



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

CITY OF ANACORTES

904 6th Street Anacortes, WA 98221

www.anacorteswa.gov

PRESS RELEASE

CITY SEWER RECEIVES OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARD

SEPTEMBER 16, 2019, ANACORTES WA

The City of Anacortes wastewater treatment plant has been awarded the 2018 Wastewater Treatment Plant Outstanding Performance Award from the Washington State Department of Ecology. Of approximately 300 wastewater treatment plants in the state of Washington, Anacortes's plant is one of 109 that achieved full compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination system permit in 2018. This is the eighth consecutive year the City's wastewater treatment plant has received this esteemed recognition.

"We are fortunate to have such a fantastic group of operators and staff that are fully dedicated and attentive to ensuring the plant is operating soundly," said Plant Manager Becky Fox.

The Wastewater Treatment Outstanding Performance Award is awarded to wastewater treatment plants across the state for compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination system permit, including effluent limits, monitoring and reporting requirements, spill prevention planning, pretreatment, and overall operational demands. "The team for the Anacortes Wastewater Treatment Plant should be commended for their perseverance, dedication, and award-winning efforts. It is a great endeavor to operate and maintain a wastewater treatment plant in top-running order 24-hours a day, 365-days a year," said Rachel McCrea Water Quality Section Manager for the Department of Ecology.

"Keeping a waste water treatment plant in top operating condition is not an easy thing to do. Everyone including the Mayor, City Council and the staff at the plant are to be congratulated for making our waste water operations a top priority," said Public Works Director Fred Buckenmeyer.

When water flows down a sink or toilet drain into the City's sewer lines, it eventually ends up at the wastewater treatment plant for processing. During treatment, solids are extracted and the remaining wastewater is run through secondary treatment with microorganisms that provide additional treatment and destroy most of the disease causing bacteria. The wastewater then undergoes chlorination to disinfect and eliminate remaining bacteria followed by dechlorination to neutralize any residual chlorine before it is safely returned to the environment.

Wastewater treatment is a vital public service that helps keep our community healthy and the environment safe. The City's wastewater treatment plant cleanses approximately 800 million gallons of water each year that is used for activities like washing dishes, bathing, and using the toilet. This prevents potentially harmful contaminants from entering local waterways of the Puget Sound.

Please follow our Facebook Page for alerts: <https://www.facebook.com/AnacortesPublicWorks/>