thirty-four people viewed the online open house and twenty people attended the in-person open house. Those who visited each station in the online open house and attended the in-person event were sent an Alliance magnet with tips about how they could help protect water quality in the area, and a gift of their choice.

Community members were informed about the online open house through the following:

- The project website.
- Postcard to residents near the plant and along construction access routes.
- Announcement in the quarterly e-newsletter sent to people living near the plant or where the Columbia River Outfall and Effluent Pipeline will be built.
- Email invitation to listserv.

FEEDBACK SUMMARY

IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE

The annual open house was hosted on June 28, 2022 from 6 pm – 7:30 pm at the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant and twenty individuals attended. All attendees participated in a tour of the treatment plant. People generally seemed to enjoy the opportunity and were appreciative of the staff's efforts to improve the plant. Attendees did not leave any comments but were able to ask questions and provide comments directly to staff.

ONLINE OPEN HOUSE SURVEY RESPONSES

This section summarizes the feedback received through the online open house.

ONLINE OPEN HOUSE RESPONSES

Overall, thirty-four individuals visited the online open house and eight completed the survey. Participants were given the opportunity to ask any questions they have about the treatment plant and provide information on their relation to the plant. Below is a summary of the feedback. Full text responses to the open-ended question can be viewed in the [Appendix](#).

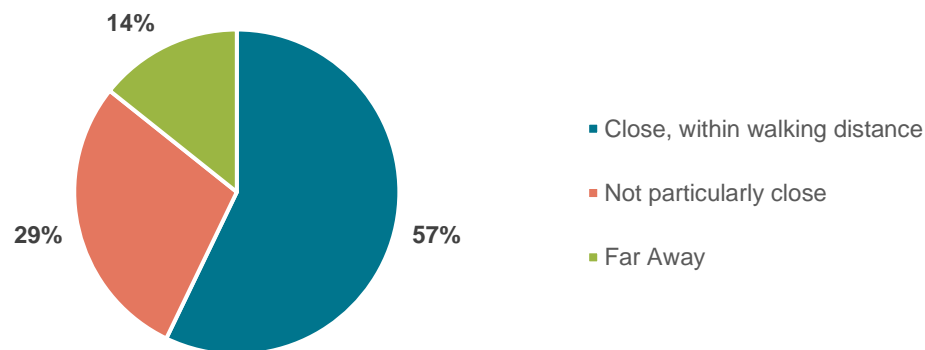
1. What questions or comments do you have about the treatment plant? What do you want more information about?

Of the thirty-four people that participated in the online open house, eight provided a response to this question. Most people expressed gratitude for the opportunity to learn more about the plant and ask questions.

- One respondent wanted to know the difference between EWG and EPA labels.
 - **Response from the Alliance:** *The EWG Verified (Environmental Working Group) and EPA Safer Choice programs are designed to help consumers identify products with safer chemical ingredients. Participation in the programs is voluntary for manufacturers, and products with these labels have passed stringent safety criteria for both human health and the environment, as well as meet product performance and sustainable packaging standards.*
- Another was interested in advocating for similar improvements to the Castle Rock Wastewater Treatment plant.

2. Where do you live relative to the treatment plant? (Check one.)

The majority responded they live “close, within walking distance” (57%). Others lived either not particularly close or far away.



APPENDIX: OPEN-ENDED QUESTION

Below are the unedited comments that respondents submitted for the open text question in the online open house.

Question 1: What questions or comments do you have about the treatment plant? What do you want more information about?

- What do the EWG and EPA labels mean? It looks like you have some large projects in front of you.
- I really enjoyed this open-house presentation. The information on the improvements made for odor control got my attention; maybe we can advocate for similar improvements at our Castle Rock Wastewater Treatment plant which is within a stone's throw from a river walk trail on the Cowlitz River and across the street from a residential area. No matter the wind direction, folks are impacted. Also as a Solid Waste and Environmental Lab Manager for my current employer, I have developed an appreciation for seeing what other folks are up to in these areas and how we might be able to apply similar improvements to our facility. Thank you for the information and the free gift!
- Thank you for providing an informative annual open house. I especially enjoyed the Columbia River Outfall and Pollution Prevention videos. Your commitment to protecting our environment is greatly appreciated!
- Thank you for all the helpful information
- Thank you everyone at the Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.