

City of McCleary
STAFF REPORT



To:	Mayor Huff and City Council
From:	Kevin Trehwella
Date:	February, 2026
Department:	Water and Wastewater

Wastewater:

The changing of the seasons always brings new challenges and some unexpected costs that are explained below

In a survey of WWTP with flows ranging greater than 10,000,000gpd to less than 100,000gpd which was Published by Industrial Waterworld Magazine. In 2011 it was predicted that Annual Wastewater Treatment costs were expected to rise at a moderate pace of 5% over the next five years, and that facilities would have an average spending of \$2.06 (ranging from \$1.23 to \$3.42) per 1000 gallons of water discharged. Also, they were able to determine that **treatment cost per 1000 gallons was nearly 15 times greater for plants with flows less than 100,000 gpd, than those incurred by the largest facilities.**

In 2023 WaterSense published a report based on the same criteria that the treatment of residential wastewater has increased to \$8.57 per 1,000 gallons.

100,000gpd cost of treatment = \$ 857.00

700,000gpd cost of treatment = \$5,999.00

Using the published costs of 2023, on December 11th of 2025, during the heavy rains. Our influent flows were 833,000 gallons, for that day, costing the city \$7,139.00. When the citizenry of McCleary asks why everything is so expensive, you can point to years of neglect.

Last year, I was going through archived files. In those files there was a complaint regarding the I&I. That letter, from 1966, was addressed to the city council. What it tells me is that different City councils and different City managers have known about this problem for 60 years. I am sure that since it was brought up in 1966, there have been investigations into the causes of the I&I. The last time there was an investigation was in 2013(13years ago), yet very little money has been spent on this problem. Out on Summit one pipe and two manholes were relined.

Problems associated with High I&I flows were highlighted and how they can affect the quality of our City's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Effluent. The problems associated with High flows, caused by a large volume of I&I, start with increased hydraulic pressure on the overall processes of the WWTP.

It is imperative that we direct funding to resolve the largest portions of the City's I&I problems. We have the grant money to start investigations, but from what I see and hear there is nothing being done.

Water.

The Washington State Department of Health mandated that we start testing our water supply for PFAS contamination.

PFAS are a group of synthetic chemicals used in a wide variety of common applications, from the linings of fast-food boxes and non-stick cookware to fire-fighting foam and other purposes. High concentrations of some PFAS may lead to adverse health risks in people, according to the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#).

Research is still ongoing to better understand the potential health effects of PFAS exposure over long periods of time. Because they break down very slowly, PFAS are commonly called "forever chemicals." Their persistence in the environment and prevalence across the country make them a unique water-quality concern.

We sent samples to ALS Environmental Labs to sample for PFAS. They tested for 25 Perfluorinated and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances in Drinking Water. In January we received the results.

I am very happy to report that all the test results for Perfluorinated and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances in the City of McCleary's drinking water, were: Non-Detectable.

Have a great month!

Kevin Trehwella