

Contact: Kim Thur
Business Services Manager
Clark Regional Wastewater District
Phone (360) 993-8822
Fax (360) 750-7570

8000 NE 52nd Court
PO Box 8979
Vancouver, WA 98668-8979
Phone (360) 750-5876
Fax (360) 750-7570

**Clark Regional
Wastewater District**

Press Release

Clark Regional Wastewater District Receives Recognition from Ecology for Wastewater Treatment Operations

Vancouver, WA—Clark Regional Wastewater District (District) is a recipient of the 2023 Outstanding Performance Award from the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology). The annual award recognizes operators of wastewater treatment facilities for achieving excellent compliance with their water quality permits. The award was issued for the Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Ridgefield Wastewater Treatment Plant. The facilities are owned by the Discovery Clean Water Alliance (Alliance) and are operated by the District. The Alliance is a partnership consisting of Clark County, the Clark Regional Wastewater District, and the cities of Battle Ground and Ridgefield.

“These awards are the result of a daily commitment to excellence in the operation and maintenance of these critical facilities, as well as transparency in providing all required reports on time to Ecology. Our customers deserve to have trust and confidence in the District’s work on behalf of our community, and these awards are a tremendous validation of the professionalism of our team,” said General Manager John Peterson

The Salmon Creek and Ridgefield facilities each operate under an individual permit from Ecology, which is commonly referred to as an NPDES permit (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System). Ecology issues wastewater discharge permits to regulate direct discharges to surface water from wastewater treatment facilities and manage how wastewater enters the environment. The permits are issued under state surface water quality standards and the federal Clean Water Act.

The Salmon Creek and Ridgefield treatment plants are two out of 118 plants across Washington state that received this recognition. To qualify for the award, the wastewater treatment plants had to satisfy Ecology’s permit conditions, such as regularly meeting numeric effluent limits, conducting monitoring, and reporting data in a timely manner.

“Staff have consistently worked hard and diligently in a dynamic environment of construction and expansion to operate and maintain the treatment plants in an effective and efficient manner while also meeting the numerous reporting demands and deadlines relative to the NPDES permit throughout the year. Working with such talented and dedicated wastewater professionals has been inspiring and a privilege,” said Matt Jenkins, Wastewater Operations Manager

The Salmon Creek Treatment Plant has served the community for more than 40 years. In 2023, the plant safely received and treated 8 to 12 million gallons per day of wastewater. The

plant serves more than 125,000 residents and businesses throughout unincorporated Clark County, the City of Battle Ground, and a portion of the City of Ridgefield. The Salmon Creek facility has received this award more than 20 times.

The Ridgefield Treatment Plant has served the community for more than 60 years. In 2023, the plant safely received and treated approximately 300,000 gallons per day of wastewater from residents and businesses in the City of Ridgefield. The Ridgefield facility has received this award more than five times.

To see a complete list of the facilities receiving recognition, visit the Ecology website at <https://ecology.wa.gov/water-shorelines/water-quality/wastewater> .

For more information about the Salmon Creek or Ridgefield treatment plants, visit www.discoverycwa.org. If you have further questions or are interested in a tour, please contact Kim Thur, Business Services Manager, at 360-993-8822 or kthur@crwwd.com.

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