

NEWSLETTER

WASTEWATER TREATMENT BOND PROJECT

In June 2020, Port of Sunnyside commissioners approved the issuance of \$15.7 million in revenue and refunding bonds to fund a new Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) at the Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facility. The upgrades will allow for an additional one million gallons per day to be treated at the plant – doubling its capacity.

The issuance of the refunding bond was approved to refinance two currently existing bonds resulting in a savings of over \$75,000. New bond covenants were also put in place allowing for additional savings that the Port can pass on to the industries it serves.

The Port timed its financing with a historic low in interest rates. The new money bonds will fund \$14 million over a 14.5-year financing period at a rate of 2.4%, and the refunding bond will fund approximately \$1.7 million over 3.5 years at a rate of 2.53%. These low interest rates may be attributed to the Port's strong financial position and cash balance.

Port Commissioner Martin commented, "This is a big step for the Port moving forward to do our best in servicing our industrial wastewater treatment facility users."

The bond was finalized on June 25 and is the largest issuance the Port has received to-date.



PROJECTS UPDATE



ULTRAVIOLET SANITIZING SYSTEM ONLINE

In order to achieve new regulations around fecal coliform limits at the Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facility, the Port selected an ultraviolet (UV) disinfection process. The limits are outlined in the current NPDES permit through the Department of Ecology.

The new UV system works by shining light through clear basins as effluent travels through them. This effectively cleans and sanitizes the wastewater, making it ready for final disposal.

While a majority of the work building the new system was able to continue throughout the year, there were delays in the delivery of supplies for the project due to COVID-19. However, the project was still able to be completed before the compliance deadline of May 27, 2020.



CONTINUING PORT OPERATIONS DESPITE COVID

The COVID-19 shutdown did not slow the Port's business efforts, and staff upheld the mindset that the show must go on. The team sprang into action and put a plan in place to protect each employee's health and safety so they could continue regular business operations.

Staff worked either in staggered schedules donned in PPE or remotely. Daily health screenings were implemented, and sanitizing stations were installed to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone at the Port. Regular commission business meetings were moved to a virtual online format and are currently still being conducted this way.

The willingness of staff to adapt and conform to this new operation style allowed for a smooth transition and healthy employees. The wastewater plant continued to operate, allowing the nine essential industries the Port serves to continue functioning as well.

The Port of Sunnyside is the 16th largest port district (revenue-based) in the state of Washington. Efforts to remain operational have allowed the Port to continue to thrive.

NEW FACES AT THE PORT

THE PORT IS EXCITED TO WELCOME A FEW NEW EMPLOYEES TO OUR TEAM. ALL THREE HAVE PROVEN TO BE VALUABLE ADDITIONS, AND WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THEM.



PHILLIP RUSK
Facility Tech

Phillip was born and raised in Sunnyside. He and his wife have two wonderful daughters. When he's not working, he enjoys taking family trips to the ocean, camping, and fishing. He started at the Port in 2019, and it's been an awesome experience so far. He can't wait to see what the future holds with the Port.



RUDY CISNEROS
Facility Tech

Rudy has four amazing children. They enjoy the outdoors, trying new foods, playing games, and spending time with his family. Rudy just started with the Port after a long career in the wine industry. He is excited to be part of the Port of Sunnyside team.



KAREN HOFMANN
Finance Director

Previously, Karen worked for the Yakima County Auditor's office for 13 years overseeing the accounting and reporting teams, payroll, and accounts payable. Prior to the County, Ms. Hofmann worked for the Washington State Department of Revenue for 20 years. She received her Bachelor of Science in Accounting degree with a minor in business from the University of Idaho in Moscow.



ENCLOSED FLARE PROJECT

Port officials initiated a project to update the existing open flame flare at the wastewater treatment plant in late 2019. The project was necessary to meet a requirement from the Yakima Regional Clean Air Authority.

The flare burns methane gas produced by the covered anaerobic lagoon during the treatment of wastewater from the industries the Port serves. It took five and a half months to build the new flare and two weeks to install it.

The project budget was \$250,000. The flare was started and commissioned on December 18 and completely online and operational on the 26th of December, 2019.



Port of Sunnyside Commissioners
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