

Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission



Water Pollution Control Improvements in Your Community



Questions and Answers about the Facilities Plan

What is the MWMC's plan?

The Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission (MWMC) is an intergovernmental agency which includes representation from Eugene, Springfield and Lane County. Officially called the **Facilities Plan**, it includes cost-effective solutions for our regional wastewater needs over the next 20 years. The project includes pump station improvements, enhancements to existing primary and secondary treatment facilities, expansion of the existing facilities, such as pretreatment and disinfection, development of effluent reuse and increasing odor control capability. This project will provide the community with excellent water quality protection and help us build facilities that operate in harmony with the environment.

Why does our community need this project?

The MWMC completed construction of our community's current regional wastewater facilities in 1984. The facilities, funded largely with Federal Grants, matched by local bonds repaid through property taxes, were planned to serve the Eugene-Springfield area until 2005. A comprehensive update to the original facilities is now needed to address the influences of a growing population and changing environmental regulations. The Facilities Plan will address capacity constraints while ensuring that we are in full compliance with State and Federal regulatory requirements.



The Facilities Plan will help improve water quality in the Willamette River

Who was involved in the planning phase?

Eugene/Springfield regional wastewater staff, who provide operations and administration for MWMC, began work on the Facilities Plan in 1996, developing the most practical and cost-effective improvements to address key issues such as biosolids management and peak flow management. In 2002, MWMC initiated the final phase of this comprehensive planning effort which has culminated in the Facilities Plan. Vital to all of these planning efforts has been guidance from the MWMC Commissioners and Citizen Advisory Committees which represented a diverse mix of community interests and stakeholders.

Did the facility planning team look at alternatives?

The MWMC, with expert assistance from the engineering firm of CH2M Hill, looked at five overall alternative programs. The selected alternative was a clear choice because it is the lowest cost approach, involves maximizing the enhancement of existing facilities and identifies an innovative, cost-effective method of addressing peak flows. This approach increases efficiency in the existing system and avoids the expense of building redundant single-purpose projects at the current Water Pollution Control Facility. In addition to its efficient and cost-effective combination, this alternative promotes the best environmental protection of any alternative studied.



Protecting the environment is part of MWMC's mission

Who will fund these projects?

The MWMC is investing in these facilities to meet water quality standards and protect our community today and in the future. The cost of this investment (in 2005 dollars), is currently estimated at between \$144-\$150 million over the next 20 years, and will be shared by contributions from current and future residents. Funding will include user rates and system development charges, which are contributed by new customers connecting to the system. MWMC intends to issue revenue bonds to finance the projects. Using revenue bonds will help minimize ratepayer impacts for current customers by ensuring future users pay for their share of the facilities built to serve them. As a result, MWMC's average residential customers can expect to see a rate increase of approximately \$ 0.75 per month in FY 2005-06.

Current Average Bill for Residential Customers Effective July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005 Based on 5,000 gallons per month	
Wastewater Utility	Average Residential Monthly User Rate
Eugene	\$ 16.59
Tri-City (West Linn example)	\$ 21.30
Springfield	\$ 22.10
Gresham	\$ 22.54
Corvallis	\$ 25.02
Albany	\$ 25.40
Salem	\$ 47.88

Cities chosen for comparison have similar permit requirements and discharge to the Willamette River

By focusing on improvements that provide multiple benefits, monthly sewer rates and one-time system development charges can be maintained at levels lower than those paid by comparable wastewater customers statewide.

When will the projects be built?

To ensure the best use of rate-payer dollars, and minimize impacts to sewer rates, the Facilities Plan will be constructed using a phased "built as needed" approach over the next 20 years. This method ensures that facilities will be built in time to meet capacity and environmental performance needs and that they will not be "overbuilt." This saves our rate-payers' money, while protecting public health and safety.



A phased "built as needed" approach will ensure that these projects are not overbuilt.

Still have questions?

It is the goal of the MWMC to engage the community during the design and construction of these projects and it is important that residents understand the need and cost of the Facilities Plan. If you have questions about the Facilities Plan, or any MWMC issue, please call 541-726-3695. You can also email your questions to nlaudati@ci.springfield.org.

The MWMC



Eugene-Springfield Wastewater Treatment Plant
Established 1984

Wastewater treatment services are provided to the Eugene/Springfield area by the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission (MWMC), a cooperative intergovernmental agency formed in 1977. For more than 20 years MWMC facilities have provided exceptional treatment and service, protecting water quality in the Willamette River and helping to sustain our quality of life. The Commission is made up of two members each from Springfield and Lane County, and three members from Eugene.

Our member agencies include:

City of Eugene: Provides operations and maintenance for the Regional Water Pollution Control Facilities.

City of Springfield: Provides administrative services, such as, customer service, financial management, long-range planning, and capital improvement program management.

Lane County: Provides oversight of the County Service District.

Visit our website at
www.mwmcpartners.org

