

Not so long ago at a water treatment plant far,  
far away...

# Treatment Plant Washwater Recovery to Achieve Zero Liquid Discharge

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Paradise  
Irrigation  
District

**AECOM**

# Discussion Topics

-  Project Introduction and Key Issues
-  WTP Process Overview
-  Pilot Testing Plan
-  Testing Results and Summary
-  Recommendations and Next Steps

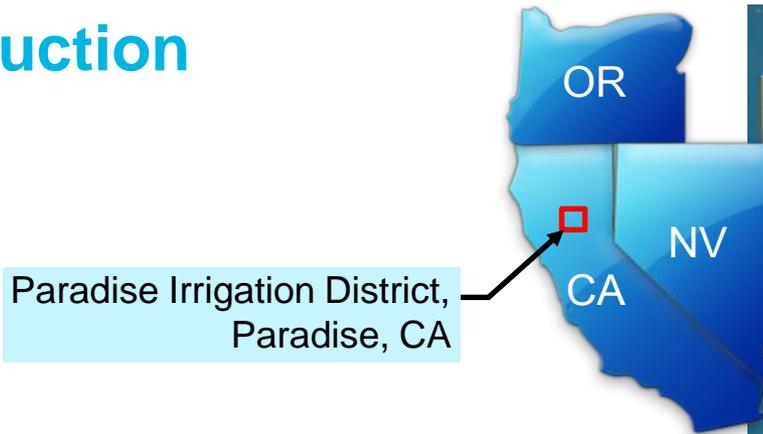


# Discussion Topics

## Project Introduction and Key Issues



# Introduction

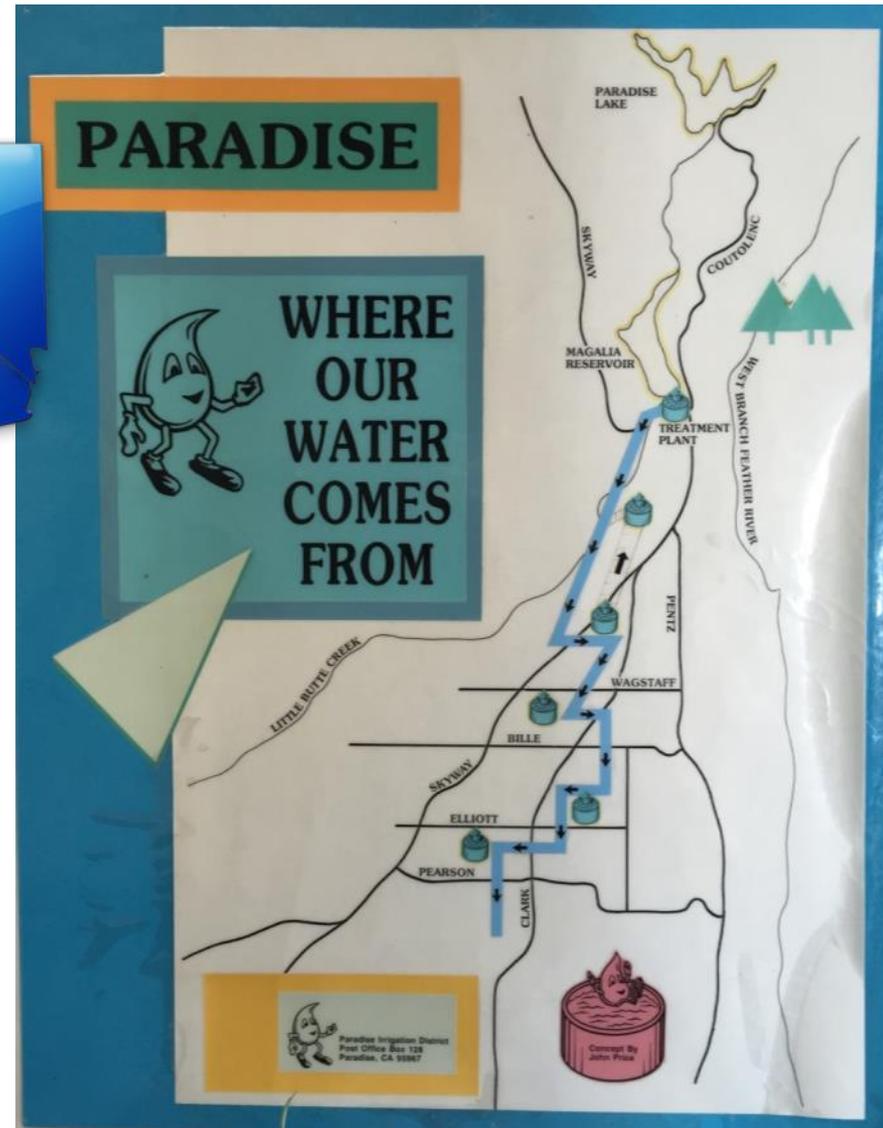


## ☾ Paradise Irrigation District

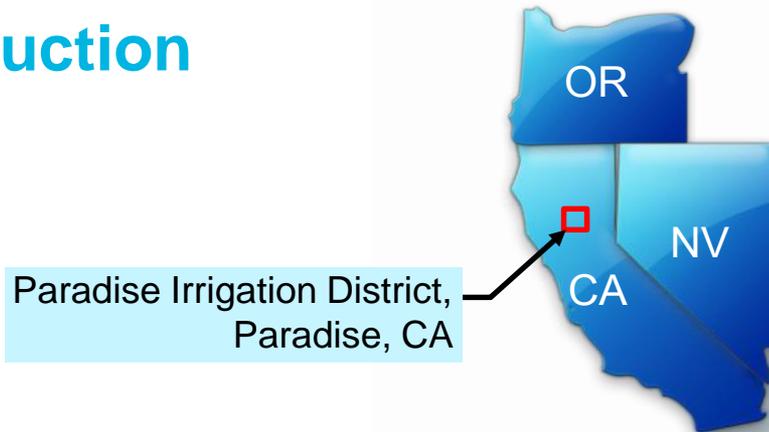
### 🏠 Surface water supply

- Paradise Lake
- Magalia Reservoir

### 🏠 19 MGD Paradise WTP



# Introduction



- ☾ Paradise Irrigation District
  - 🏠 Surface water supply
    - Paradise Lake
    - Magalia Reservoir
  - 🏠 19 MGD Paradise WTP
- ☾ WTP Washwater Discharge
  - 🏠 NPDES permit challenges
    - Total aluminum
    - Dichlorobromomethane (DCBM)



# Key Project Issues

## ☾ WTP Washwater Discharge

🏢 NPDES permit challenges

🏢 Washwater discharge to Magalia Reservoir (CA Toxics Rule)

○ Total aluminum (0.077 mg/L month avg; 0.123 mg/L max day)



○ DCBM (0.56 µg/L month avg; 1.12 µg/L max day)

🏢 Permit Time Schedule Order (TSO): Discharge Treatment Required

### PID Washwater Results

Jul 2010 – Jul 2014

Jan 2008 – Nov 2009

## ☾ Large Volume of Low-TSS Washwater

## ☾ Way Forward?

🏢 Implement washwater treatment

🏢 Discontinue discharge



# Discussion Topics

 Project Introduction and Key Issues

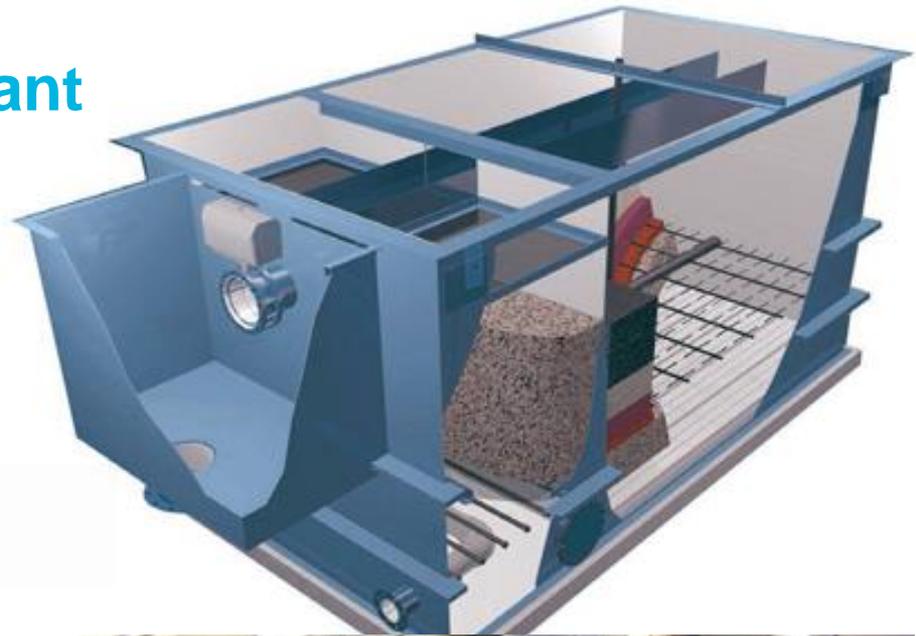
 WTP Process Overview



# Paradise Water Treatment Plant

## Alternative Treatment

- Upflow ContaClarifier
  - Roberts Filter (3 ea.)
  - Non-buoyant coarse media
- Filtration
  - Dual media filtration (6 ea.)
  - Anthracite over sand



# Paradise Water Treatment Plant

## Alternative Treatment

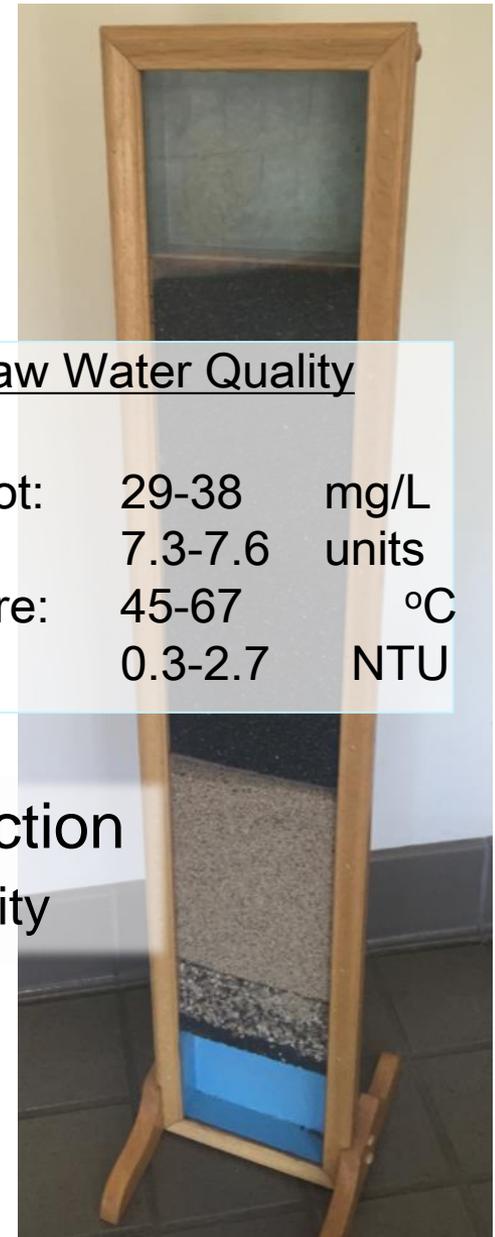
- Upflow ContaClarifier
  - Roberts Filter (3 ea.)
  - Non-buoyant coarse media
- Filtration
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## Very Low Chemical Feed & Residual Production

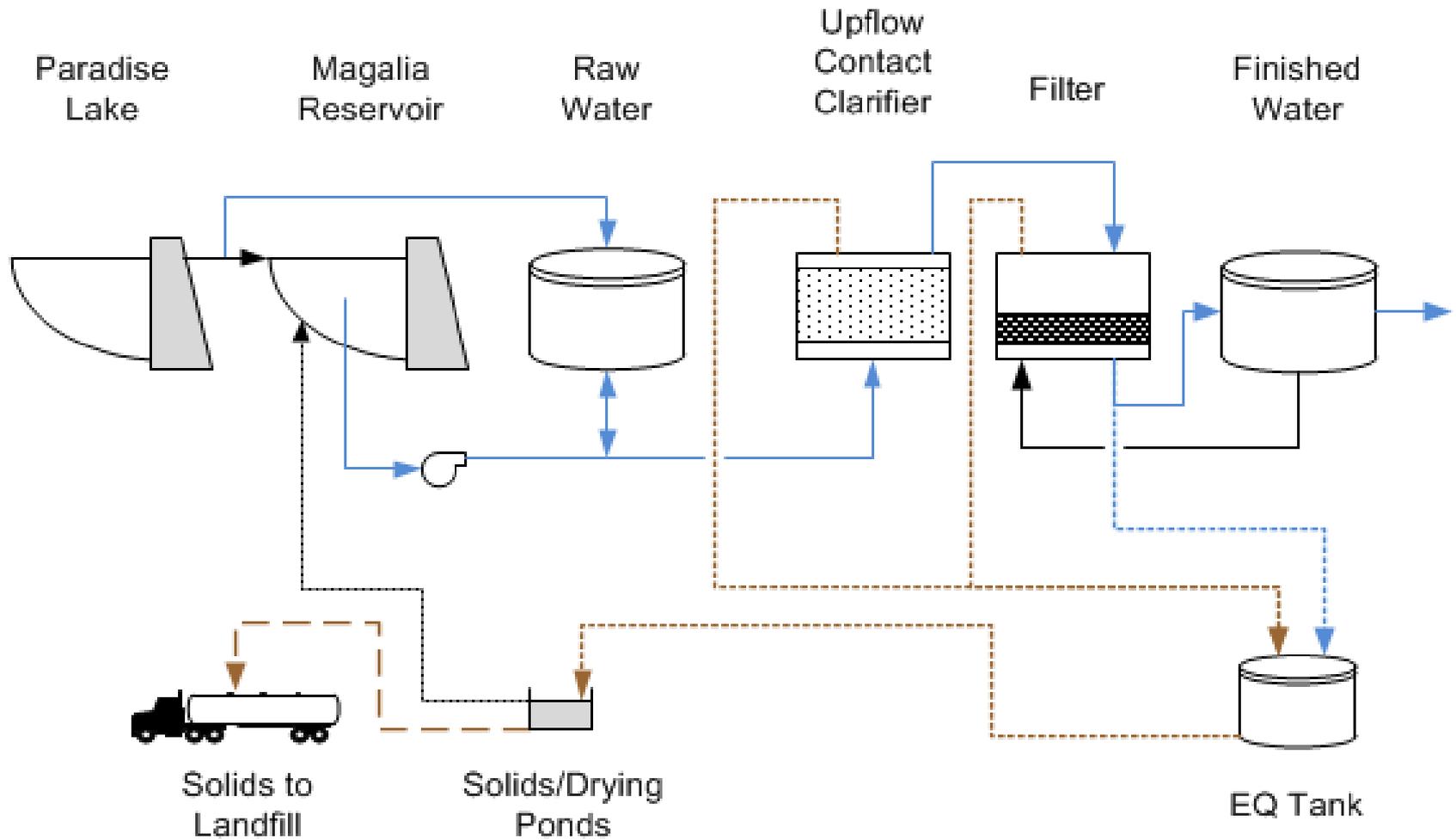
- Alum (0.8 to 3.3 mg/L): destroys ~1.5 mg/L Alkalinity
- ACH (0.6 to 1.8 mg/L)
- Cationic polymer (0.6 to 1.7 mg/L)
- Anionic filter aid polymer (0.009 to 0.023 mg/L)
- Estimated 30-40 lb/MG solids produced

### 2015 Raw Water Quality

Alkalinity, tot:	29-38	mg/L
pH:	7.3-7.6	units
Temperature:	45-67	°C
Turbidity:	0.3-2.7	NTU



# Paradise Water Treatment Plant



# Paradise Water Treatment Plant

## ContacClarifier Washwater Design Considerations

-  Approximately 80,000 gallons/flush
  - 60-80 NTU in the first 2 minutes
  - Remaining turbidity <20 NTU (~15 minutes total)
  - <50 pounds of solids/flush (TSS between 0.006% to 0.007%)
-  Up to 12 flushes/day (from 160,000 to 1,200,000 GPD)

## Filter Backwash Design Considerations

-  Approximately 1 backwash every two days
-  Three filters operating in winter
-  Six filters operating in summer
-  140,000 gal/backwash (TSS between 0.002% to 0.005%)
  - Filter backwash water
  - Filter to waste water



# Discussion Topics

-  Project Introduction and Key Issues
-  WTP Process Overview
-  **Pilot Testing Plan**



# Pilot Testing Plan

## Goal: Zero Discharge

-  Treat all washwater from clarifier and filters
-  Process solids on-site
-  Assess liquid-solid separation of lamella plates
-  Determine thickening capability of lamella-settled solids

HLR = Hydraulic  
Loading  
Rate

## Lamella Plate Settling

-  Recycling of supernatant to the head of the WTP
-  Possible use of supernatant as clarifier flush water supply
-  Suitability of separated solids to be thickened and meet proper consistency for efficient mechanical dewatering
-  Simulate failure mechanisms (high HLR and/or improper polymer/coagulant dose) to characterize process upsets
-  Obtain HLR / sizing, design criteria



# Pilot Testing Plan, continued

## Operations and Regulatory Requirements

## USEPA Filter Backwash Recycling Rule

 Supernatant return to head of WTP

 Flow restriction

 Turbidity restriction

## DBPs

 Will levels rise during recycling/reuse practice?

## Supernatant and Solids

 Supernatant turbidity targets:  $\leq 2$  NTU (90<sup>th</sup> percentile)

 Supernatant flow target (for design): 10% instantaneous

 Solids thickening goals:  $>20\%$  solids

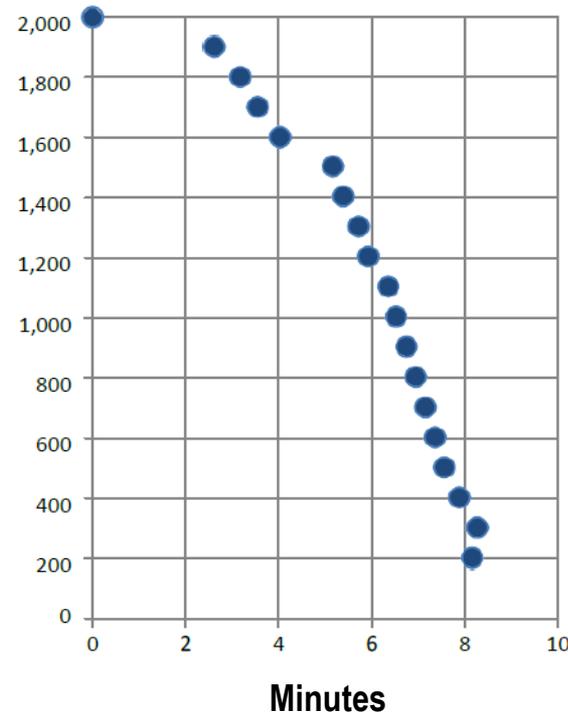
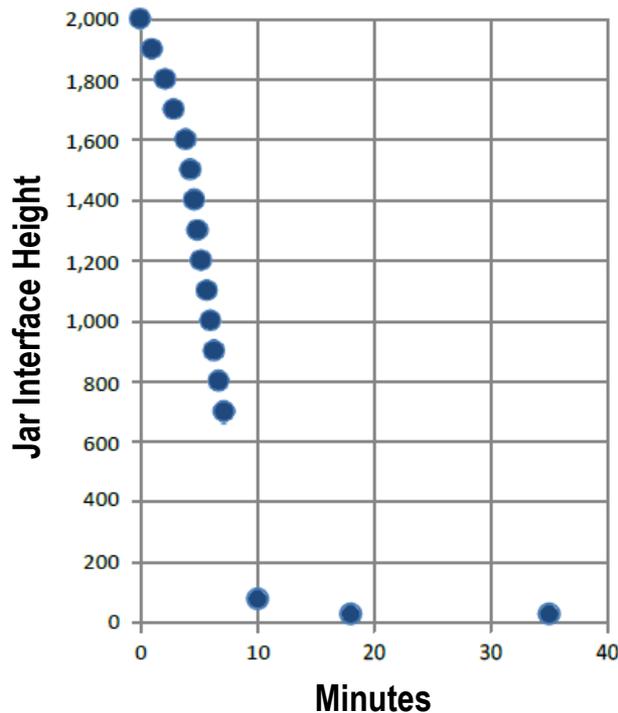


# Pilot Testing Plan, continued



## ☪ Preliminary Bench-Scale Screening

- ☪ Anionic and Cationic polymers tested
- ☪ Anionic polymers were not able to reduce turbidity <2 NTU
- ☪ Cationic polymers best (based on settling, final supernatant turbidity)



# Pilot Testing Plan, continued

## Testing Matrix

### Lamella

- HLR: 0.2 – 0.6 GPM/sf
- Thickener Blowdown Rate: 3 – 30 % of feed flow
- Solids Recirculation Rate: 0 – 3 % of feed flow

### Chemical Dosing

- Coagulant (Aluminum Sulphate): 0 – 7.5 mg/L
- Cationic Polymer (ZetaFloc): 0.5 – 100 mg/L
- Cationic Polymer (SuperFloc\*): 0.001 – 5 mg/L
- Anionic Polymer (AE212\*): 0.02 – 6 mg/L

### Simulate process upset

- Washwater return causing turbidity spike

\* *SuperFloc and AE212 are polyacrylamide polymers; requiring a maximum WTP dosage of 1 mg/L (based upon full WTP flow)*

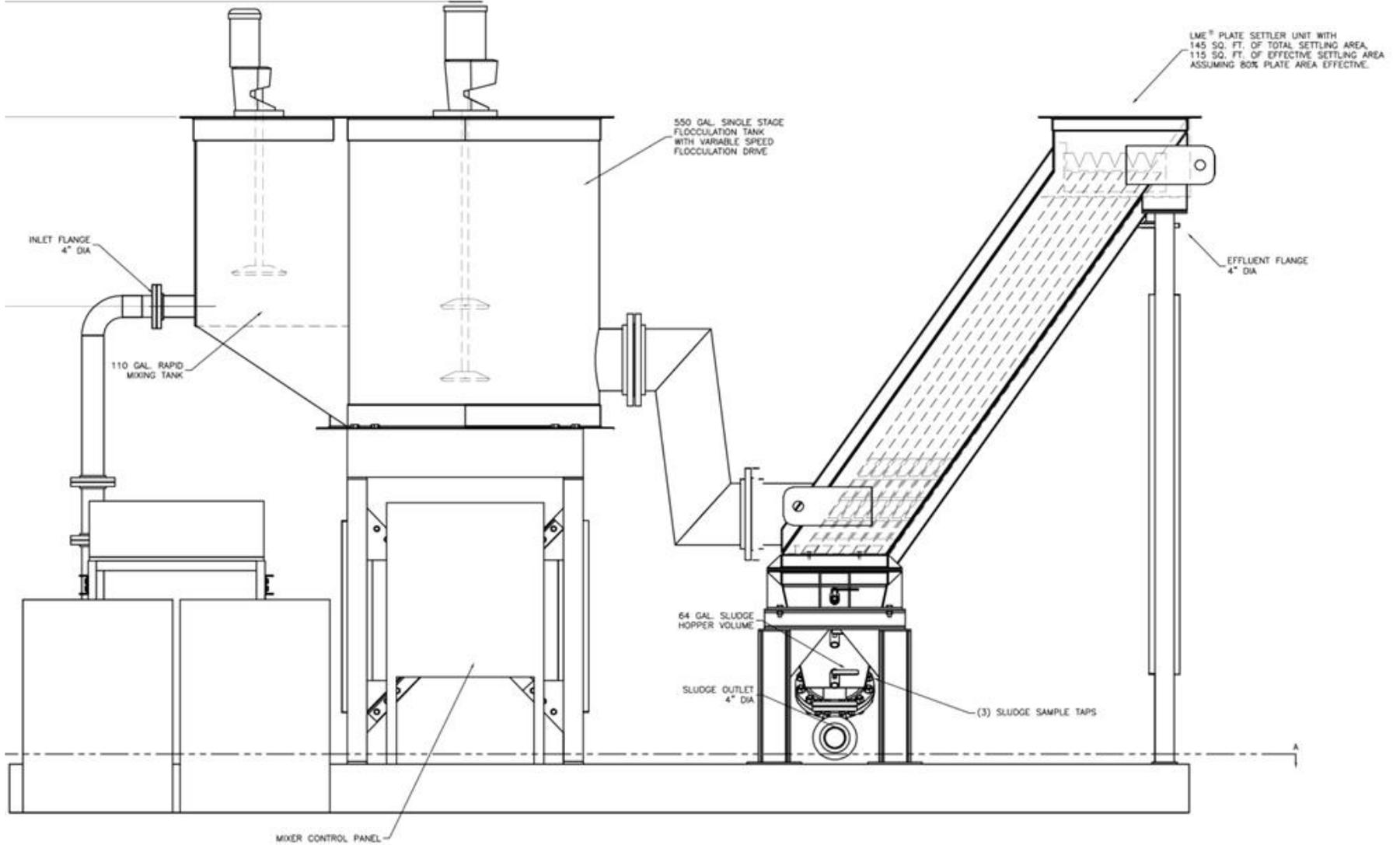


# Discussion Topics

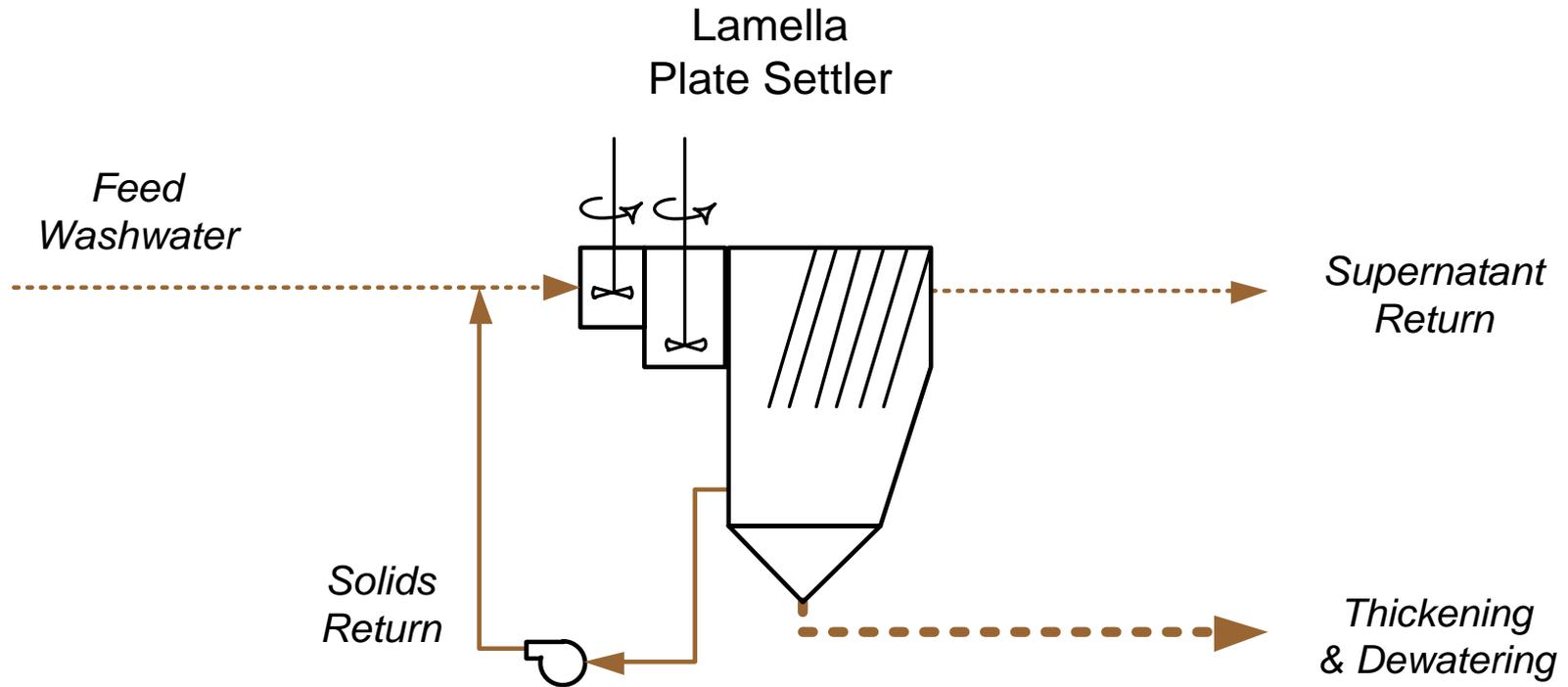
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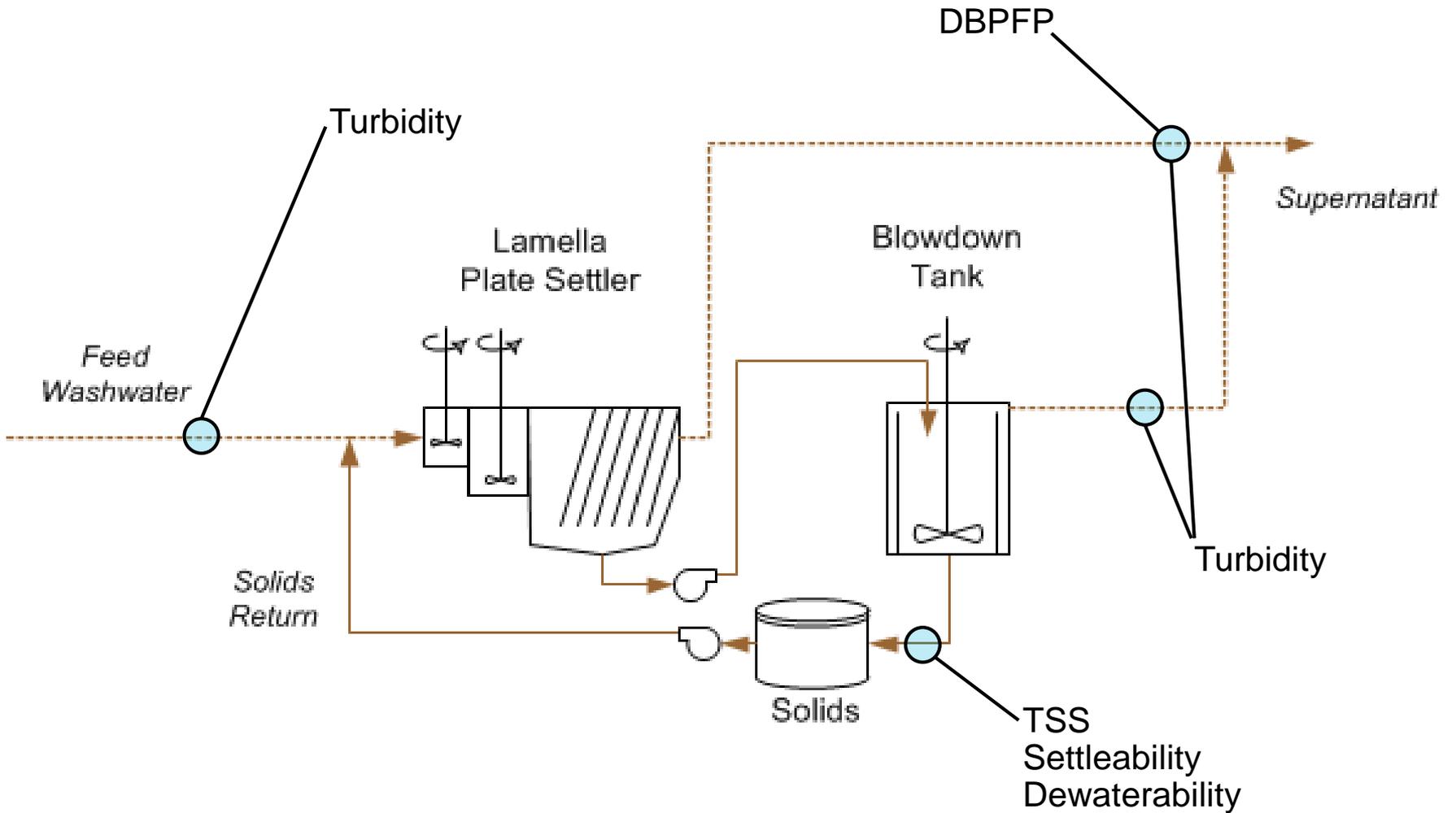
# Pilot Plant Setup



# Full-Scale Design Representation



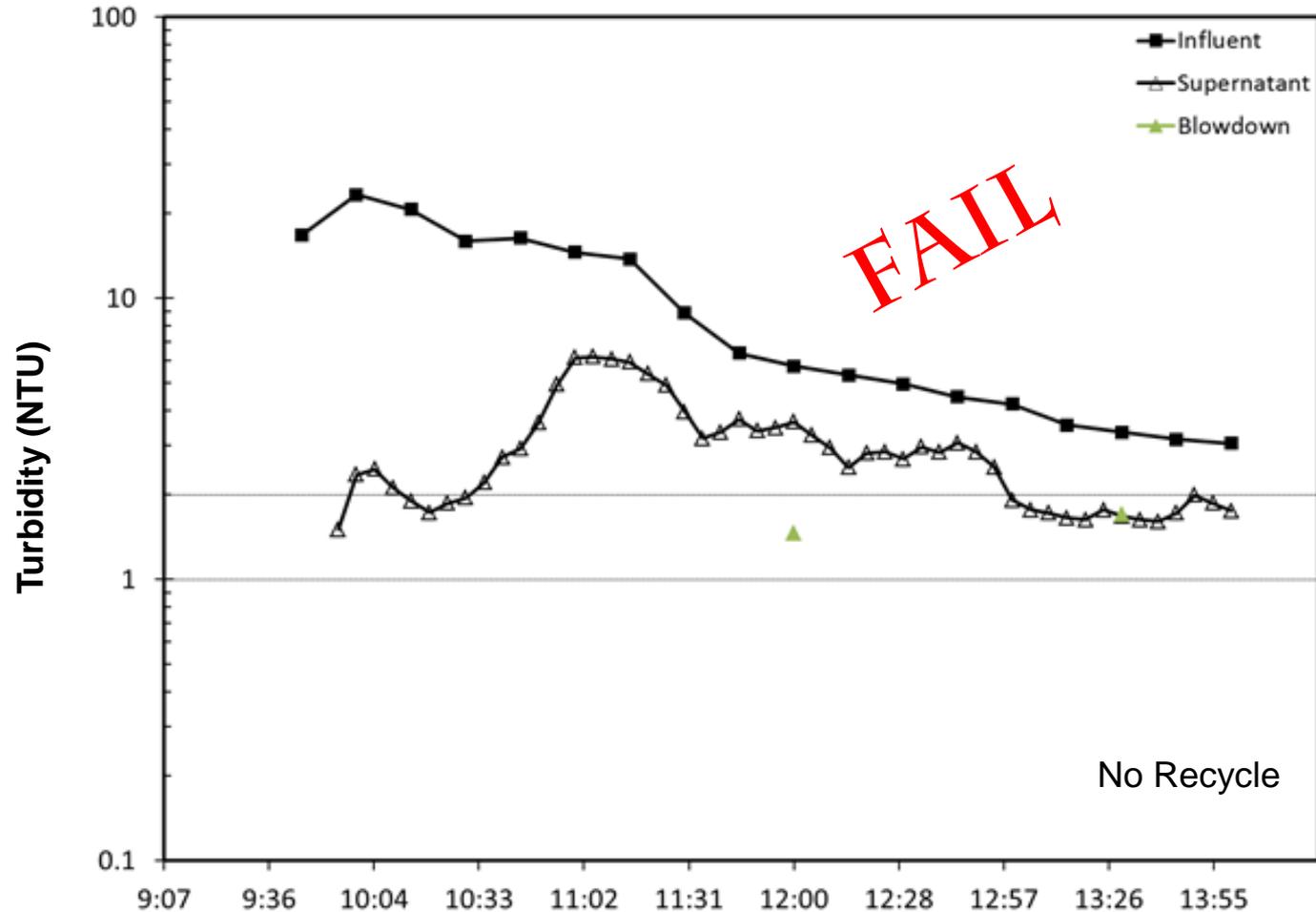
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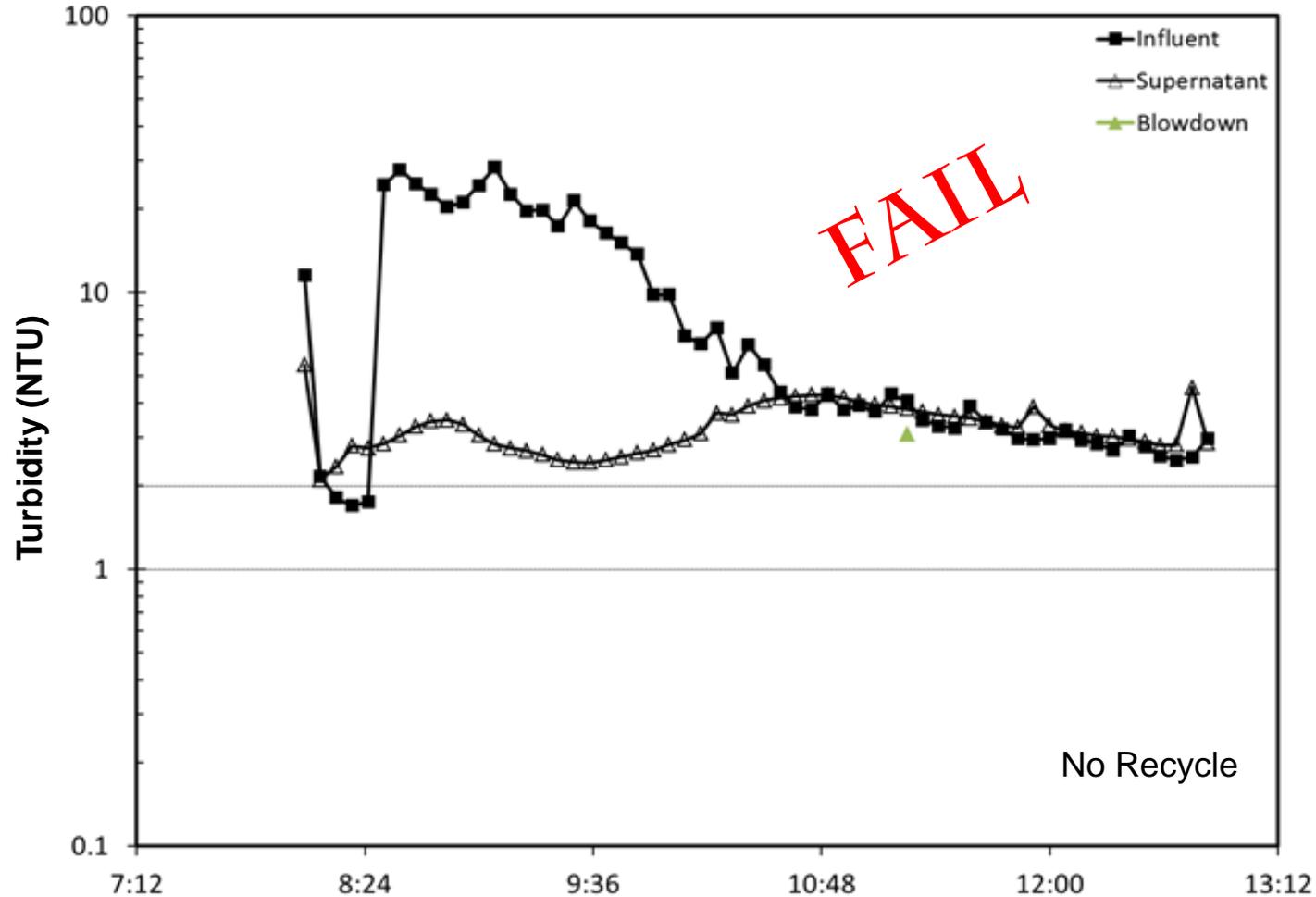


# Pilot Test Results Anionic Polymer & Alum



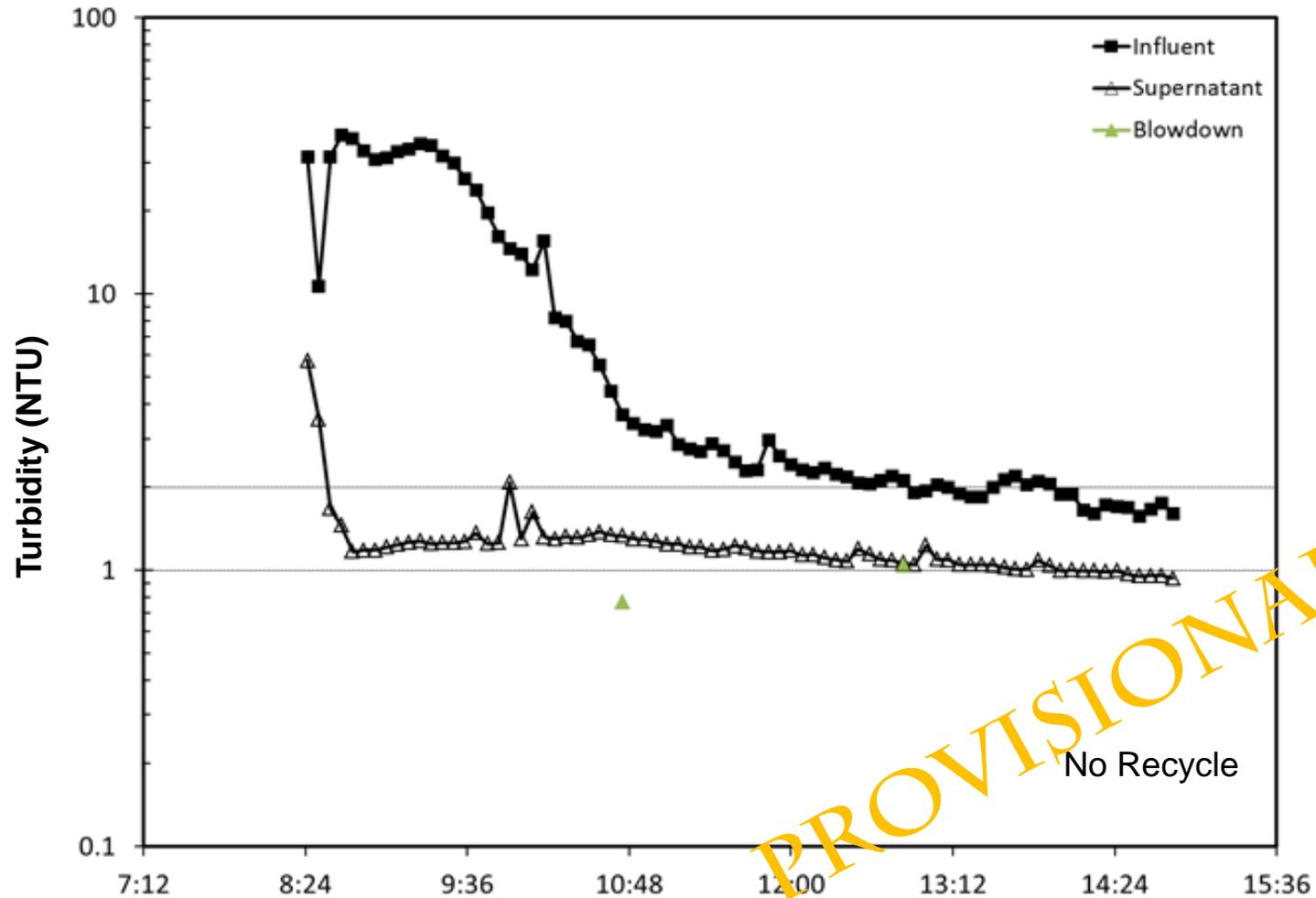
# Pilot Test Results

## Zetafloc Cationic Polymer & Alum

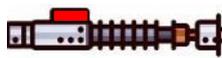


# Pilot Test Results

## 4 mg/L SuperFloc Cationic Polymer & 3 mg/L Alum

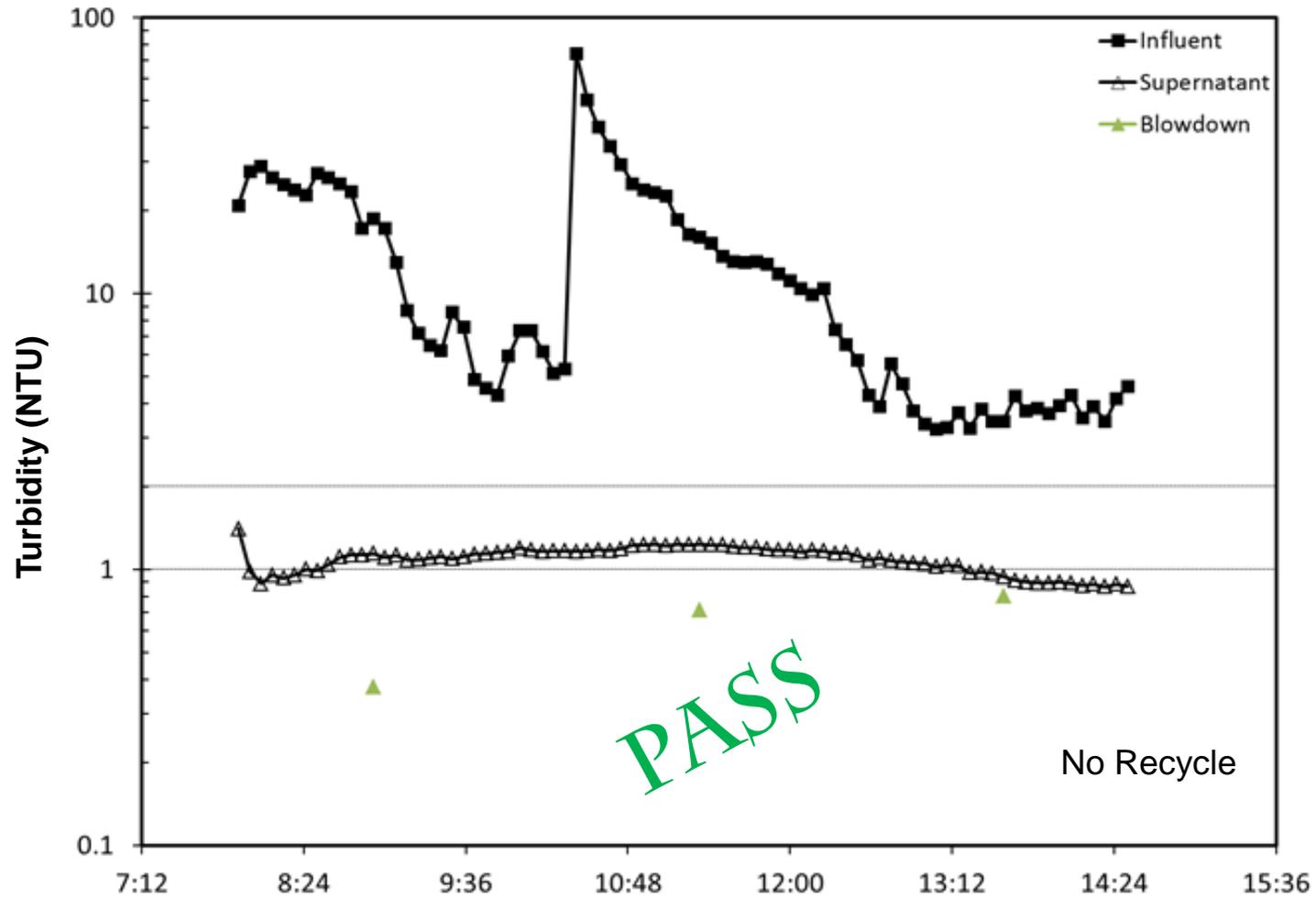


PROVISIONAL



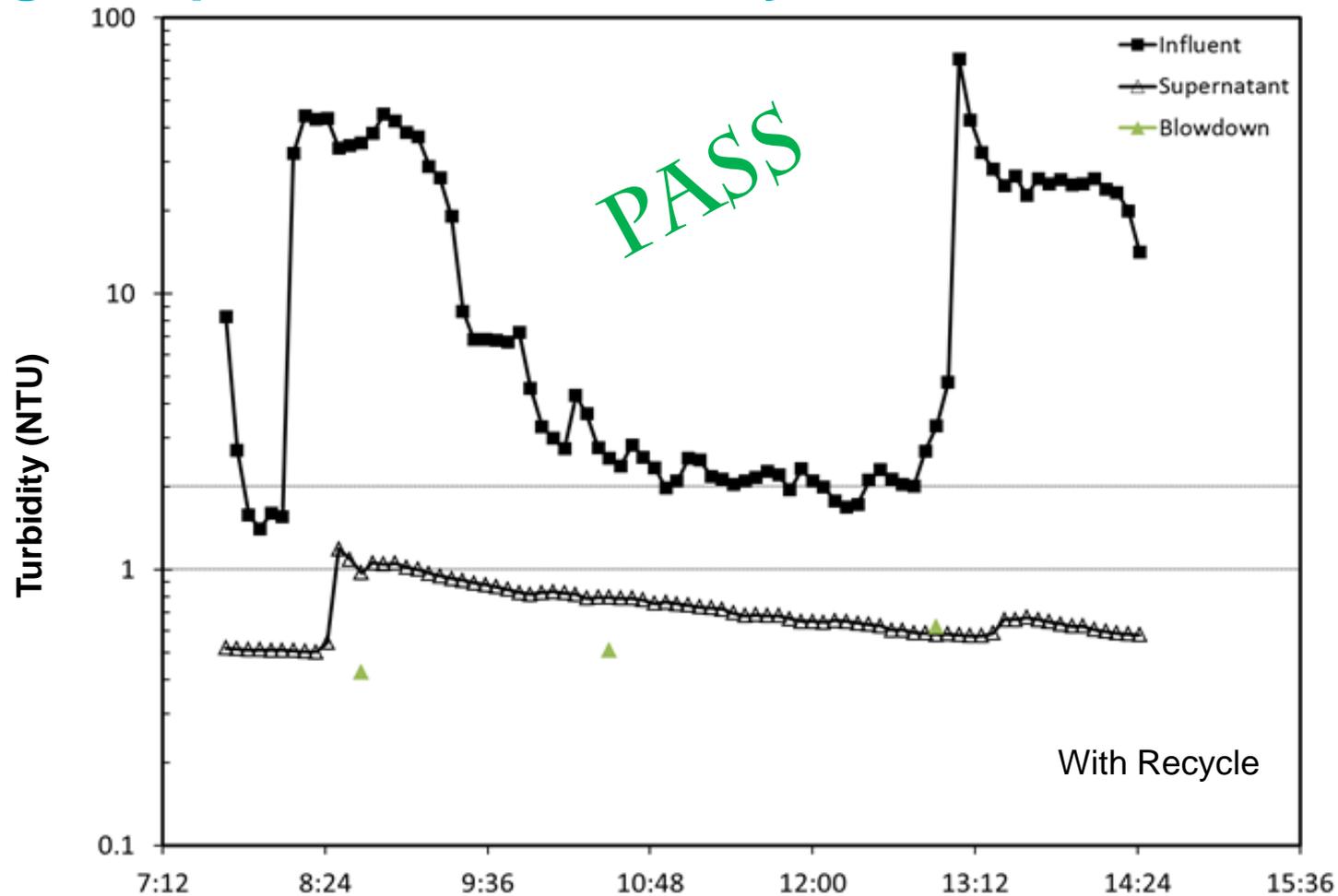
# Pilot Test Results

## 5 mg/L SuperFloc Cationic Polymer & 3 mg/L Alum



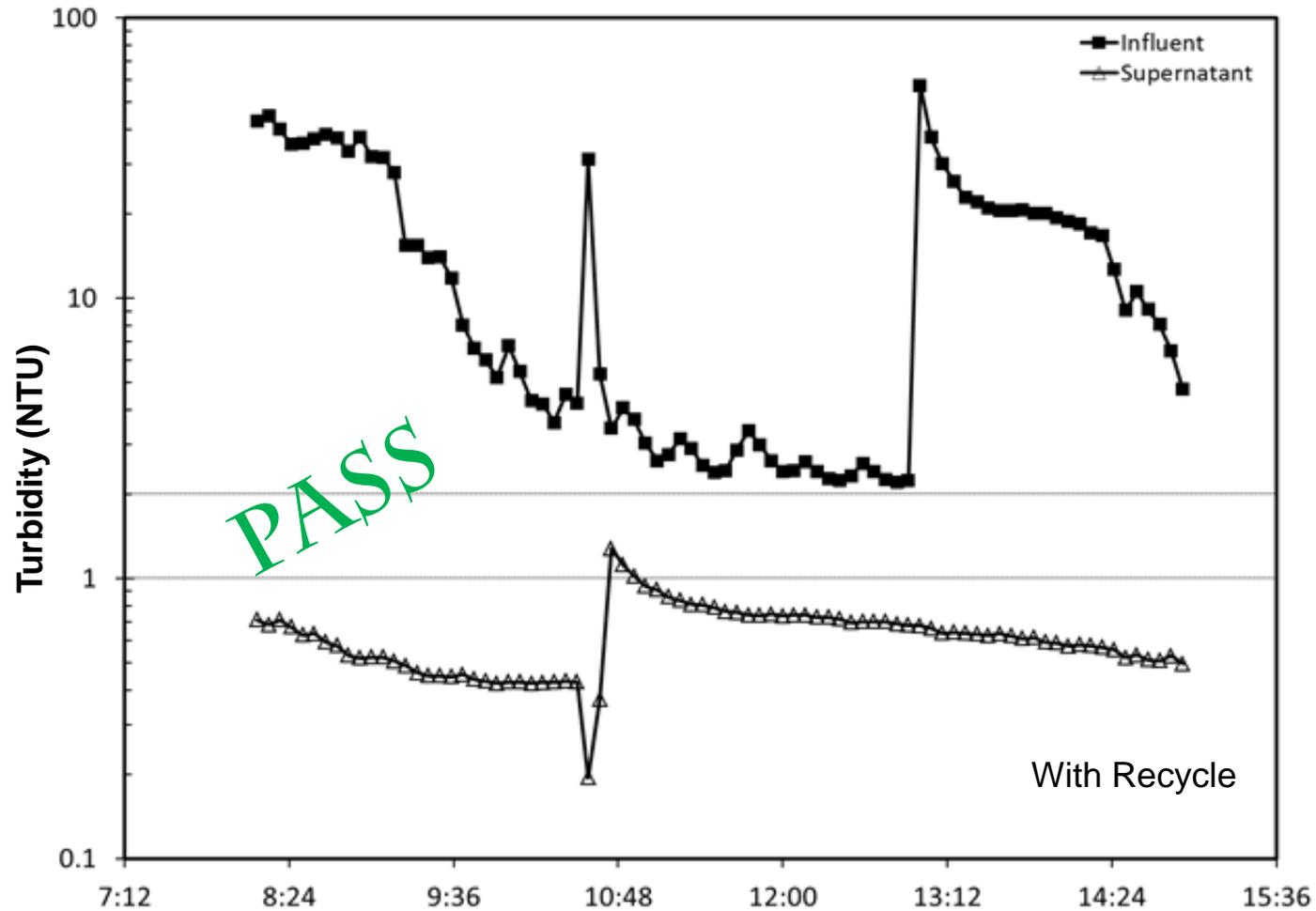
# Pilot Test Results

## 3 mg/L SuperFloc Cationic Polymer



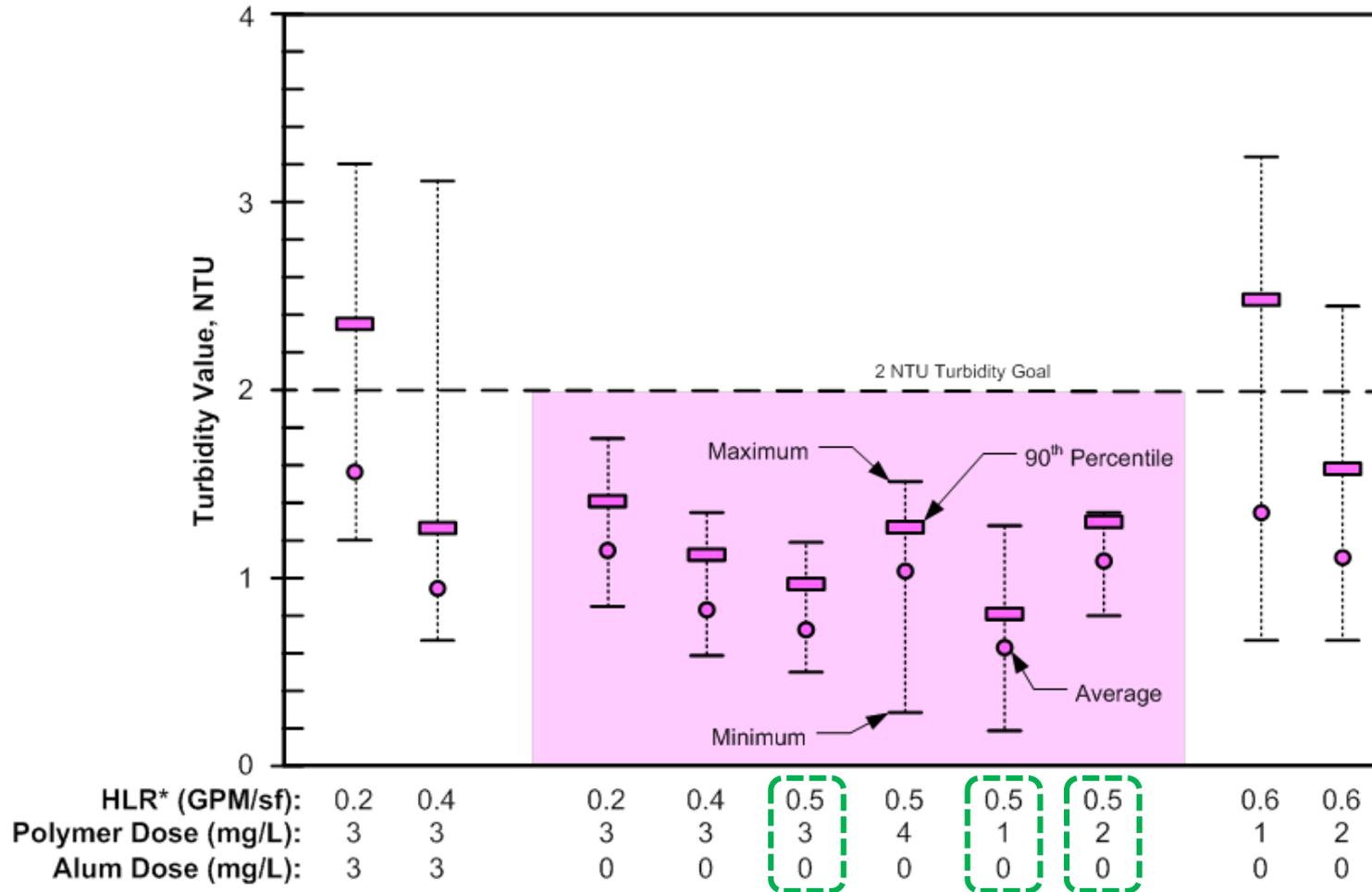
# Pilot Test Results

## 1 mg/L SuperFloc Cationic Polymer



# Pilot Test Results

## Summary of Test Conditions



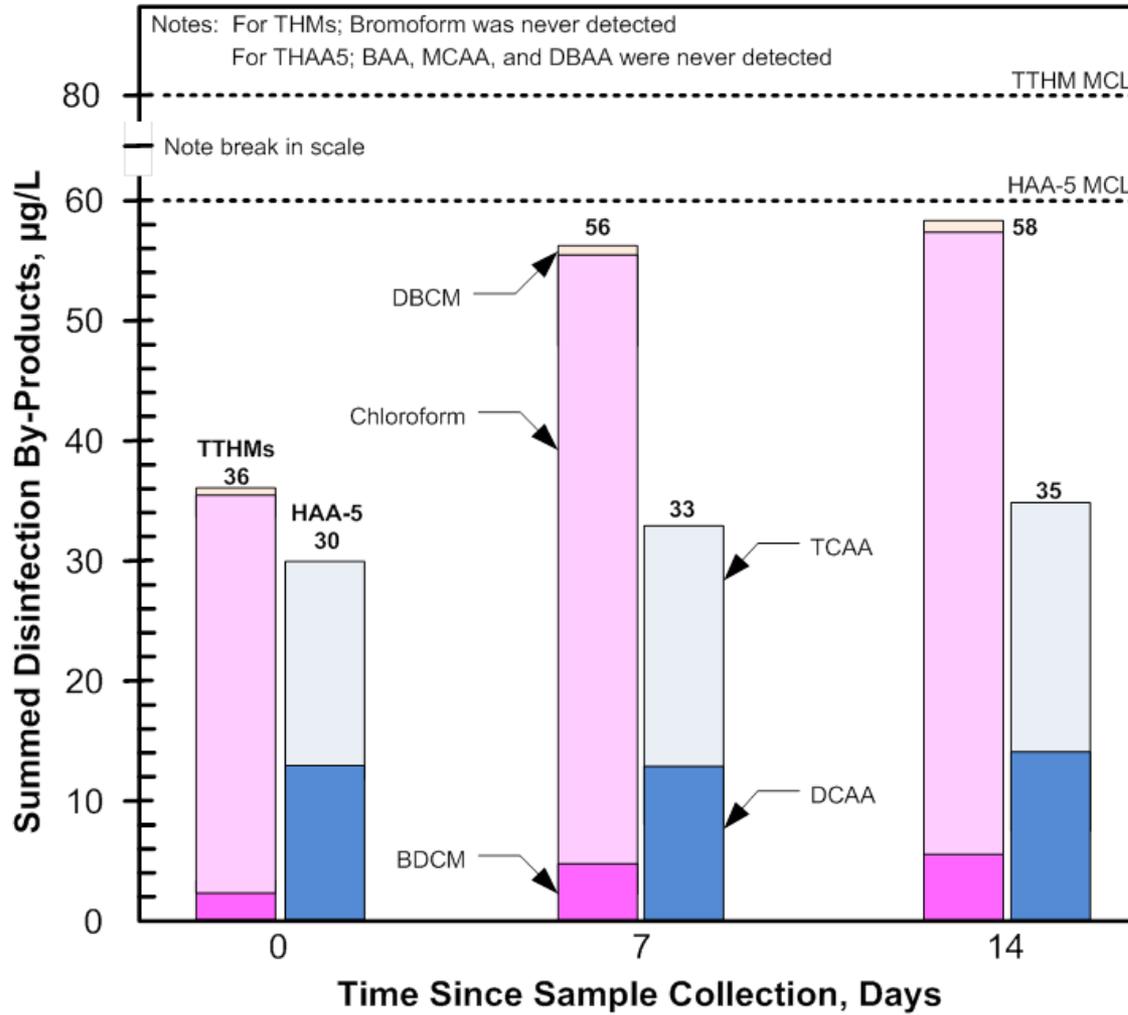
\*HLR = Hydraulic loading rate

SuperFloc Cationic Polymer



# Pilot Test Results

## DBP Bench Testing



## CONDITIONS

1. Duplicate tests, collected after lamella
2. Stored in the lab in amber,  $\text{Cl}_2$ -demand-free glass
3. Tests at 7 & 14 days storage

## RESULTS

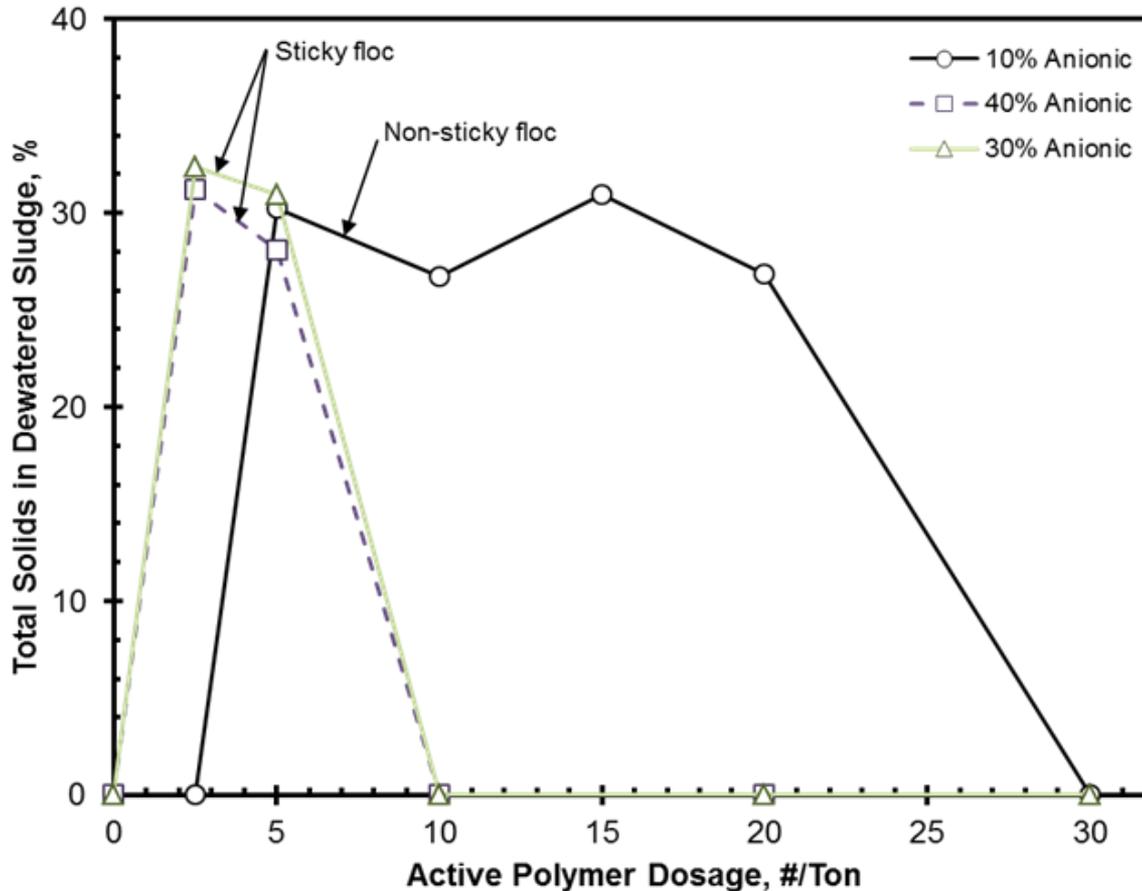
1. Starting residual at ~0.25 mg/L
2. No residual  $\text{Cl}_2$  after 14 days
3. DBPs not considered to be an issue (will only become a small portion of treated water)



# Pilot Test Results

## Dewatering Bench Testing

1. Jar testing to generate flocculated, solid mass
2. Solids squeezed through filtration cloth
3. Dewatered cakes tested for %TS



# Recommendations and Next Steps

## Lamella Results

-  Several conditions met 2 NTU goal
  - HLR can operate from 0.4-0.5 GPM/sf
  - 1 – 3 mg/L SuperFloc Cationic Polymer
  - Alum not required
-  DBPs not an issue
  - <60 TTHMs & <40 HAA5
  - Recirculated volume with these values is very, very a small portion of flow

## Dewatering Results

-  30% TS achievable with anionic polymer
-  Confirm results and optimize polymer dose at full-scale



# Recommendations and Next Steps, continued

## Operations and Regulatory Conditions

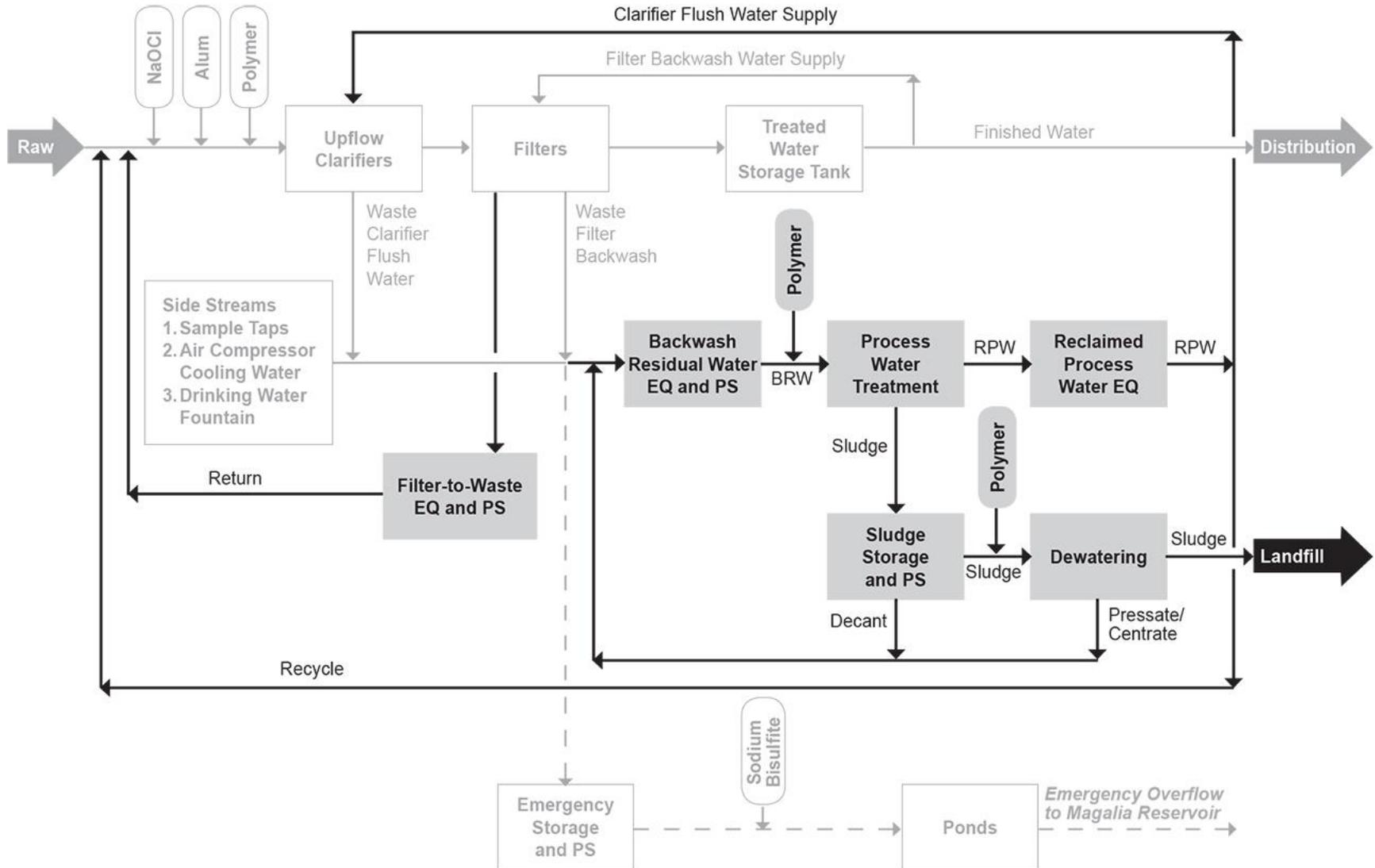
-  Allowed to increase flow above 10% instantaneous (for short periods)
-  Allowed to recycle to head of WTP (meeting 2 NTU goal)
-  Allowed to use as ContaClarifier washwater

## Design Moving Forward

-  Flow equalization is a major focus of design & future operations
-  Prevention of hydraulic surges



# Recommendations and Next Steps, continued





# Thank You!

Alex Mofidi PE