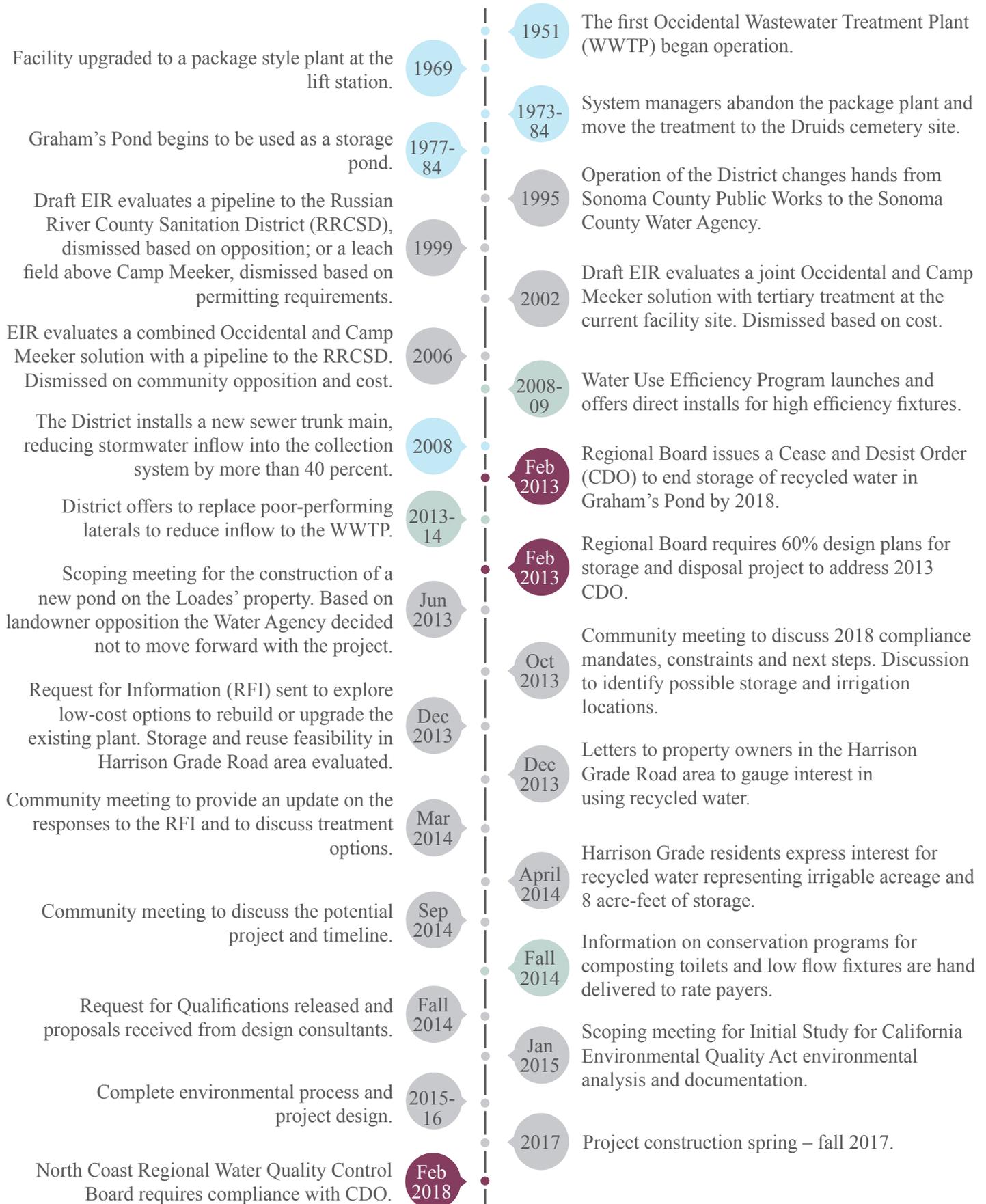


Occidental County Sanitation District

Past Milestones and Steps Towards Solutions





Occidental County Sanitation District

Recycled Water Project

The Problem

The Occidental County Sanitation District (District) currently discharges recycled water into a pond located at the headwaters of Dutch Bill Creek during the summer and to Dutch Bill Creek during the winter. An order by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) requires the District to stop releasing recycled water into the pond by 2018. The District is examining feasible projects that will minimize rate increases while ending releases into the pond.

The Project

The proposed Project would include upgrading the treatment system and building a recycled water pipeline to provide water for agricultural irrigation.

Upgrades to the Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF) would improve the recycled water quality to tertiary standards and help bring the District into compliance with the permit requirements for discharge into Dutch Bill Creek. The proposed Project would include a recycled water pipeline that could potentially be located along county roadways in and east of Occidental, including: Occidental-Camp Meeker Road, Bohemian Highway, Graton Road, Occidental Road, Harrison Grade Road, and Morelli Lane. The proposed Project would also need offstream recycled water storage, preferably on property located along the proposed recycled water pipeline route.

The Process

The Sonoma County Water Agency (Water Agency), which operates the WWTF, is moving forward on two tracks (environmental and design) to ensure the Project is complete by the 2018 deadline.

The Water Agency will follow the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), beginning with the preparation of an Initial Study. The Initial Study is a preliminary analysis of the project's potential environmental impacts, and will be used to determine whether a Negative Declaration of Impact or an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared. A Negative Declaration of Impact will be issued if there is no evidence that the project may have a significant effect on the environment. An EIR would analyze potential environmental impacts of the project outlined in the scope of the Initial Study, and identify mitigation measures and alternatives to the proposed project.

On the design track, in fall 2014 the Water Agency released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), followed by a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the top ranked firms. The Water Agency received proposals from three firms in December 2014 and is currently in negotiations with the firm that submitted the most thorough, comprehensive proposal. When both design engineering and the CEQA process are complete the Water Agency will advertise for bids to construct the project, which is expected to take place spring-fall 2017.

What you can do now

The Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Initial Study is available at www.sonomacountywater.org/OCSD. Comments are due by 5 p.m., Thursday, January 22, and should be sent to Senior Environmental Specialist Jeff Church at jchurch@scwa.ca.gov or mailed to 404 Aviation Boulevard, Santa Rosa, 95403.

