



Discovery Clean  
Water Alliance

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Public Involvement

# DISCOVERY CLEAN WATER ALLIANCE

## 2021 ANNUAL ONLINE OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY

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Discovery Clean Water Alliance

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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.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's open house was held in a virtual format. The online open house was available from June 1 – 25, but was left online for public viewing after the closure date.

The online open house was available here: <https://openhouse.jla.us.com/project/sctp#>

## OVERALL PARTICIPATION AND NOTIFICATION

Overall, 19 people participated in the online open house. Those who visited each station in the online open house 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:

- Posts on the project website
- Postcard to residents near the plant
- Announcement in the quarterly e-newsletter sent to people living near the SCTP or where the Columbia River Outfall and Effluent Pipeline will be built

## FEEDBACK SUMMARY

### OPEN HOUSE QUESTIONS

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

### ONLINE OPEN HOUSE RESPONSES

Online open house participants were given the opportunity to ask questions and provide general comments as well as share their proximity to and perception of the treatment plant. Feedback is summarized below. The full text of all open-ended comments can be found in the [Appendix](#) at the end of this document.

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

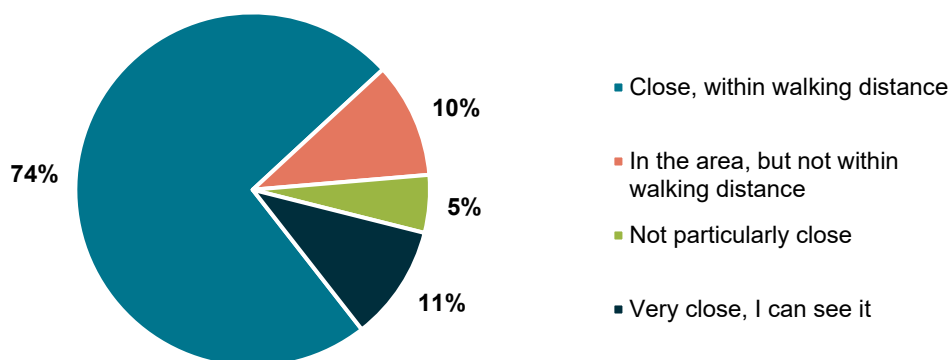
Of the 19 people that participated in the online open house, 14 provided a response to this question. The general theme of the responses was positive, and many were grateful for the information provided in the open house and for the outreach the Alliance conducted.

Below is a summary of the responses received.

- Seven (7) respondents expressed gratitude or appreciation for the plant's work and the Alliance's outreach.
- Three (3) respondents said they learned a lot.
- Two (2) respondents noted the truck traffic and associated impacts, such as noise and odor.
- Two (2) respondents said they were grateful for the work the alliance does as environmental stewards.
- One (1) respondent said they were looking forward to an in-person tour.
- One (1) respondent said they had questions about making biosolids safer for residential gardening.
- One (1) respondent said they were impressed by the facility.
- One (1) respondent said they had questions about the future growth of the facility.

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

Most responses came from those that said they live **“Close, within walking distance” (74%)**, with the second and third most popular answers being **“Very close, I can see it” (11%)** and **“In the area, but not within walking distance” (10%)**, respectively. The least common response came from those that said they were **“Not particularly close” (5%)**.



## NEXT STEPS

As many people commented, outreach for the online open house was well-received and garnered an expected amount of participation from those who were sent postcards and the e-newsletter. In the future, the Alliance may consider doing the following:

- Continue sending out postcards announcing the open house to residents living near the SCTP and other upcoming construction sites
- Continue incorporating an open house announcement in the quarterly e-newsletter
- If able, conduct an in-person open house, supplemented by an online open house so that people who cannot attend can still learn about the plant and upcoming construction projects

## APPENDIX: OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

Below are the unedited comments that respondents submitted for the open text questions 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?

- Are there any plans to increase the footprint of the plant, or is there that possibility in the future? Or is all buildable land at the site already in use?
- Appreciate the updates and hard work done at the Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Thank you for providing a stellar virtual tour! Your videos were very informative as well as your slides and handouts. Great job!  
And thank you for all that you are doing to protect our environment and the quality of our water.
- Happy to watch all the videos you offered. Thank you for the order control upgrades. I learned a lot about the amount of water the system handles for day and able to return the water clean back to the Columbia River. Great Job!!!  
This presentation was outstanding and worth my time to learn more about our community system to help the area around our homes in Clark County.  
I was surprised to learn about 200 tons of trash arrives at the treatment plant each year. Appears more education is needed in the community to help reduce this expense.  
Thank you for your help to educate us in Clark County.
- We are very impressed with the professionals that work at the plant and the community outreach. Excellent Job!
- Impressive facility

- I'm curious about any plans to make biosolids safe for citizen use in residential gardening
- We are most concerned about the increased truck traffic, noise and odors that may be generated by the upcoming construction. We live directly on the truck route that the construction vehicles are planned to utilize throughout the 2-3 years that this construction is expected to take. This is a huge concern as noise pollution (from trucks) and odor pollution are already issues that we have experienced with the water treatment plant.
- No questions, I look forward to a plant tour in the future
- Great information! Well-organized tour. Thank you for being such wonderful stewards of our environment.
- We live a half mile away from the facility and honestly wouldn't know it was there if not for signage. We have lived here a little over a year now and the facility has not caused us any concern. Thank you for being good neighbors!
- None currently
- My backyard faces McCan road, and we see/hear trucks heading towards the Treatment Plant daily. What are they hauling?
- No questions. As we live very close to the plant we appreciate receiving notices about your annual open house.