



## Staff Report

March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Council Workshop Meeting

Professional Services Agreement Task Order 9 for Camas National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES) Support Outfall and Sediment Study  
Presenter: Scott Collins, Public Works Director and Rob Charles, Utilities Manager  
Time Estimate: 20 minutes

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**BACKGROUND:** The City of Camas was issued a new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) on August 1, 2025. The permit establishes updated treatment requirements and monitoring frequencies for the solids and liquids treatment processes at the facility and includes several new conditions that must be completed during the current permit cycle.

One of the new conditions requires the City to complete an outfall and sediment study for the WWTP's discharge to the Columbia River. The study will evaluate the condition and performance of the outfall pipe, which conveys treated effluent to the river, and will collect sediment samples upstream and downstream of the outfall location. The purpose of this work is to determine whether contaminants are present in the sediment and to confirm that the discharge is not creating water quality impacts in the surrounding area.

HDR Engineering has been supporting the City on WWTP planning, permitting, and upgrade projects under a Professional Services Agreement awarded through a competitive Request for Proposal process in 2022. Previous task orders (1-7) have focused on treatment process improvements, plant design, and construction management for a total cost to date \$1,780,286. Task Order No. 9 is intended to complete an outfall and sediment study required by the current NPDES permit and to support the City in meeting permit compliance.

**SUMMARY:** To satisfy the sediment study requirement of the current NPDES permit, HDR Engineering will complete the work under Task Order No. 9 of the City's existing Professional Services Agreement. HDR's scope focuses on the technical execution of the study, including field sampling, laboratory testing, and preparation of the Sediment Data Report for submittal to the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Key components of the scope include:

- Project management and coordination with City staff
- Review outfall structure in the river and pipeline from plant to the outfall for proper operation

- Sediment sampling near the WWTP outfall in the Columbia River. Sampling will involve collecting sediment from the river bottom and requires specialized marine equipment and two days of field work to safely complete the assigned sampling locations
- Laboratory analysis of sediment samples in accordance with Ecology permit requirements
- Preparation and submittal of the Sediment Data Report to Ecology
- Limited on-call support for follow-up questions or additional data needs

The Washington State Department of Ecology has assigned nine sediment sampling locations for the study. Sampling will be conducted from a marine vessel operated by Ballard Marine Construction, which will provide the boat, captain, and crew required to safely operate in the Columbia River. HDR staff will support the sampling process by operating the sediment sampling equipment, decontaminating equipment between locations, cataloging samples, and maintaining required chain-of-custody documentation. Following collection, samples will be shipped to accredited laboratories for analysis.

Under typical river conditions, approximately six sediment samples can be collected per day depending on water depth, sample type, and required handling procedures. With nine samples assigned for this study, two field days are required to safely complete the sampling, equipment handling, documentation, and shipment of samples to the laboratories.

The work includes several components required by Ecology guidance, including field sampling, laboratory chemical analysis, biological toxicity testing (bioassays), and preparation of a Sediment Data Report. The final report will document the sampling methods, laboratory results, and quality assurance review and will compare the findings to applicable sediment quality standards. The report will then be submitted to the Washington State Department of Ecology to satisfy the permit condition.

For budgeting purposes, the consultant assumed approximately 20 pages for the narrative portion of the Sediment Data Report. This assumption applies only to the primary written report and does not include supporting documentation required for regulatory review. The full submittal to the Washington State Department of Ecology will include laboratory data packages, quality assurance and quality control documentation, field logs, sample photographs, chain-of-custody forms, and Ecology Environmental Information Management (EIM) data submittal requirements. Based on similar studies, the complete report package is anticipated to be approximately 50–60 pages or more depending on the volume of laboratory documentation and regulatory review comments.

Because the work involves specialized marine sampling and laboratory testing, the study includes a few subconsultants. Ballard Marine Construction will provide the marine vessel and field crew for sampling and outfall inspection work. Analytical

Resources will conduct chemical laboratory analysis of the sediment samples, and EcoAnalysts will perform the biological toxicity testing required under Ecology sediment testing guidance. HDR will manage the study, coordinate field activities, interpret laboratory results, and prepare the final Sediment Data Report for Ecology.



Figure 1: WWTP and Proposed Sediment Study Sampling Points and Outfall Location



Figure 2: Duckbill check valve which discharges from the outfall structure to the river

**BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY:** Completion of this study supports responsible operation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and helps ensure that the City's discharge to the Columbia River remains protective of water quality and aquatic habitat. The results will confirm whether any additional monitoring or treatment adjustments are needed as the City moves through the current NPDES permit cycle. This work helps the City stay ahead of regulatory expectations, avoid potential compliance issues, and make informed decisions about future investments in the treatment plant and outfall infrastructure.

**STRATEGIC PLAN:** This work aligns with the Strategic Plan Goal of Stewardship of City Assets.

**POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** If results indicate contaminants above allowable levels, the City may need to complete additional evaluation to determine appropriate follow-up actions or treatment adjustments. If the outfall structure or pipe to the outfall structure shows any corrosion or wear, these will have to be repaired.

**BUDGET IMPACT:** The proposed Professional Services Agreement amendment with HDR Engineering is in an amount not to exceed \$276,612 and will be funded from the Sewer Fund. Sufficient funds are available within the current budget:

**Budget:**

WWTP Upgrades/R&R (2026 Capital Budget)	\$2,000,000
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**Expenses:**

HDR engineering Amendment	\$327,784
Jacobs Local Limits Study (Administrative Approval)	\$74,729

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff would recommend this item be placed on the March 16, 2026 Regular Council Consent Agenda for their consideration.