



DISCOVERY CLEAN WATER ALLIANCE

2023 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 how the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant (SCTP) functions and to share information about recent and upcoming improvements to the treatment plant and the Columbia River Outfall and Effluent Pipeline project.

This year's open house was held on June 6, as well as an [online open house](#) from June 1 – 30. While it is still available for public viewing, it is closed for comments.

OVERALL PARTICIPATION AND NOTIFICATION

Overall, twelve people attended the in-person open house. Participants at the event were able to get their questions answered directly from staff; no written comments were provided. Seven people signed up for the email list. Nine people provided comments as part of the online open house, and we received seven additional inquiries to be added to the email list.

Those who visited each station in the online open house and/or attended the in-person event were provided 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 open house through the following:

- Posts on the Alliance website.
- Postcards distributed to residents near the SCTP.
- Announcement in the quarterly e-newsletter sent to people living near the SCTP or the Columbia River Outfall and Effluent Pipeline project.
- A reminder email to the SCTP mailing list to join the in-person open house.
- A second email reminder to participate in the online open house.

FEEDBACK SUMMARY

IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE

The annual open house was hosted on June 6, 2023 from 6 pm – 7:30 pm at the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant and twelve individuals attended. All attendees participated in a tour of the treatment plant. People generally seemed to enjoy the opportunity and were appreciative of

staff's efforts to improve the treatment plant. Attendees did not leave any written comments but were able to ask questions and provide comments directly to staff.

Additionally, participants had the following comments:

- The smell has gotten a lot better since the odor control project was completed.
- Someone was happy that Tract J was purchased by the Alliance.
- They can hear the occasional truck backup alarms; otherwise, the treatment plant is pretty quiet.
- The treatment plant is a good neighbor.
- Desire to protect water in the area.

ONLINE OPEN HOUSE RESPONSES

Online open house participants were given the opportunity to ask questions and provide general comments. Feedback is summarized below. See the [Appendix](#) for the full text of the open-ended comments.

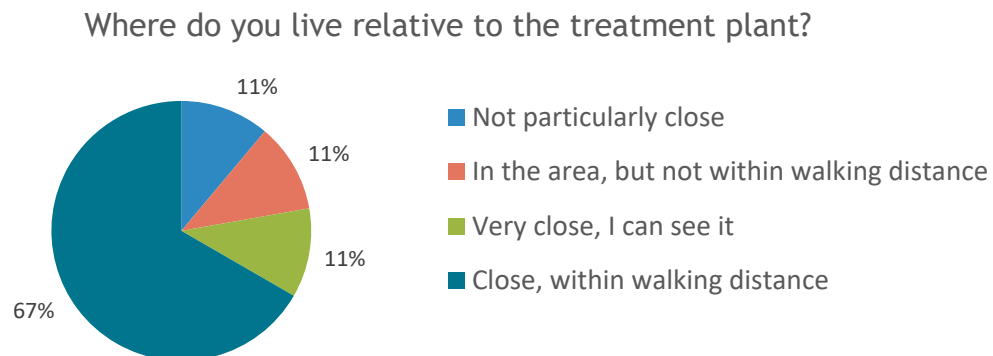
1. What questions or comments do you have about the treatment plant? What do you want more information about?

Of the nine people that participated in the online open house, five provided a response to this question. In general, the responses were positive. Below is a summary of the responses received:

- Four (4) respondents expressed gratitude or appreciation for the treatment plant's work and the Alliance's outreach.
- One (1) respondent said they appreciated the helpful hints on how to protect our water.
- One (1) respondent said they are moving to the area and would like to learn more about the risks of living near the treatment plant.

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

Most people live **"Close, within walking distance" (67%)**.





NEXT STEPS

Overall, participants were thankful for the work done by the Discovery Clean Water Alliance and the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant staff.

Participants were appreciative of the promotion and outreach the Alliance did for the open house. The Alliance should continue to send out postcards announcing the open house to residents living near the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant and other upcoming construction sites as well as incorporate an open house announcement in the quarterly e-newsletter.



APPENDIX: OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

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

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

1. Keep up the amazing job you're doing.
2. I'm worried as we are going to live close by. You don't have to send gifts but I appreciate letting me of the risk of living nearby plant.
3. Thank you for the great job you're doing in keeping our water clean and safe.
4. The fees you charge are modest compared to the benefits the community receives. Your plans for the future addresses the fast growth of the region. Thank you.
5. Thank you for being stellar stewards of our water and quality of life. I especially appreciated the helpful hints to protect our water.