



# Your Utility Company Newsletter

## Results of the 2018 Wastewater Treatment Facilities Assessment<sup>1</sup>

This is the first in a series of reports about this assessment.

**Our Wastewater Treatment Plant is nearing the end of its life expectancy.**

The City of Bandon operates and maintains a 0.50 million gallons per day (MGD) Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) that experienced its last plant-wide improvement project in 1993. Since then the facility has completed several system specific upgrades including: the Influent Screen system was replaced in early 2000s; the Ultraviolet Disinfection system was replaced in 2009; the Standby Generator for the WWTP was installed in 2014; the Thickening system was replaced in 2015.

### Priority List For WWTP

Headworks System Upgrade \$450,000

Replacement of Fillmore Pump Station \$1,600,000

UV System Improvements \$100,000

In future newsletters we will describe these projects and explain why they are necessary.

**This is list #1. List #2 is on the next page.**

These figures are approximations.

According to the Wastewater Treatment Facilities Assessment, the Screening and Grit Removal system is in the greatest need of refurbishment. The current system is not capable of providing screening at current WWTP flow conditions. The debris that bypasses screening obstructs process lines, including grit piping and clarifier sludge collectors. Debris also obstructs the pumps, requiring regular operator intervention to maintain pumping. The Influent Pump Station also has ragging and grit accumulation, issues that require operator intervention.

Rags (“disposable” wipes, facial tissues, diapers, paper towels etc.) cause serious problems when they reach the WWTP. “Flushable” or “disposable” wipes are not flushable without negative consequences. Manufacturers of these wipes merely meet the requirements needed to call the wipes they sell “flushable” or “disposable”. Our sewer system and WWTP clog when people flush these wipes “away”. In this case “away” is through the sewer lines and into the WWTP. Grease and oil make the clogs worse.

<sup>1</sup> Waterdude, *City of Bandon Wastewater Treatment Facilities Condition Assessment*, May 2018.

**.Priority List Per Inflow & Infiltration Study**

<b>Project #5</b>	<b>\$270,765</b>
<b>Project #4</b>	<b>\$557,380</b>
<b>Project #11</b>	<b>\$95,580</b>
<b>Project #9.</b>	<b>\$358,330</b>

- \* These projects will be detailed in next month's newsletter.
- \* **Total est. costs for both priority lists for WWTP w/o inflation: \$3,432,055.**
- \* These figures are approximations.

**Important**

Medications entering the Wastewater Treatment Plant cannot be filtered out. Keep your unwanted or leftover medications out of the water cycle by giving them to the Bandon Police Department during regular business hours: 8:30AM-5:00PM weekdays.

**Inflow & Infiltration Study  
Caps on Sewer Cleanouts**

The City is required by the Department of Environmental Quality to perform an infiltration and inflow study every 5 years. The current study found an overwhelming problem (80% of the problem) was due to the lack of caps on sewer cleanouts at properties across town. The City will come out and replace caps for free if the homeowner calls the City and makes an appointment. If you know where your sewer cleanout is, and you inspect it and find that the cap is missing or broken, please call 541-347-2437. Your cleanout must be out in the open; the City will not be going under buildings, decking, etc. If you don't know where your sewer cleanout is, please call the number above.



**There is No Away**

**What You Throw Away Goes Somewhere**

When you flush a facial tissue, “disposable wipe”, feminine hygiene product, diaper, paper towel, swab, cotton ball or pad, or any other item that can be called a “rag”, away, it enters the sewer system. It is away from you but it still becomes a problem for you. These “rags” often combine with grease and/or oil someone has washed “away”, down the drain. These products end up at the Waste Water Treatment Plant and into the influent pump. The current influent pump is the only one we have handling sewer water for the entire city. Currently, it costs approximately \$20,000 each time the pump breaks down. The broken parts can no longer be re-machined in Coos Bay; replacement parts have to be purchased. Recently, the pump had to be fixed, again, and it is questionable how many more times it can be repaired. This affects all of us by costing more money to repair the pumps, money that can be spent on the projects discussed earlier. Each of us can mitigate this problem and increase the life of the influent pump if we would stop flushing anything that can be thrown in the trash. **“Rags” and grease and oil create serious problems for the WWTP and serious costs for all of us to repair the damages they cause.**