



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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~ MEDIA ADVISORY ~

**In-Water Work Scheduled at the
Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant**
Cofferdam to be Constructed This Week

Wildish Construction will be installing a 96-inch outfall pipe into the Willamette River. The work is a part of the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission's (MWMC) 2004-Facilities Plan, and is addressing peak wet weather flow capacity. This additional outfall pipe will be used during very high winter flows, which are anticipated about once yearly.

The construction requires that the contractor put a cofferdam in place in order to expose the riverbed. A fish biologist from CH2M HILL will be onsite during the in-water work installation and draw-down of the water to salvage any fish within the work area. Fish salvaged will be identified, recorded, and placed in buckets of fresh aerated water and kept for the minimum time necessary prior to being released downstream of the work area.

The cofferdam will be in place for approximately six weeks while construction is taking place. Boaters should be aware that along the north bank of the Willamette River at approximately river mile 178.5 a structure resembling a large pile of sandbags will protrude about 70 feet into the river and is about 90 feet wide.

Background:

The regional wastewater treatment facility, on River Avenue, is being upgraded in order to meet the community's wastewater treatment needs for the next 20 years. 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.