

Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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~ MEDIA ADVISORY ~

Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission to Conduct Mixing Zone Study in Willamette River

Field work to be conducted September 10-12, 2013

The Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission (MWMC) has hired CH2M HILL to conduct an outfall mixing zone study at the regional wastewater treatment facility. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) requested that the MWMC develop and submit a study as a requirement of obtaining a renewed discharge permit.

A mixing zone is the location in the river where the cleaned water from the wastewater treatment facility mixes with the receiving water, in this case, the Willamette River. As a part of this study, CH2M HILL will be using an ecologically safe dye, Rhodamine WT tracer, to visually inspect the facility's primary outfall and evaluate mixing effectiveness. The dye is harmless to people and wildlife, but will produce a visible red plume in the river. This portion of field work is scheduled for Wednesday, September 11, 2013 from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Site Access: Site access for photo/video purposes will be coordinated for members of the media Wednesday, September 11, 2013 from 7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

Background:

The regional wastewater treatment facility, located at 410 River Avenue, receives and cleans all of the wastewater generated in the Eugene/Springfield area. In 2012, the facility cleaned 15 billion gallons of wastewater, before returning the water to the Willamette River.

The MWMC last completed a mixing zone study in 1993. The study established the mixing zone that was applied to the discharge permit that regulates the MWMC and regional wastewater program. MWMC's current permit has been administratively extended and regional wastewater program staff has had preliminary conversations with DEQ on permit renewal.

The MWMC is an intergovernmental agreement among Lane County and the Cities of Springfield and Eugene. The MWMC is responsible for providing wastewater management services to the Eugene/Springfield area.