



Staff Report

March 2nd, 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: Rob Charles, Utilities Manager
Time Estimate: 5 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 their 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 – the sediment sampling requires deep sampling in the river and up to 10 samples which will require a minimum of two days of equipment to obtain
- Laboratory analysis of sediment samples in accordance with permit requirements
- Preparation and submittal of the Sediment Data Report to Ecology
- Limited on-call support for follow-up questions or additional data needs

HDR recently completed similar sediment sampling work for another Washington client in August 2025. The scope and cost of this study are higher primarily due to the number of sediment samples assigned by Ecology for the City’s outfall. With nine total samples required, two full field days are necessary to safely and properly complete in-river sampling, equipment mobilization, sample handling, and shipping.

Under typical river conditions, approximately six sediment samples can be collected per day depending on water depth, sample type, and required handling procedures. While earlier draft materials referenced six samples, the consultant conservatively budgeted for up to ten samples to account for potential Ecology adjustments during scope development. The final assigned sample count of nine is within that planning assumption.



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 that Council authorize the Mayor to sign the contract.