



**Bull Run**  
TREATMENT  
PROJECTS

*Our water: Safe and abundant  
for generations to come*

PORTLAND WATER BUREAU

## Bull Run Treatment Projects

### Bull Run Water: Investigating Coagulation, Flocculation and Sedimentation

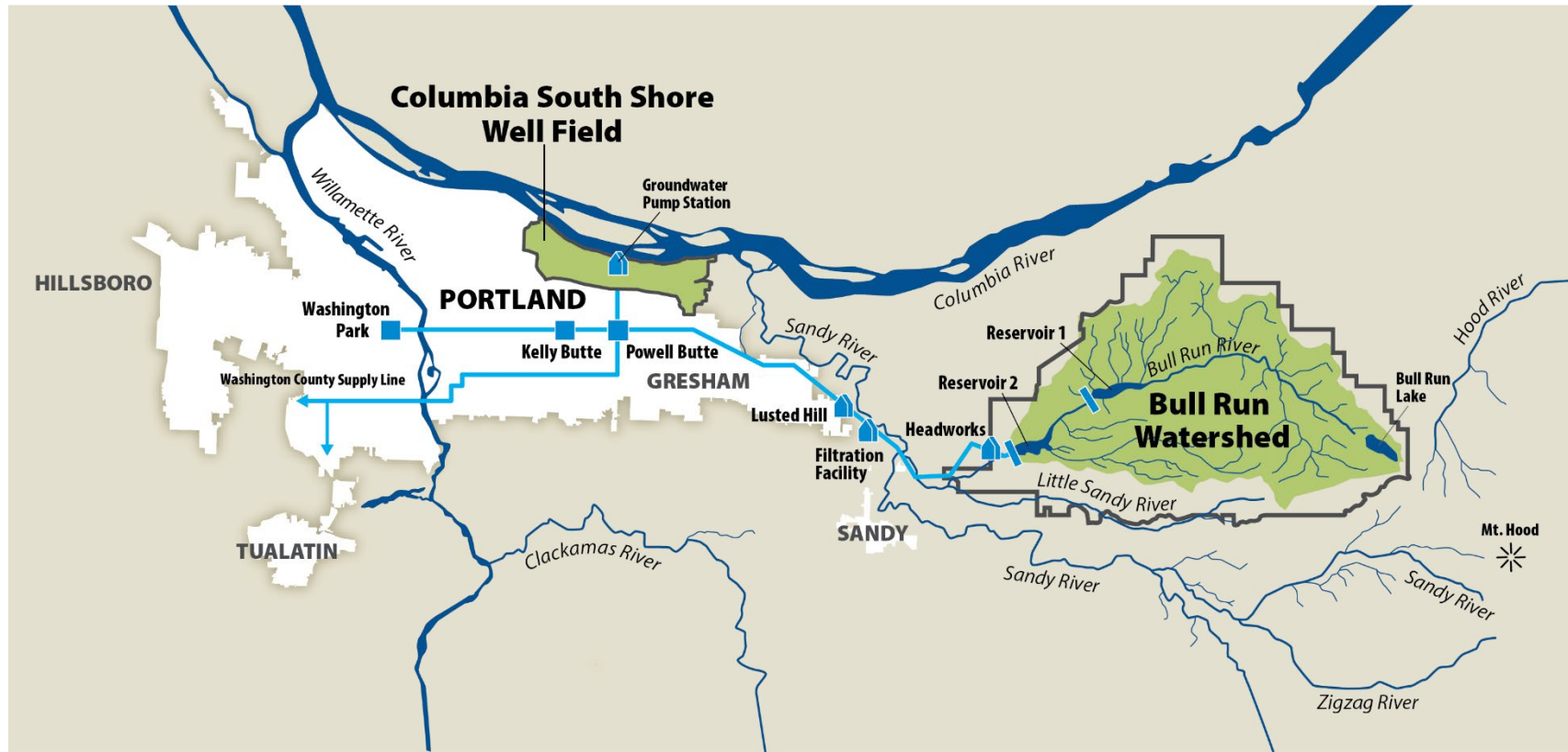
Mojtaba AzadiAghdam, PhD, PE

Process Engineer



Tacoma, WA • April 27-29

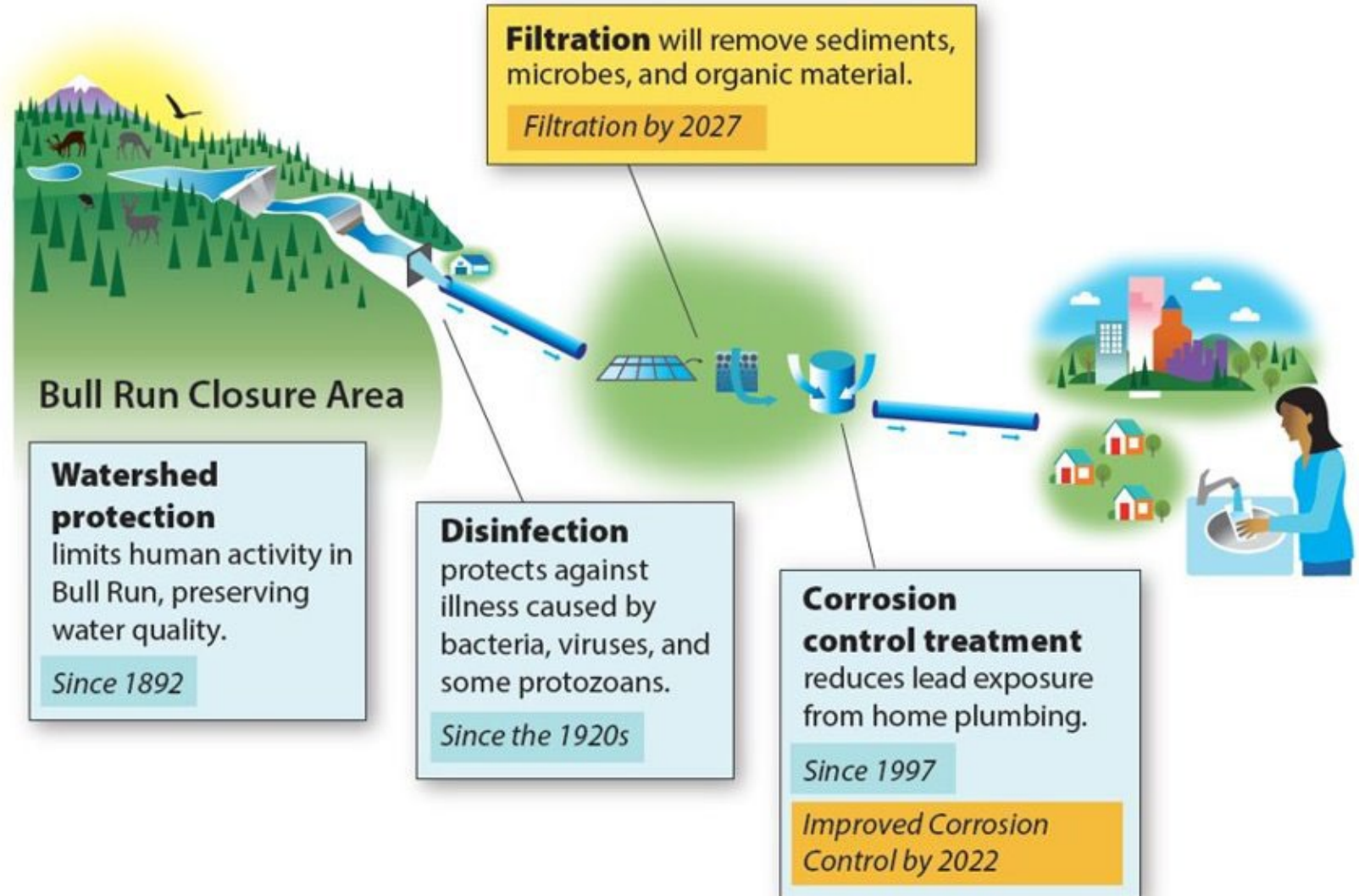
# Thanks to thoughtful planning, Bull Run has been a source of **excellent water since 1895**



- Serves almost 1 million people
- Serves the City of Portland and 19 wholesale customers
- Uses 100 million gallons of water on an average day



Improvements  
to our system  
are needed to  
meet national  
drinking water  
standards



# Agenda

1. Alum coagulation at the pilot
2. Results of Alum Jar Tests
3. Summary

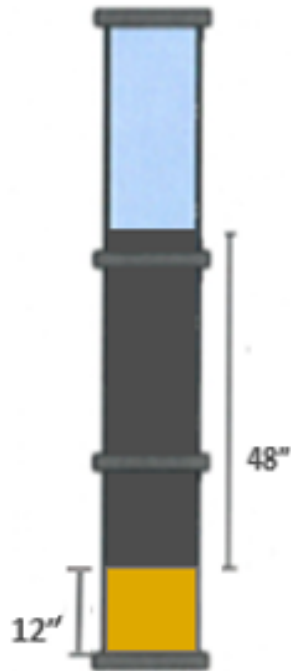


# Pilot

Alum

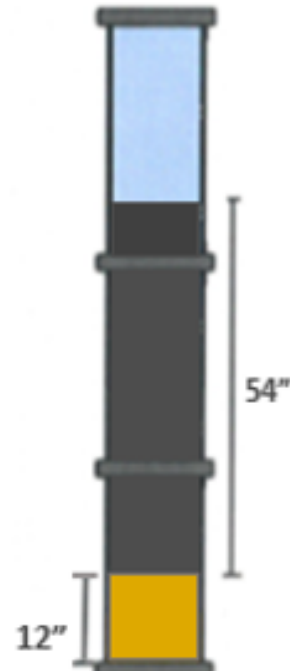
# Filter Configuration

ANTH-60  
Filters 1/6



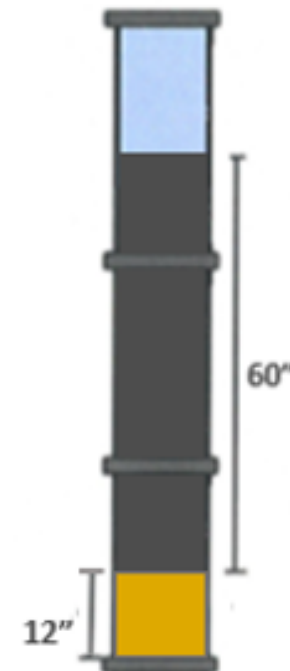
1.1 mm Anthracite  
0.55 mm Sand  
8 gpm/sf

ANTH-66  
Filters 2/5



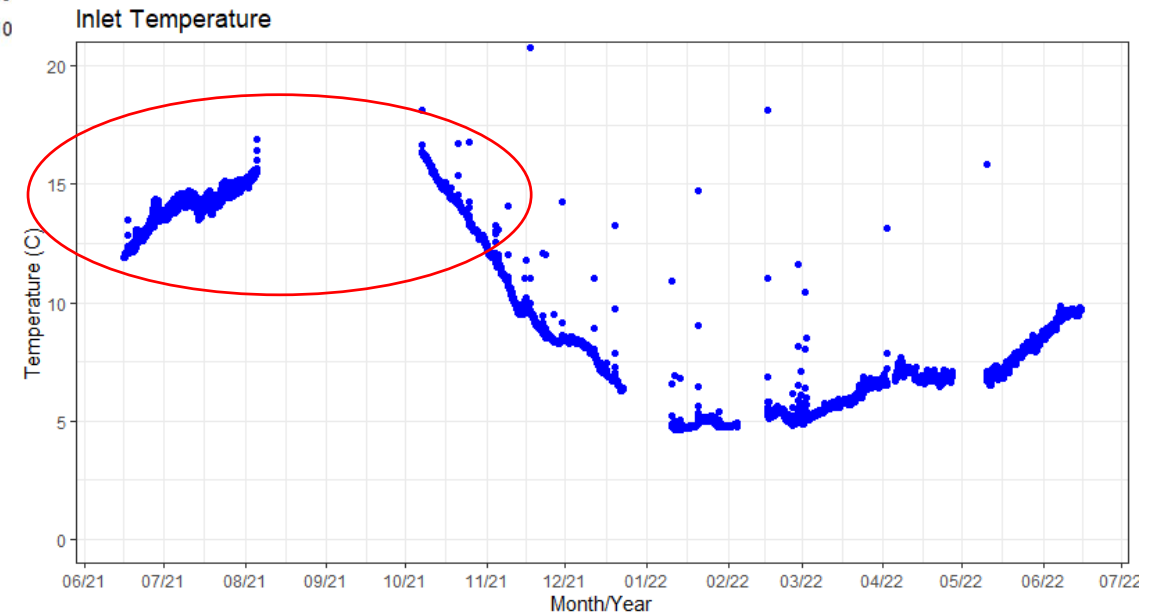
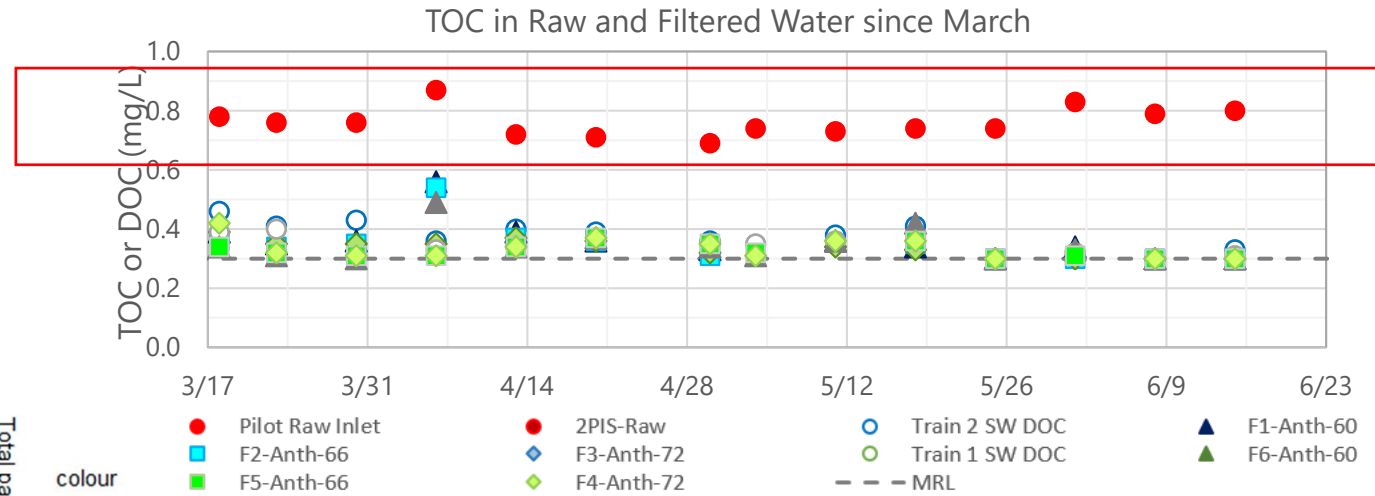
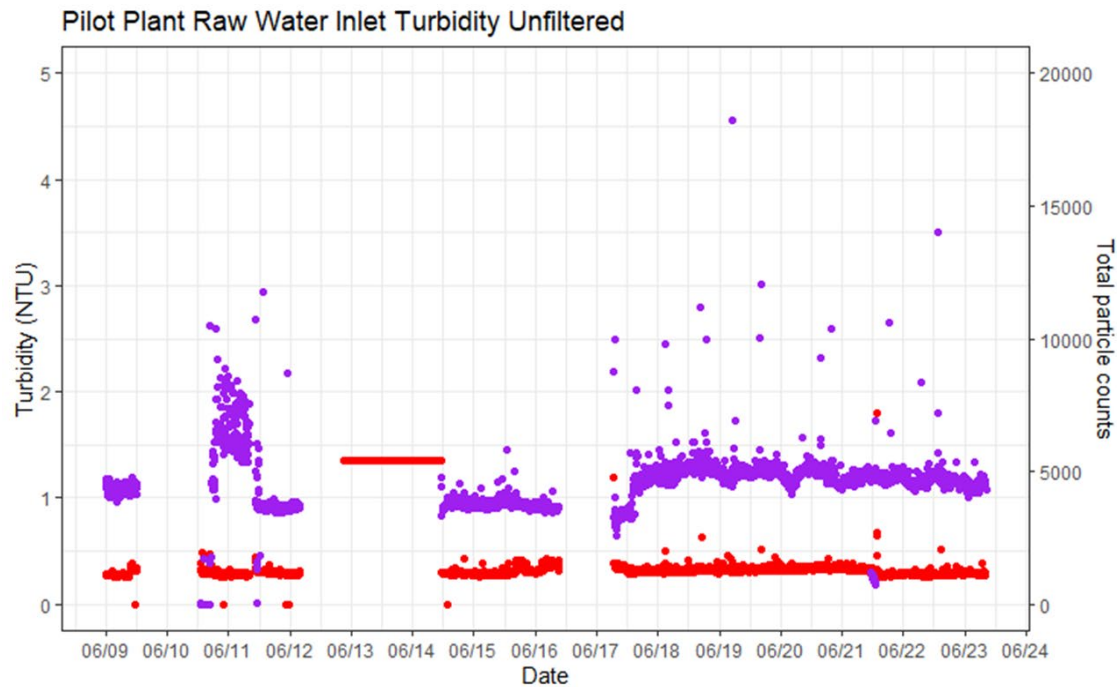
1.2 mm Anthracite  
0.60 mm Sand  
10 gpm/sf

ANTH-72  
Filters 3/4



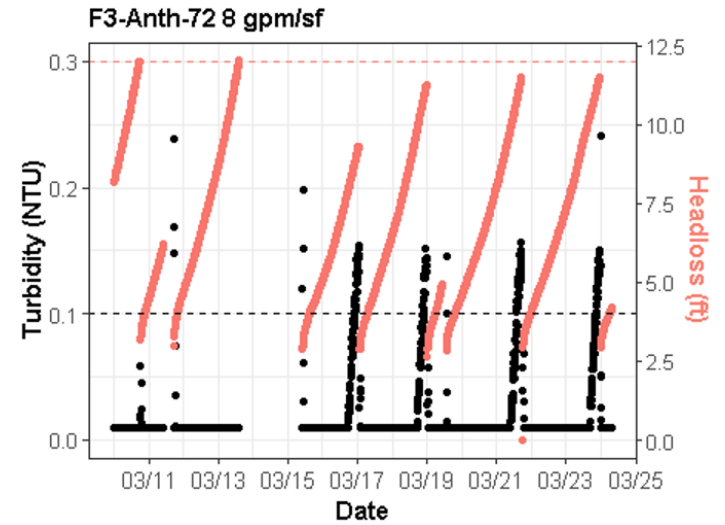
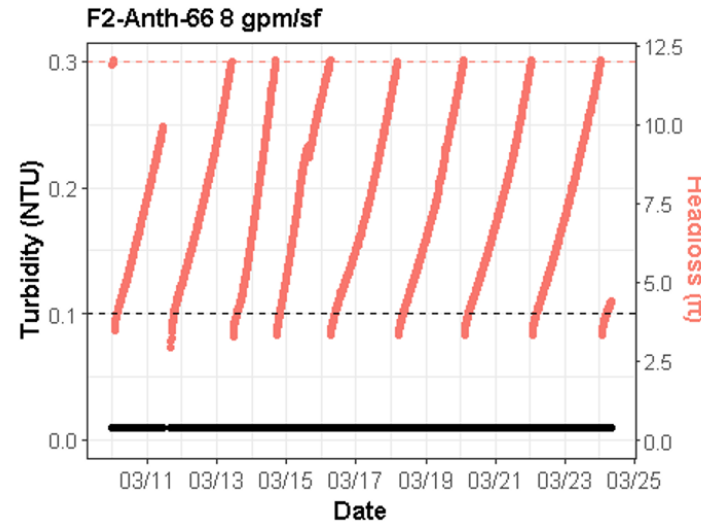
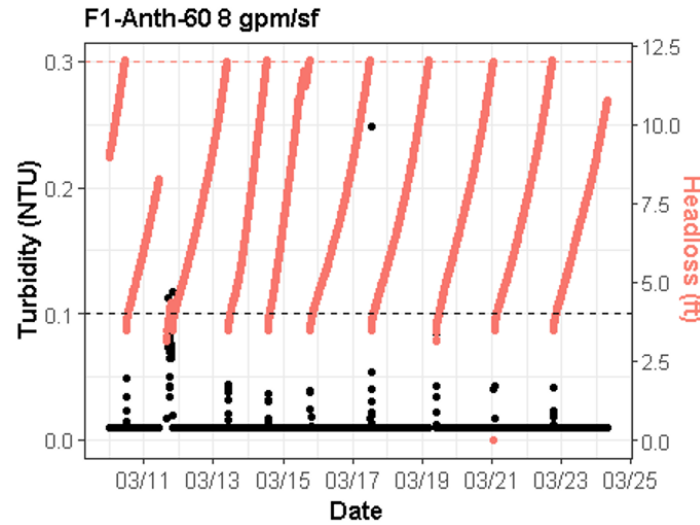
1.3 mm Anthracite  
0.65 mm Sand  
12 gpm/sf

# Raw Water in Spring/Summer

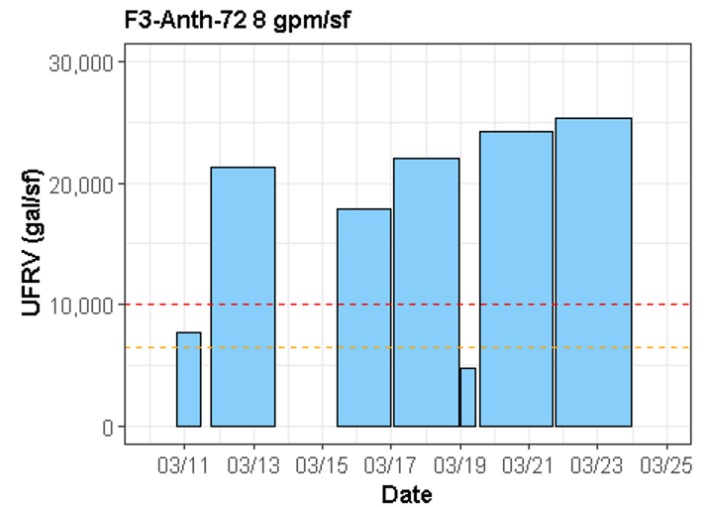
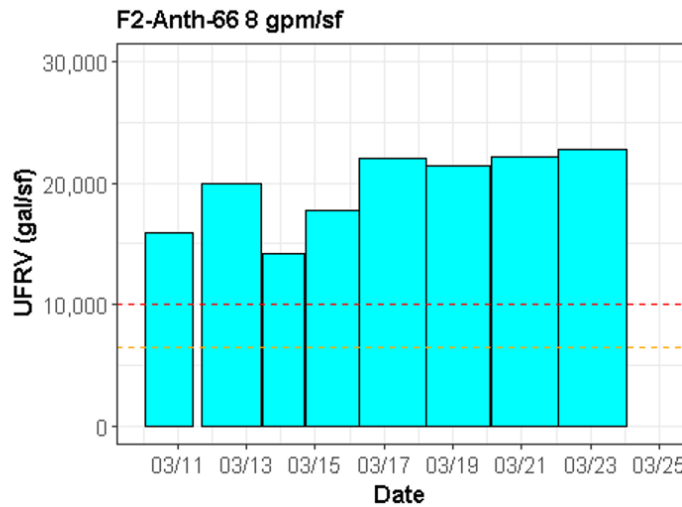
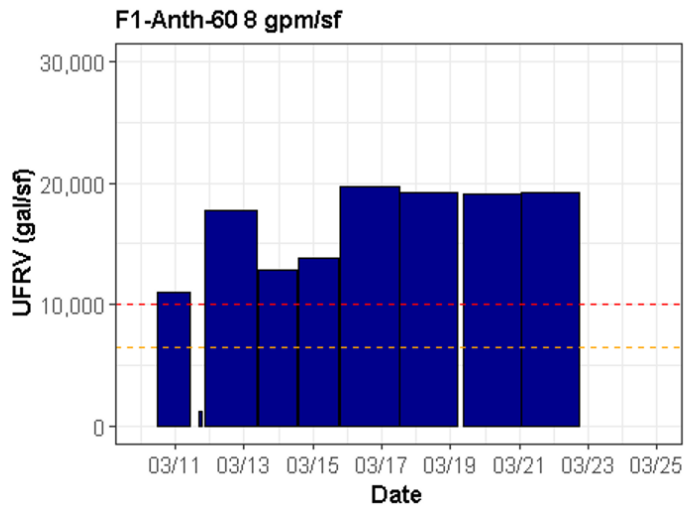


# Filter Effluent and Productivity

Train 2 (Pre-Ozone, Alum)

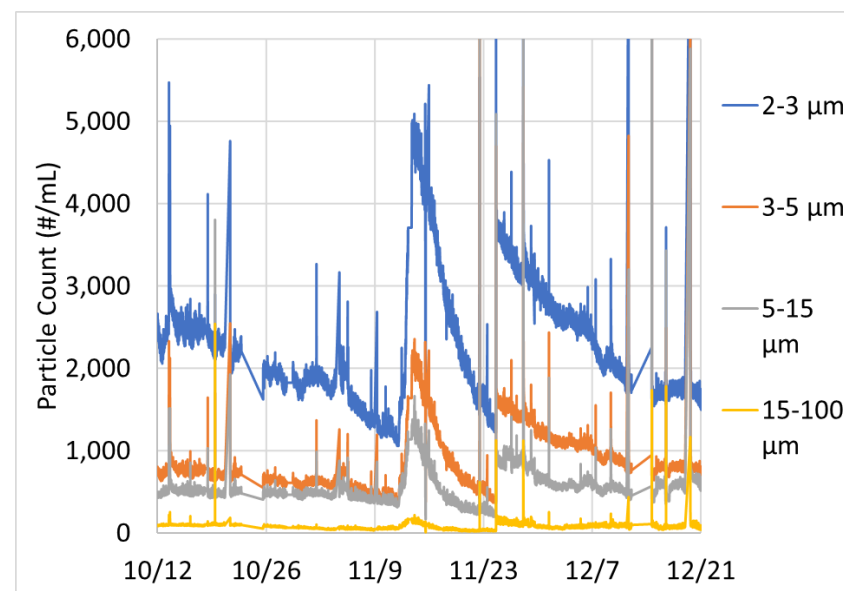
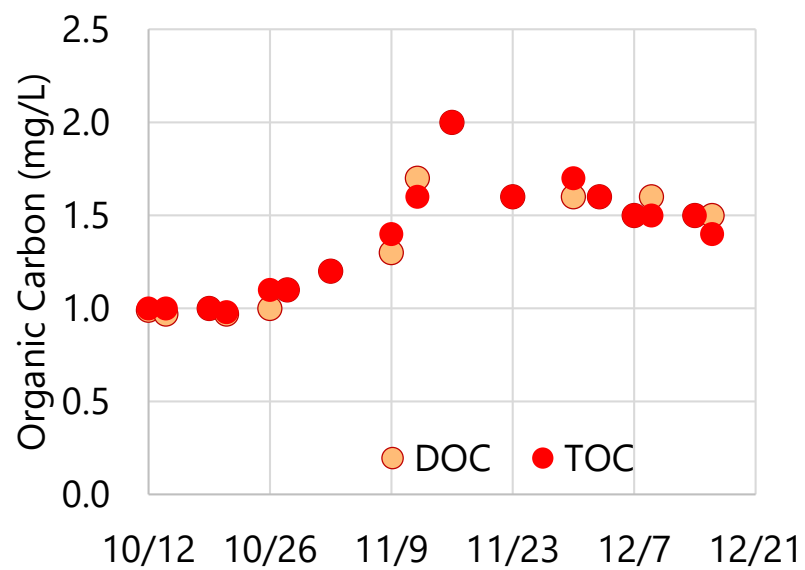
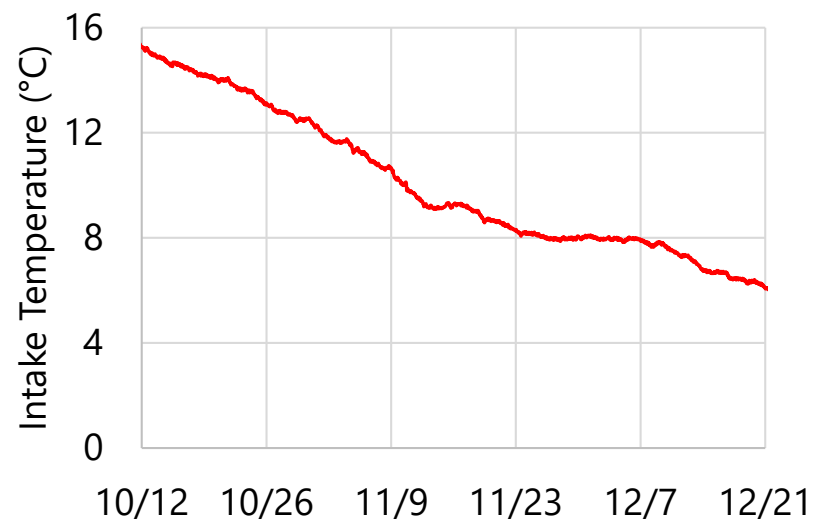
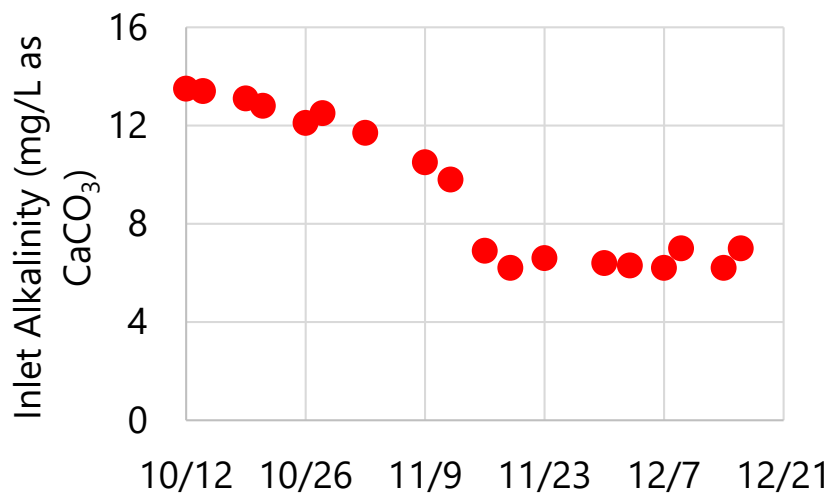


Train 2 (Pre-Ozone, Alum)

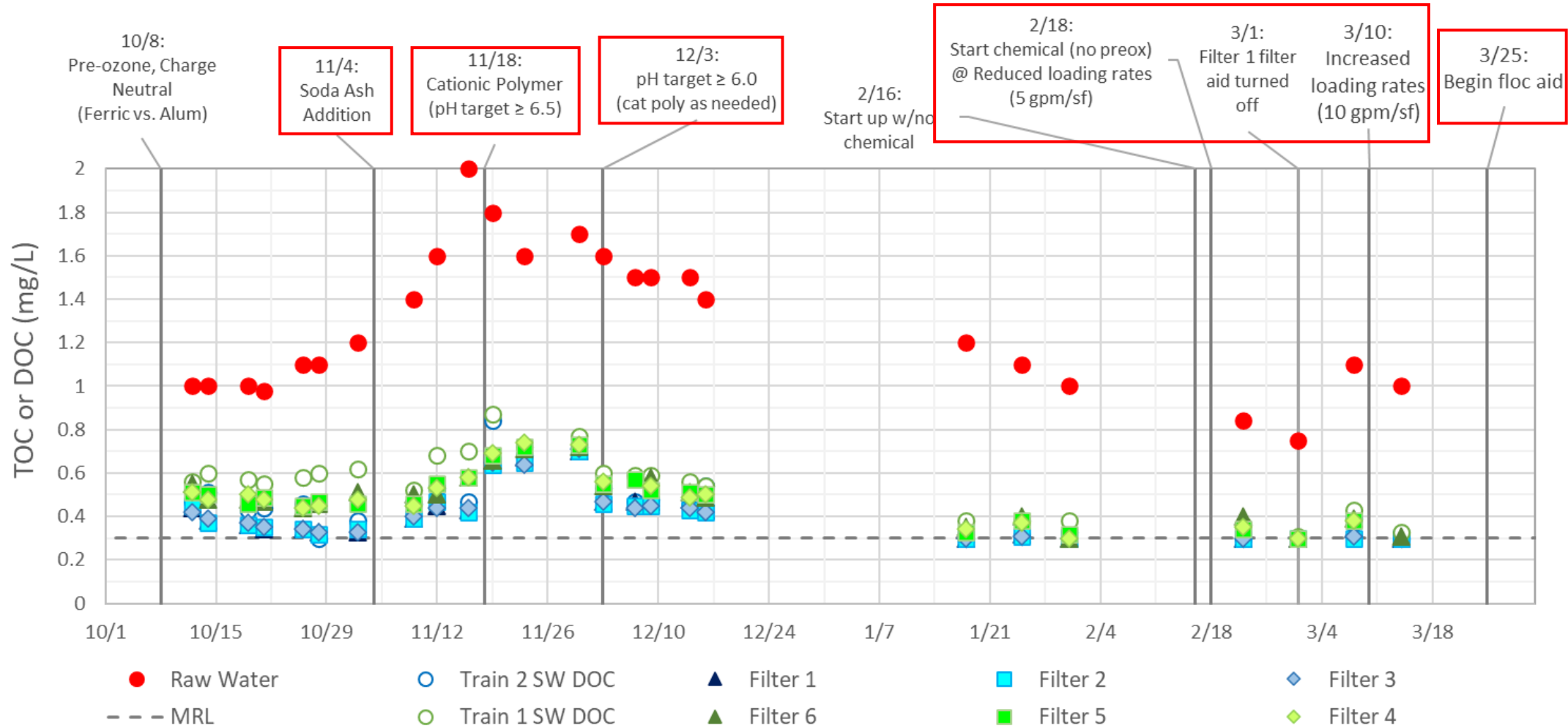




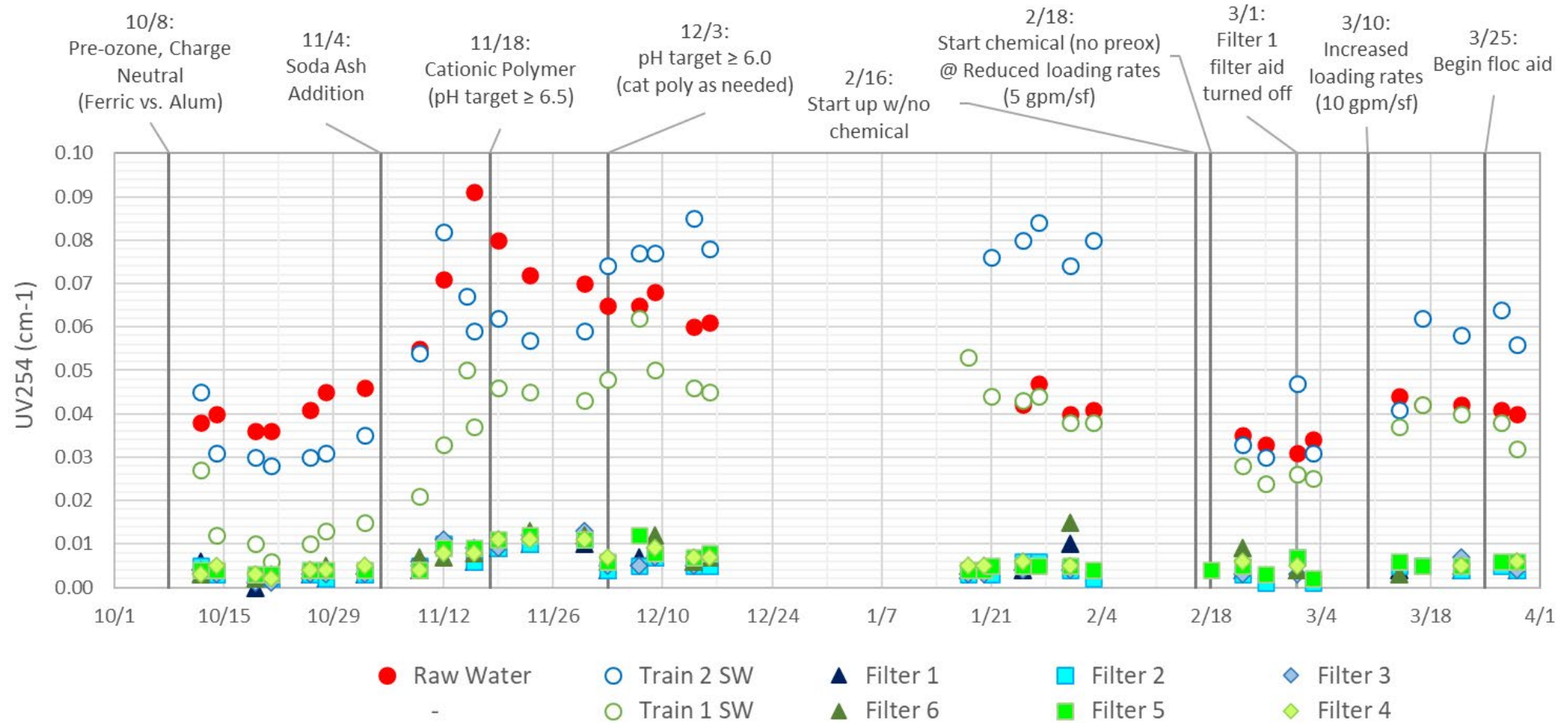
# Raw Water in Fall/Winter



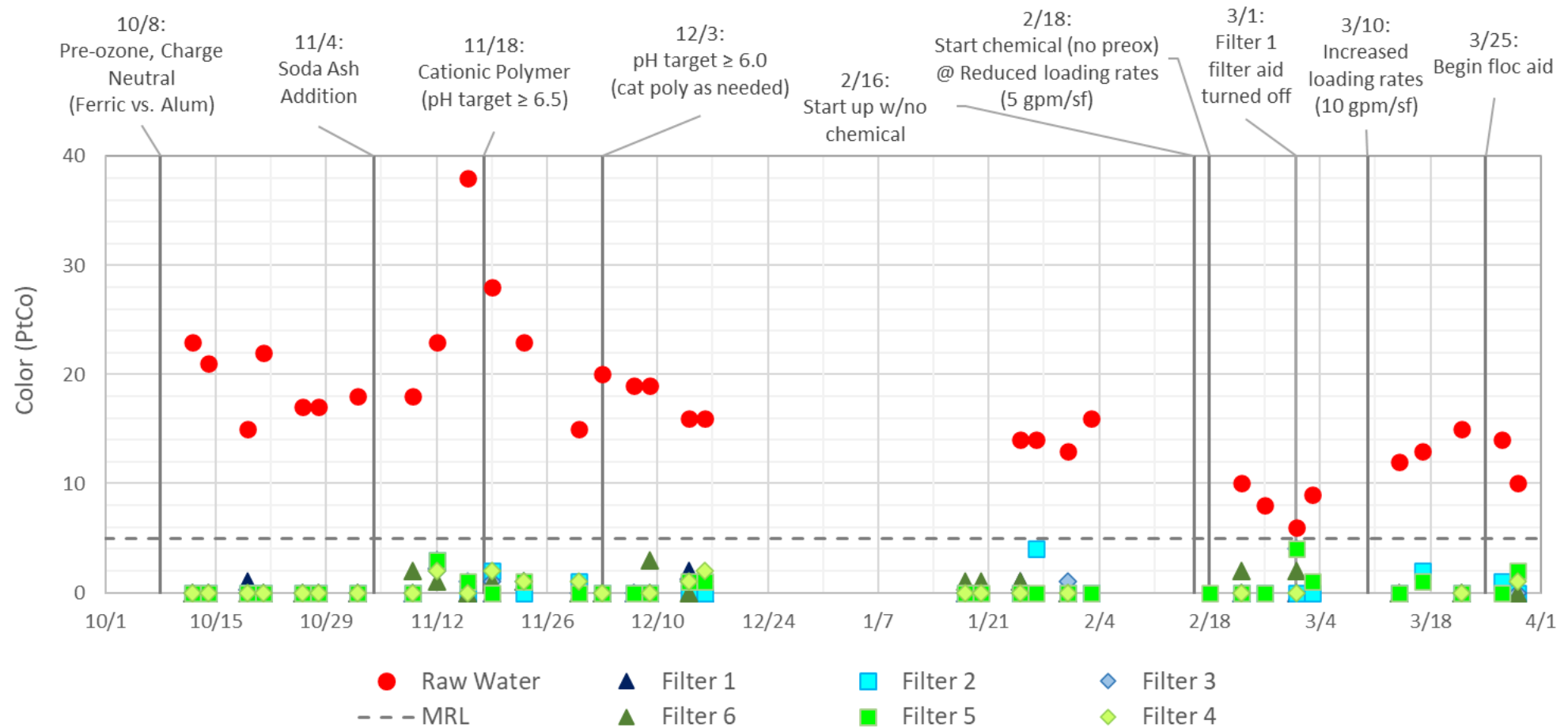
# TOC and DOC



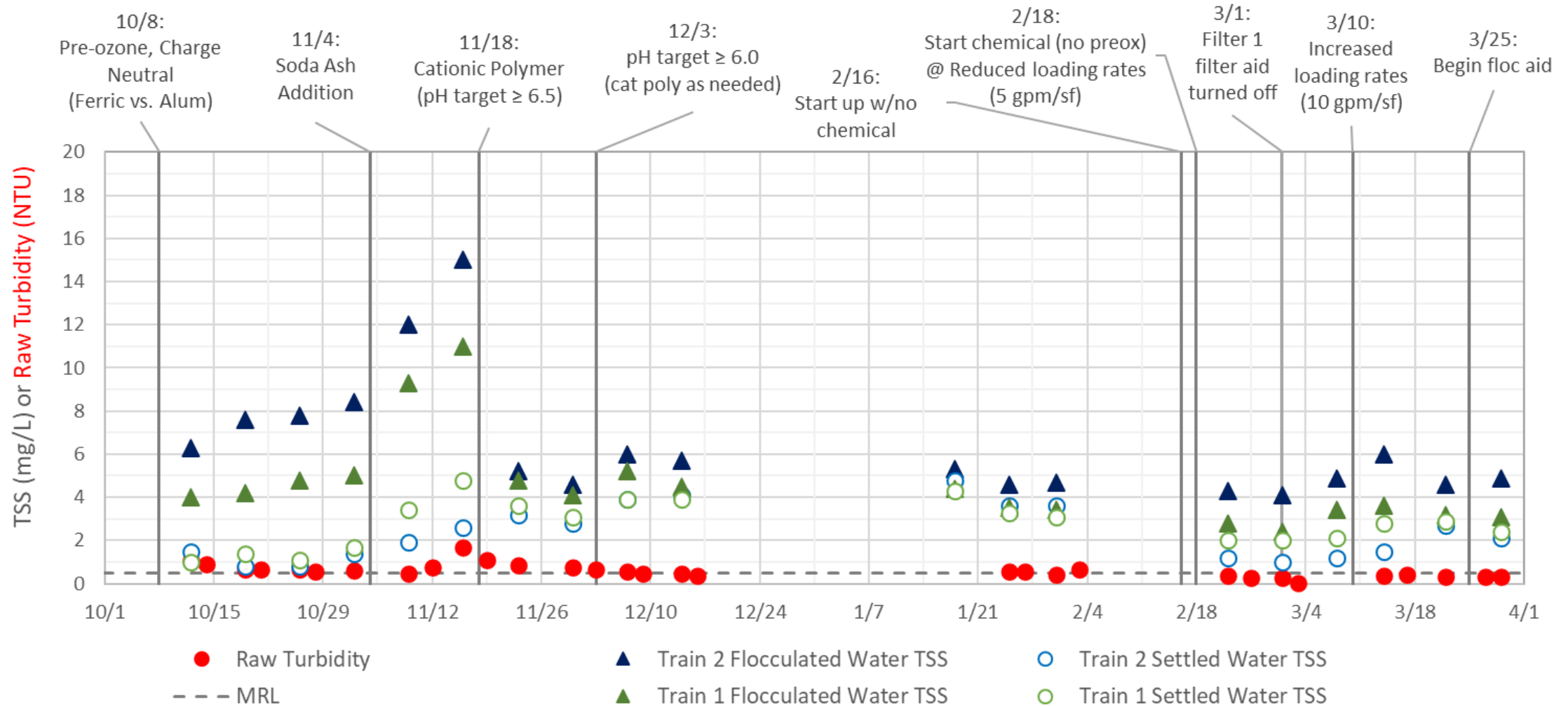
# UV<sub>254</sub>



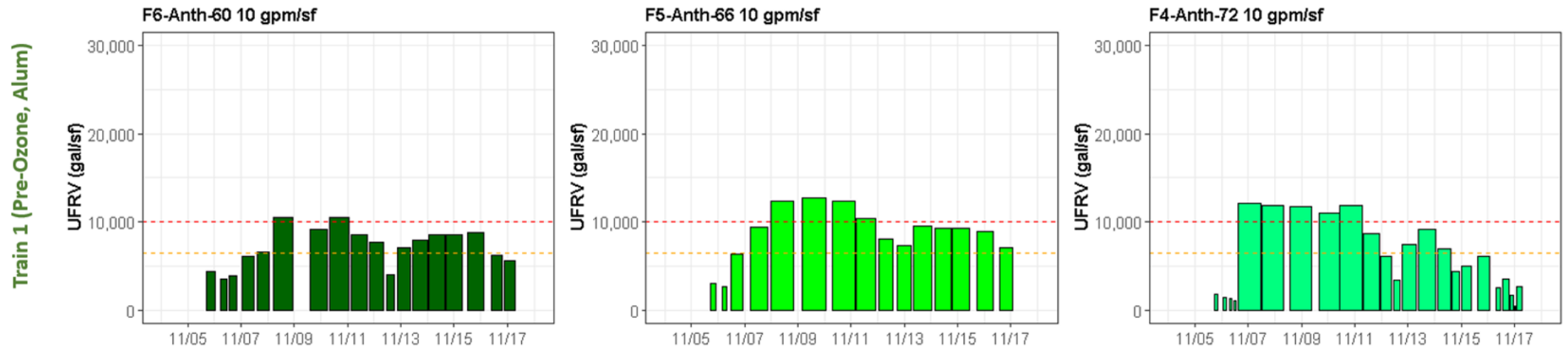
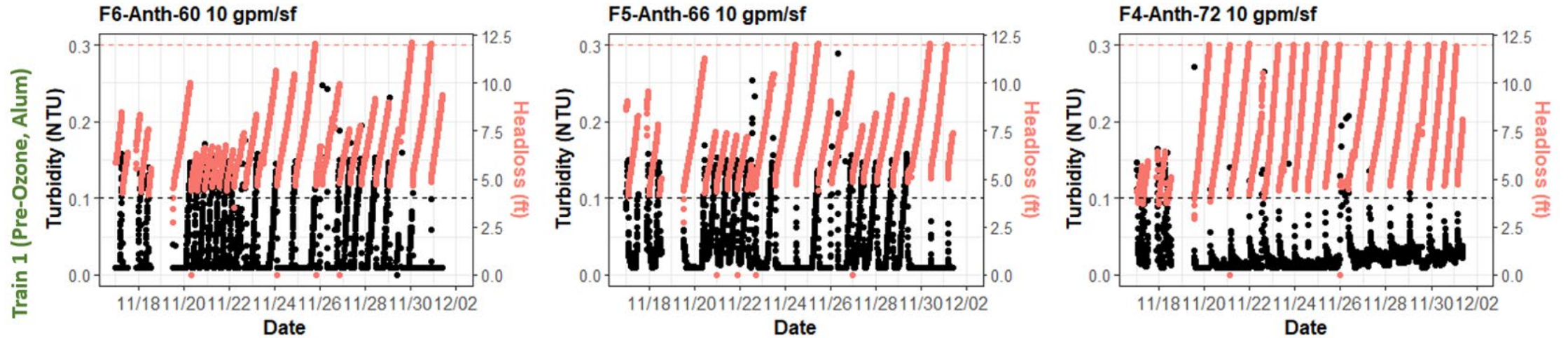
# Color



# TSS



# Filter Effluent and Productivity



# Alum Jar Testing

# Why Jar Testing?

- What chemicals are required to achieve the best coagulation, flocculation and settling performance?
  - coagulants
  - coagulant aids
  - flocculant aids
- What are the right doses for these chemicals?
- Could we use what other facilities are already using?



# Coagulant Evaluation

4 coagulants will be studied in these jar testing experiments:

- poly-aluminum chloride (PACl)
- **aluminum sulfate (Alum)**
- ferric sulfate
- aluminum Chlorohydrate (ACH)

# Analyses

- turbidity
- UV<sub>254</sub>
- filtered UV<sub>254</sub>
- color
- apparent color
- alkalinity
- pH
- zeta potential
- TOC/DOC
- Fe/Al





# Alum Test Conditions



## pH adjustments in acidic ranges

- Hydrochloric acid



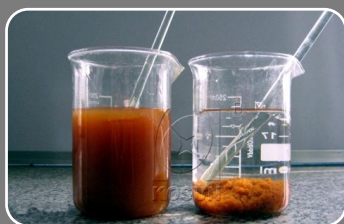
## pH adjustments in alkaline ranges

- Combination of coagulant aid and soda ash



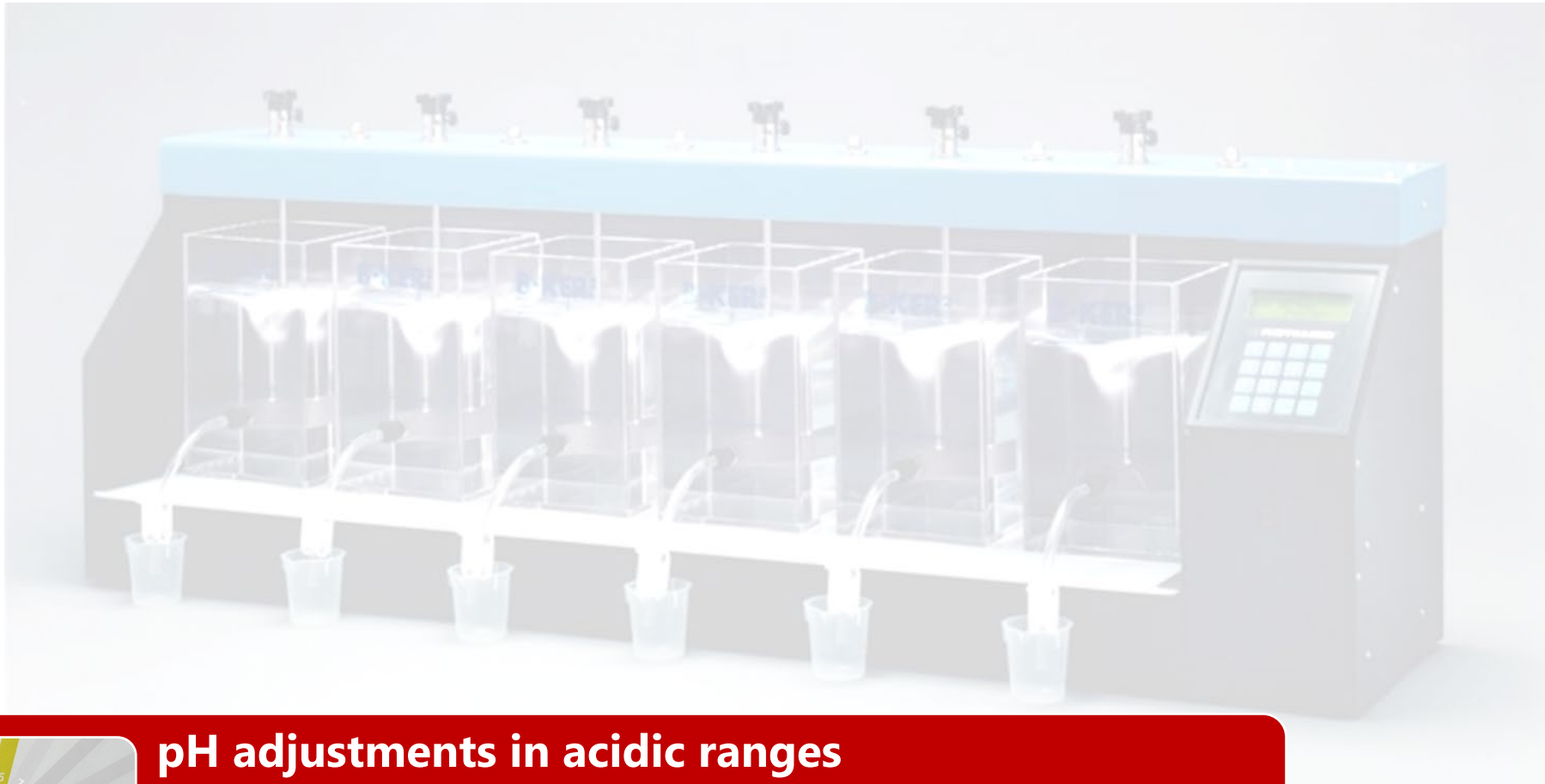
## Sweep floc formation

- Sodium bicarbonate
- Sodium hydroxide
- Soda ash



## Flocculant aid addition

- Anionic flocculant aid
- Nonionic flocculant aid
- Cationic flocculant aid

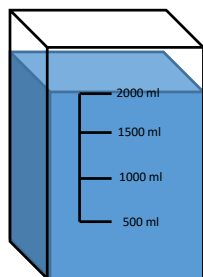


## pH adjustments in acidic ranges

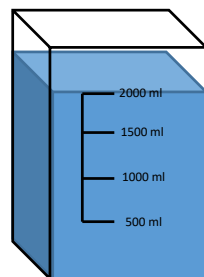
- Hydrochloric acid

# pH adjustments in acidic ranges

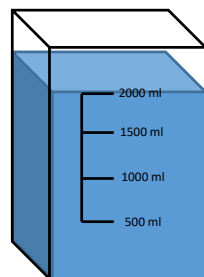
- Goal: Investigate the zeta charge reversal at acidic pH values
- Jar setup:



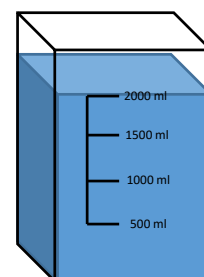
Jar 1  
5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)



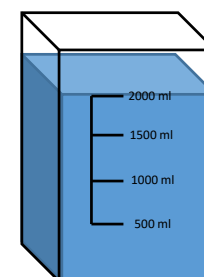
Jar 2  
4.5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
0.8 ml of 0.16 N acid



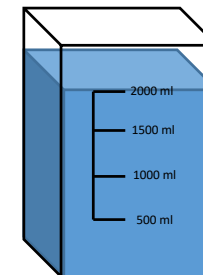
Jar 3  
4 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
1.2 ml of 0.16 N acid



Jar 4  
3.8 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
1.6 ml of 0.16 N acid



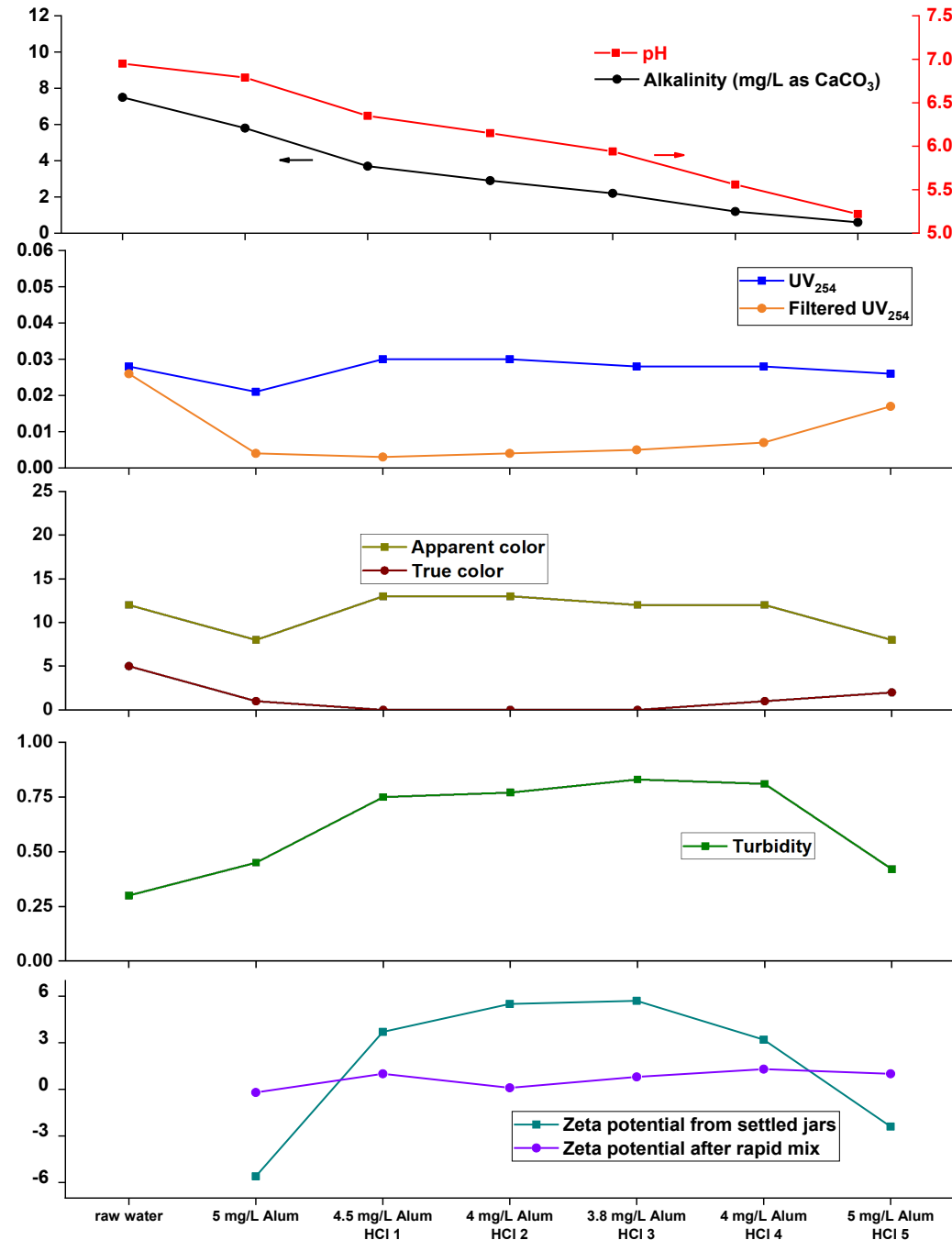
Jar 5  
4 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
2 ml of 0.16 N acid

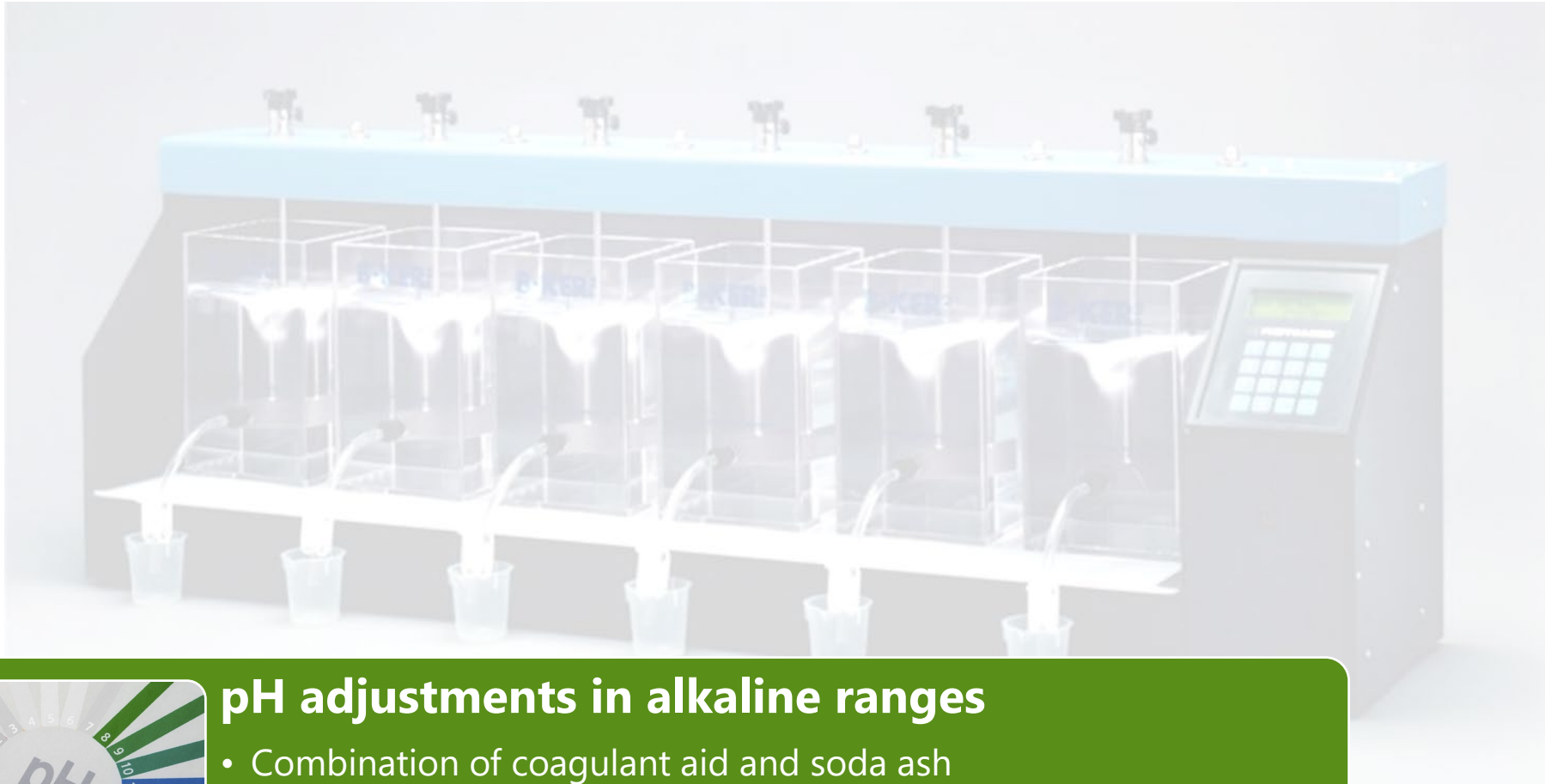


Jar 6  
5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
2.4 ml of 0.16 N acid

# pH adjustments in acidic ranges

- Lowering the pH resulted in higher  $UV_{254}$ , color and turbidity.





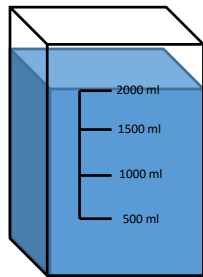
## pH adjustments in alkaline ranges

- Combination of coagulant aid and soda ash

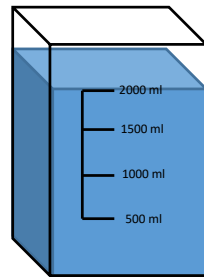


# pH adjustments in alkaline ranges

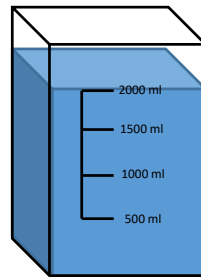
- Goal: Investigate the possibility of achieving sweep floc formation at high pH values
- Jar setup:



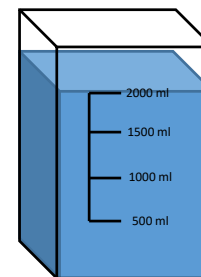
**Jar 1**  
5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)



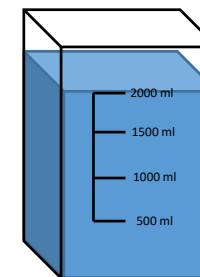
**Jar 2**  
5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
0.8 mg/L of coag. Aid  
8 mg/L soda ash



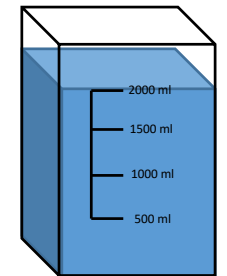
**Jar 3**  
5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
1.4 mg/L of coag. Aid  
20 mg/L soda ash



**Jar 4**  
5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
1.7 mg/L of coag. Aid  
25 mg/L soda ash



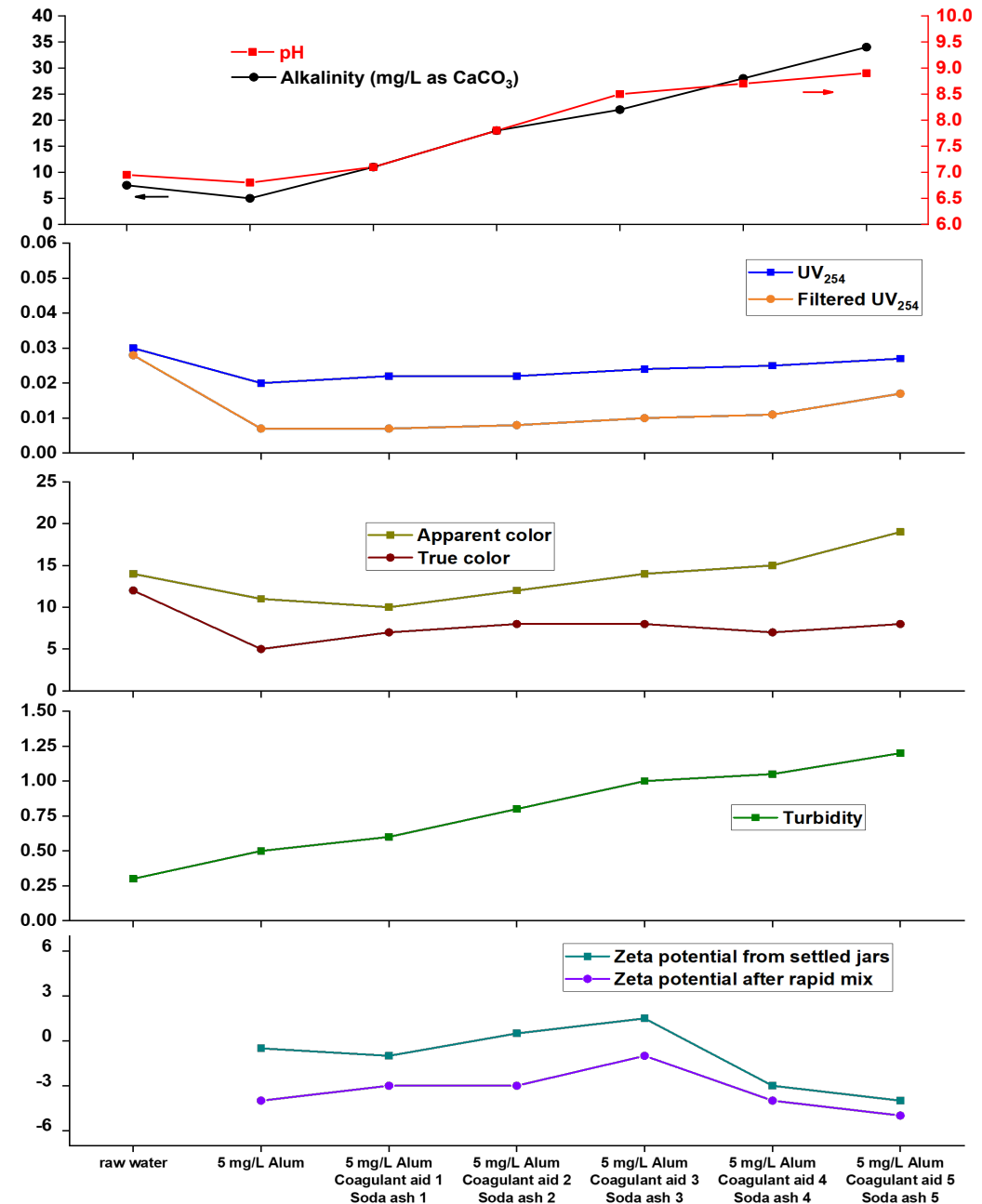
**Jar 5**  
5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
1.9 mg/L of coag. Aid  
33 mg/L soda ash

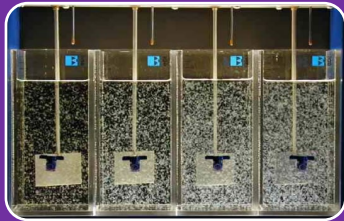


**Jar 6**  
5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
2 mg/L of coag. Aid  
40 mg/L soda ash

# pH adjustments in alkaline ranges

- Decent flocs were formed; however, the settling and water quality results are not good.



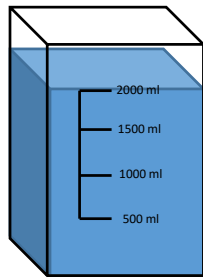


## Sweep floc formation

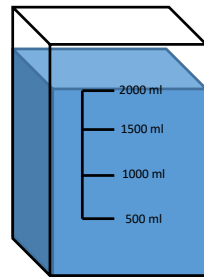
- Sodium hydroxide
- Sodium bicarbonate
- Soda ash

# Sweep floc formation by Bicarbonate addition

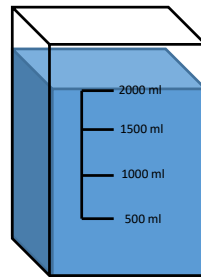
- Goal: Investigate the possibility of achieving settleable flocs.
- Jar setup:



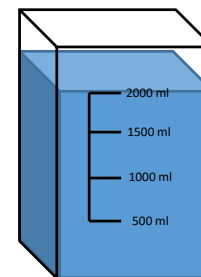
**Jar 1**  
5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)



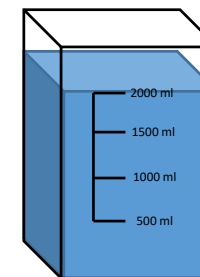
**Jar 2**  
9 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
9 mg/L of bicarb



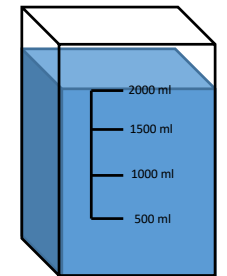
**Jar 3**  
12.2 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
18 mg/L of bicarb



**Jar 4**  
19 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
25 mg/L of bicarb



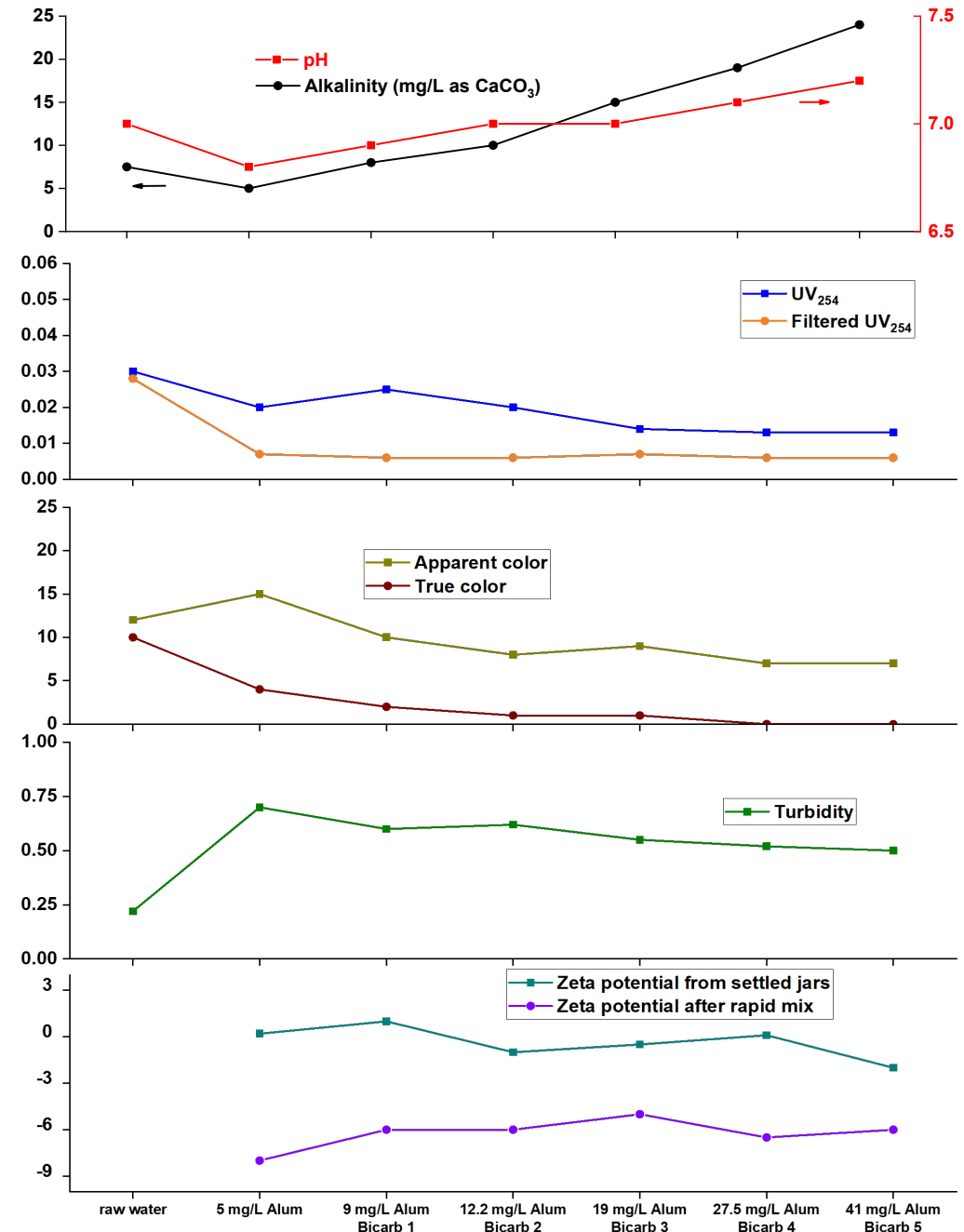
**Jar 5**  
27.5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
35 mg/L of bicarb



**Jar 6**  
41 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
45 mg/L of bicarb

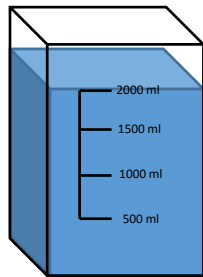
# Sweep floc formation by Bicarbonate addition

- Decent flocs were formed; however, the settling performance of the flocs were not good.
- Considering the amount of bicarbonate and coagulant needed to achieve good performance, this is not a feasible alternative.

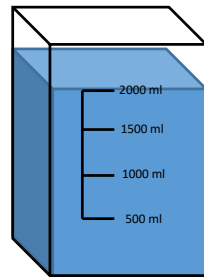


# Sweep floc formation by NaOH

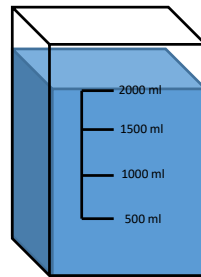
- Goal: Investigate the possibility of achieving lower turbidity and better settling.
- Jar setup:



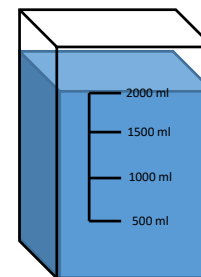
**Jar 1**  
5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)



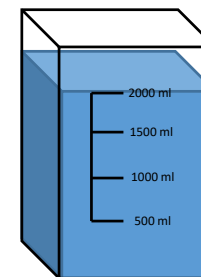
**Jar 2**  
6.5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
0.8 ml of 0.16 N NaOH



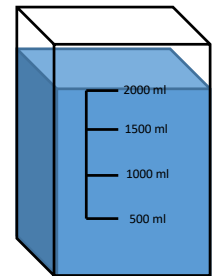
**Jar 3**  
12 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
1.6 ml of 0.16 N NaOH



**Jar 4**  
15 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
2 ml of 0.16 N NaOH



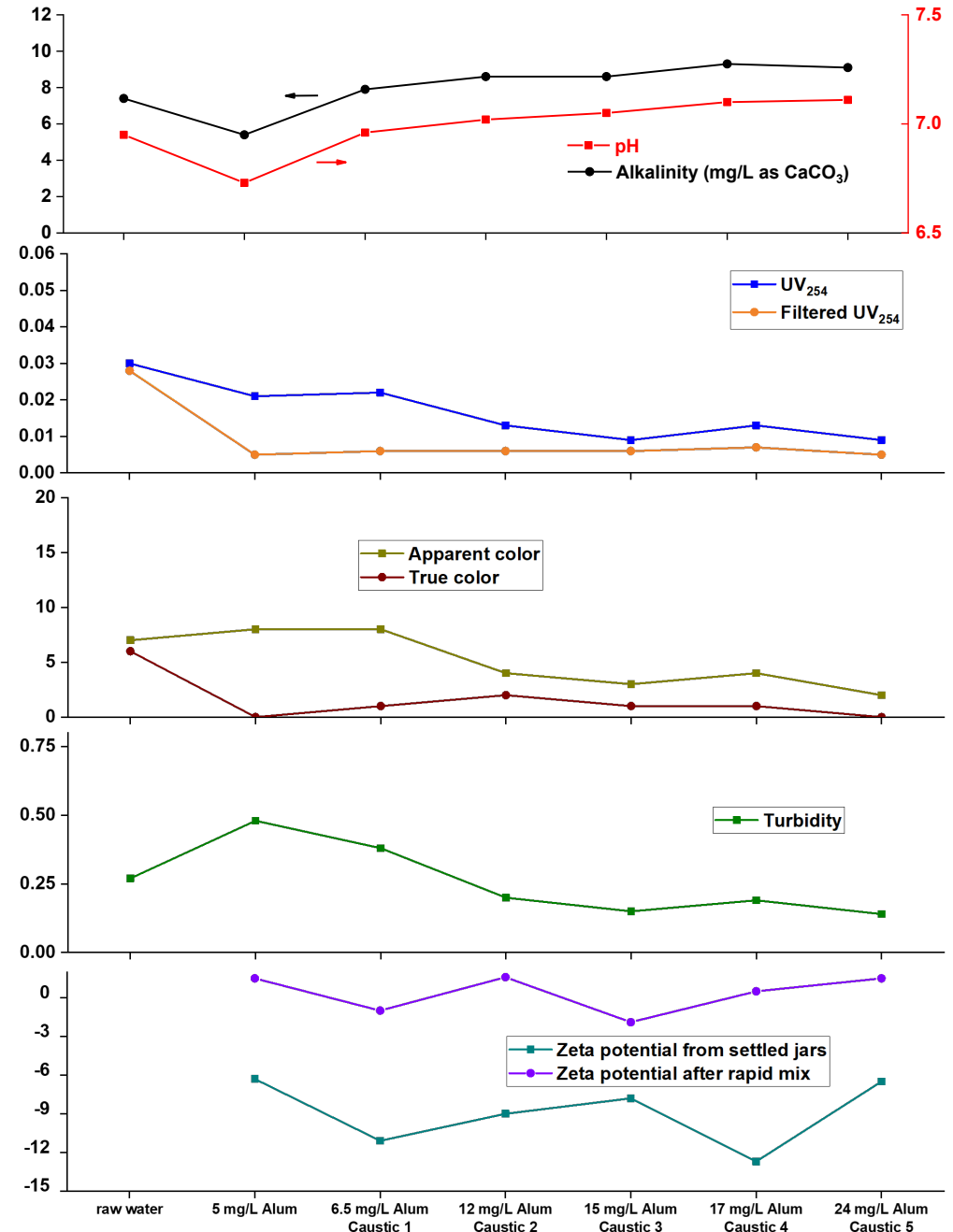
**Jar 5**  
17 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
2.4 ml of 0.16 N NaOH



**Jar 6**  
24 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
3.2 ml of 0.16 N NaOH

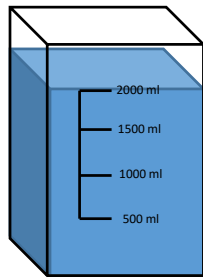
# Sweep floc formation by NaOH

- Water quality kept improving by increasing the NaOH addition in each jar.

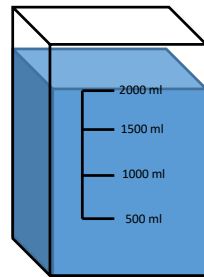


# Sweep floc formation by soda ash

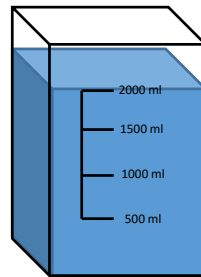
- Goal: Investigate the possibility of achieving similar great results that were achieved by NaOH.
- Jar setup:



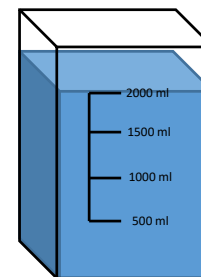
Jar 1  
4.9 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)



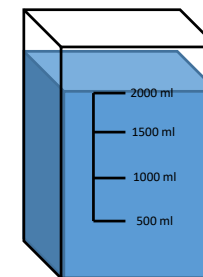
Jar 2  
10 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
8.5 mg/L soda ash



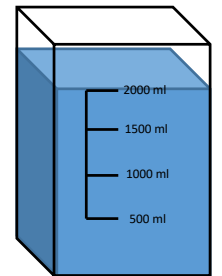
Jar 3  
13.5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
17 mg/L soda ash



Jar 4  
23 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
25.5 mg/L soda ash



Jar 5  
34 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
34 mg/L soda ash

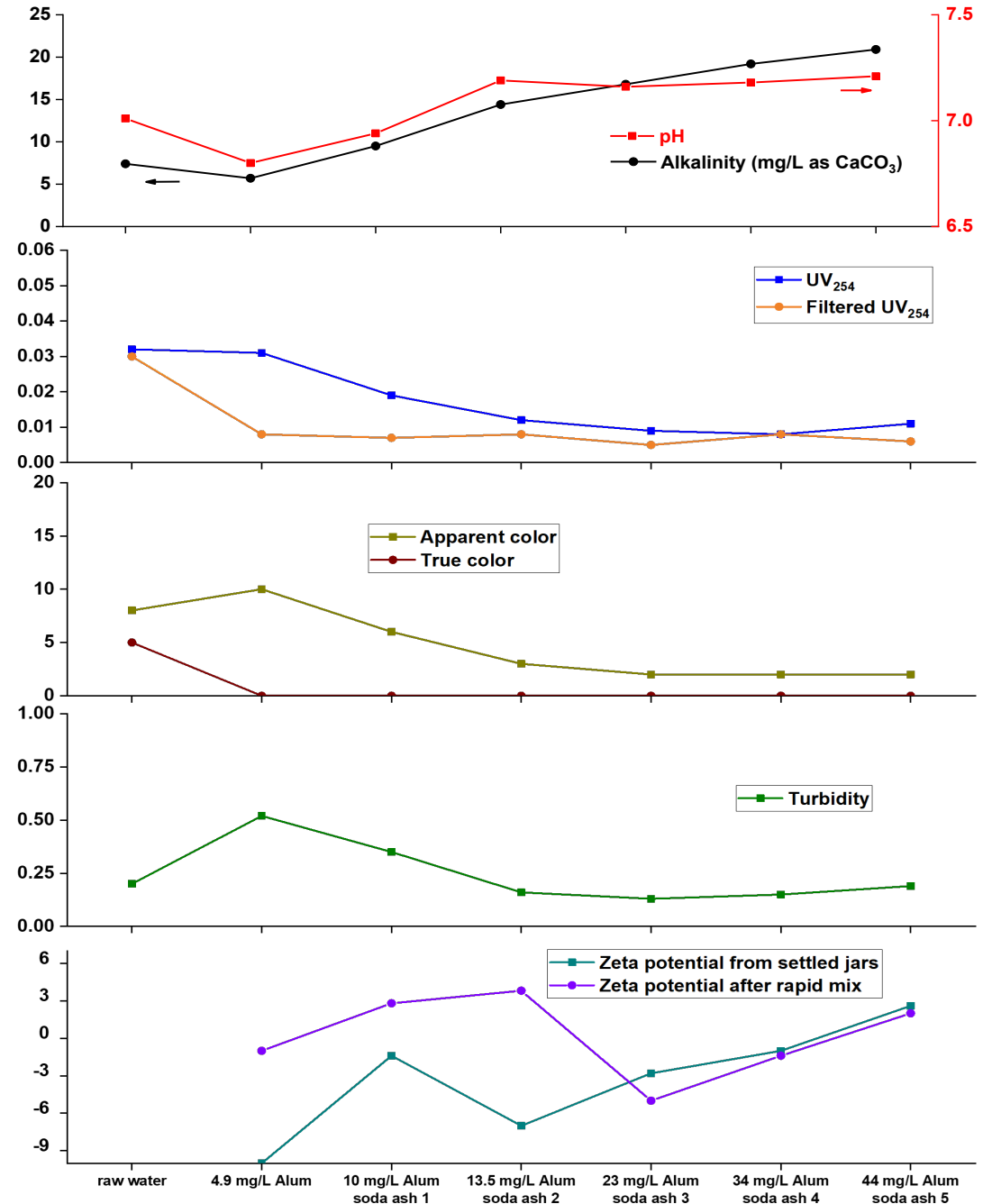


Jar 6  
44 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
42 mg/L soda ash



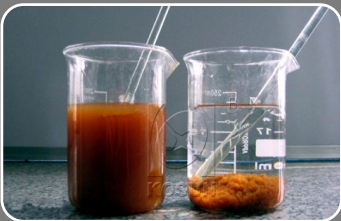
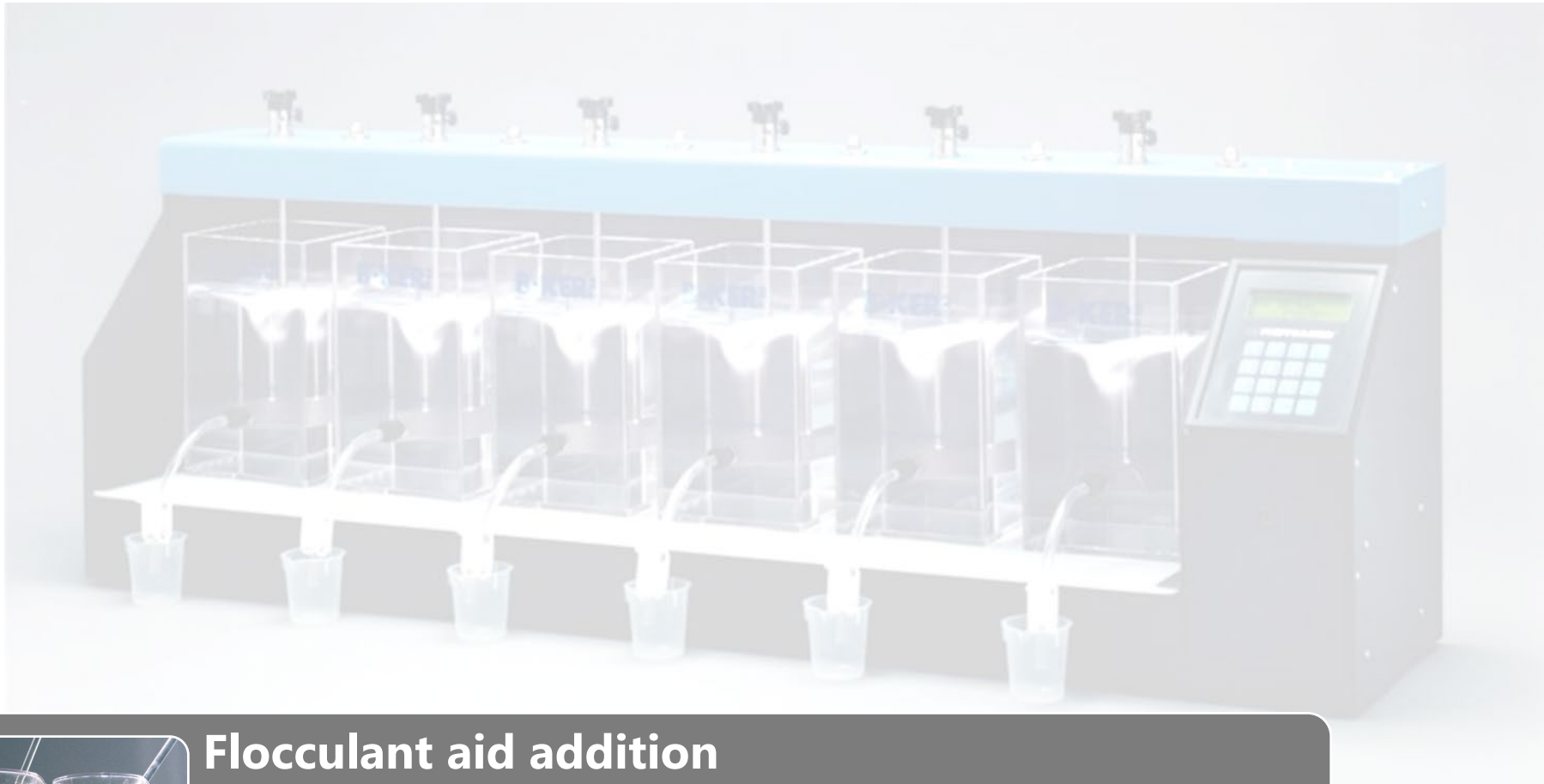
# Sweep floc formation by soda ash

- Water quality improved by addition of soda ash in the jars.



# Summary: Sweep floc formation

- Water quality improved by addition of soda ash and NaOH in the jars.
- Addition of sodium bicarbonate also improved the water quality; however, it requires extremely high doses.
- There is a need for lower NaOH dose compared to soda ash in order to achieve a better water quality results. The coagulant demand is also lower for NaOH vs soda ash.

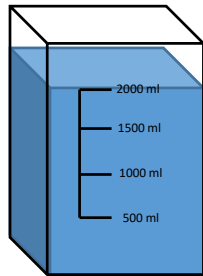


## Flocculant aid addition

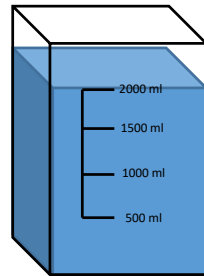
- Anionic flocculant aid
- Nonionic flocculant aid
- Cationic flocculant aid

# Alum with anionic floc aid

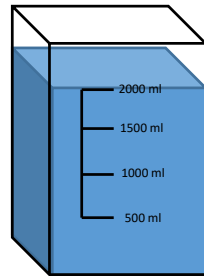
- Goal: Investigate the possibility of achieving lower turbidity and better settleability
- Jar setup:



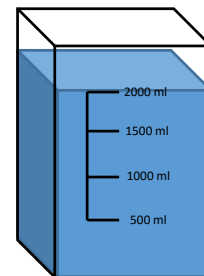
**Jar 1**  
5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)



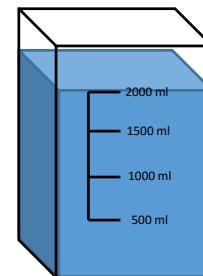
**Jar 2**  
5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
0.02 mg/L A-1820



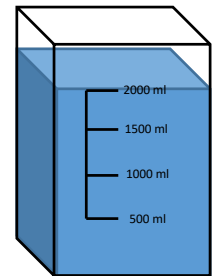
**Jar 3**  
5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
0.04 mg/L A-1820



**Jar 4**  
5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
0.06 mg/L A-1820



**Jar 5**  
5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
0.08 mg/L A-1820



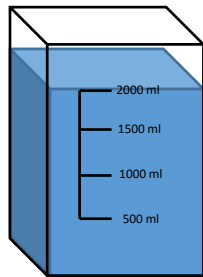
**Jar 6**  
5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
0.1 mg/L A-1820

# Alum with anionic floc aid

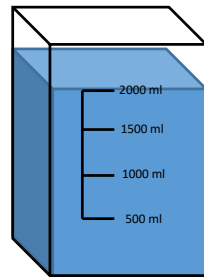
- Addition of anionic floc aid into charge neutral jars resulted in stopping the floc growth in third flocculation time.
- This resulted in worse settling for all jars compared to charge neutral that had some settling.
- This is due to having a more negatively charged solution during the third flocculation.

# Alum with nonionic floc aid

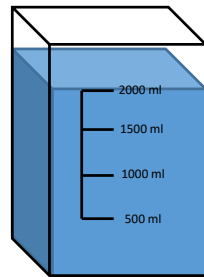
- Goal: Investigate the possibility of achieving bigger flocs, better settling and lower turbidity.
- Jar setup:



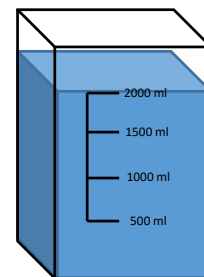
Jar 1  
5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)



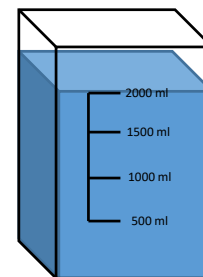
Jar 2  
5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
0.02 mg/L of N-1986



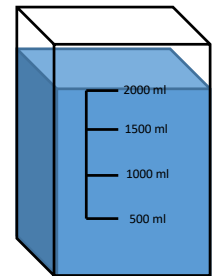
Jar 3  
5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
0.04 mg/L of N-1986



Jar 4  
5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
0.06 mg/L of N-1986



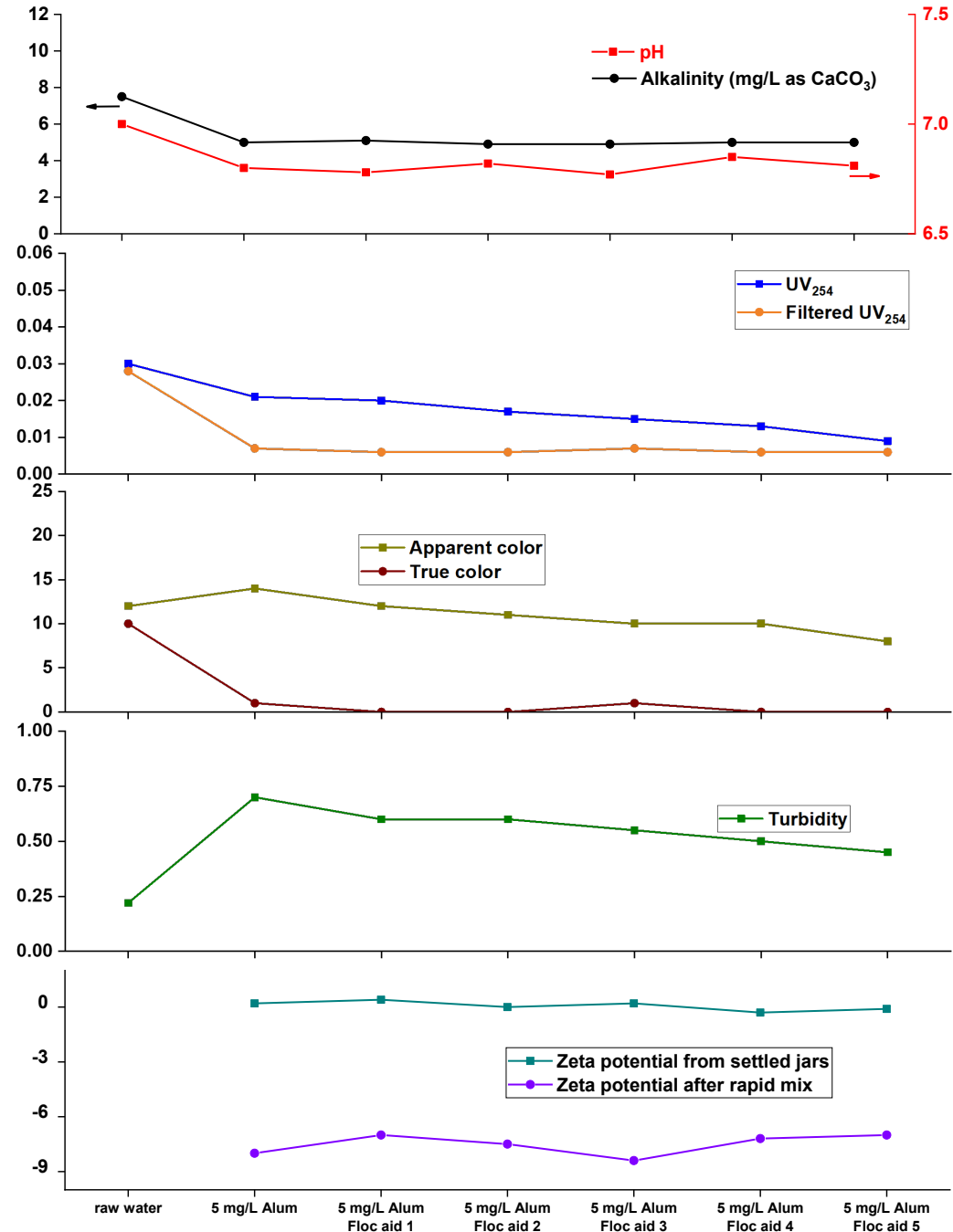
Jar 5  
5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
0.08 mg/L of N-1986



Jar 6  
5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
0.1 mg/L of N-1986

# Alum with nonionic flocc aid

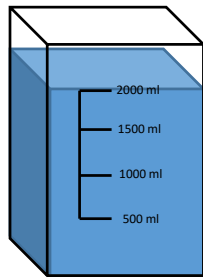
- Turbidity and color demonstrates a downward trend due to the addition of flocculant aid.



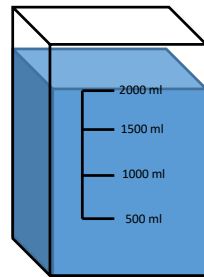
Flocculant aid addition

# Alum with cationic flocc aid

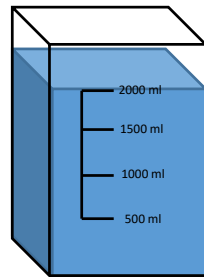
- Goal: Investigate the possibility of achieving bigger flocs, better settling and lower turbidity.
- Jar setup:



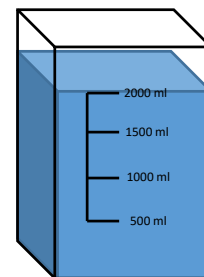
**Jar 1**  
5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)



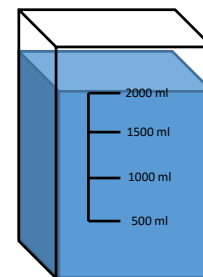
**Jar 2**  
5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
0.02 mg/L of C-1594



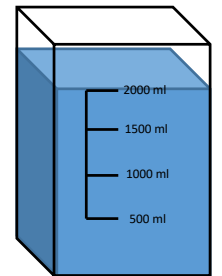
**Jar 3**  
5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
0.04 mg/L of C-1594



**Jar 4**  
5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
0.06 mg/L of C-1594



**Jar 5**  
5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
0.08 mg/L of C-1594

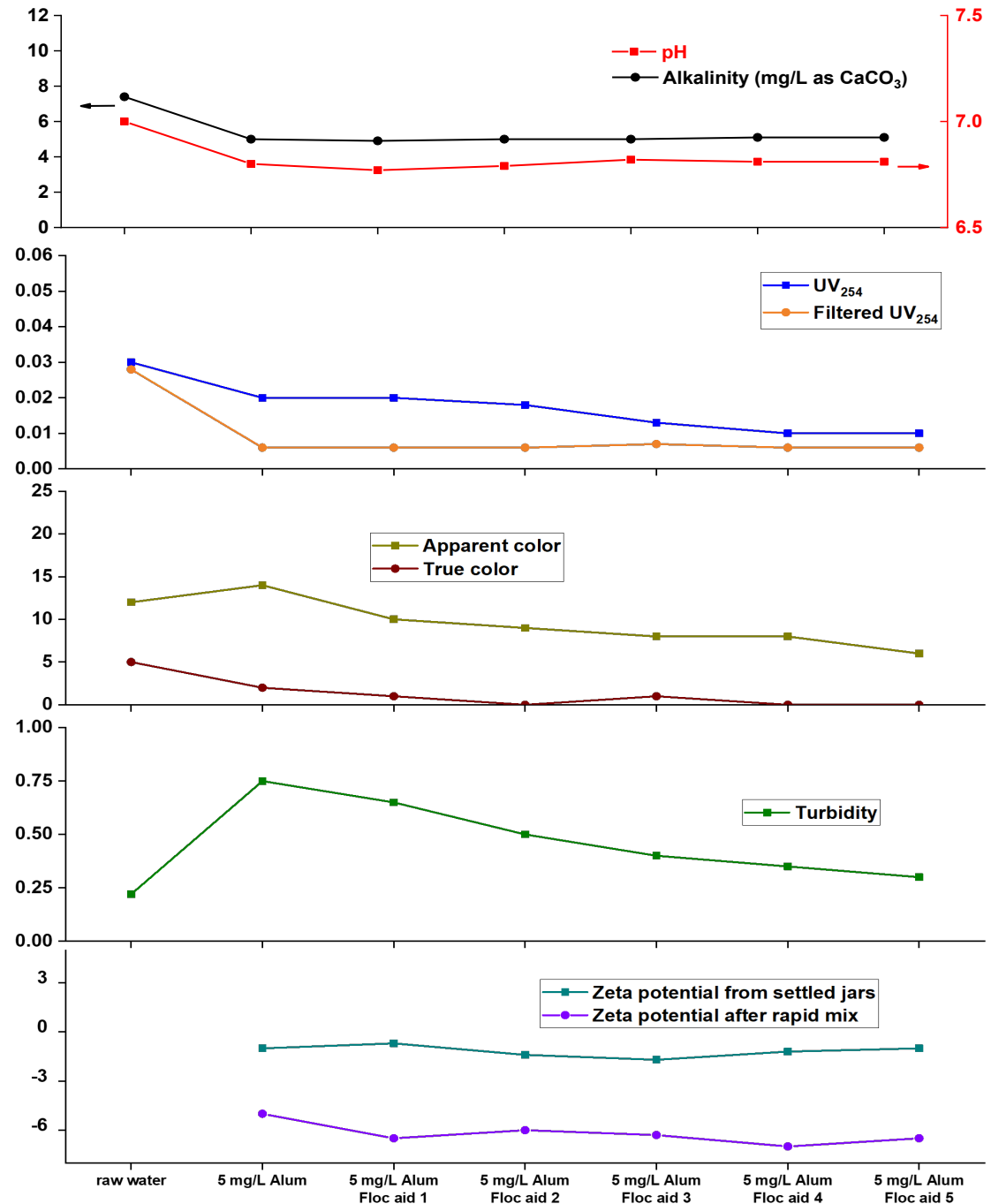


**Jar 6**  
5 mg/L Alum  
(charge neutral dose)  
0.1 mg/L of C-1594



# Alum with cationic flocc aid

- Turbidity and color demonstrates a downward trend due to the addition of flocculant aid.



Flocculant aid addition

# Summary: floc aid

- Turbidity and color demonstrates a downward trend due to the addition of nonionic and cationic flocculant aid.
- Addition of anionic flocculant aid disrupts the floc formation and growth during the flocculation time.
- Cationic flocculant aid is able to achieve the similar great water quality results at much lower doses compared to nonionic flocculant aid.

# Summary

- Acidic or Alkaline pHs did not improve the Alum coagulation.
- Bicarbonate was not as successful as other chemicals in forming sweep flocs.
- Sweep floc was achieved with both NaOH and soda ash when the pH of the raw water was raised to above 9.
- Targeting sweep floc requires increasing Alum dose.

	NaOH vs. Soda ash	NaOH	Soda ash
Cost effective			√
Less chemical usage		√	
Possible smaller chemical tank and pump sizing		√	
Safety			√
Less coagulant dose		√	
Smaller sludge handling sizing and less sludge production		√	
Alkalinity increase in the raw water (lesser chemical need in corrosion control)			√

# Summary

- Flocculant aids improved the floc bridging when Alum dosed at charge neutral doses as follows:

Cationic >> nonionic >> anionic



**Bull Run**  
TREATMENT  
PROJECTS

*Our water: Safe and abundant  
for generations to come*

**Thank you!**

**Learn More** [portland.gov/bullrunprojects](http://portland.gov/bullrunprojects)

# Appendix



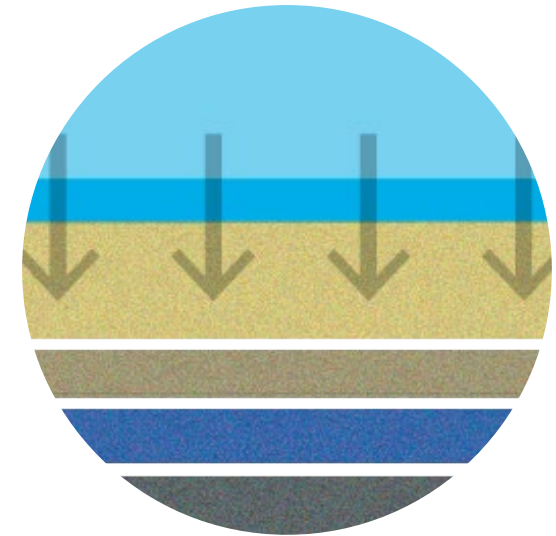
**Bull Run**  
TREATMENT  
PROJECTS

*Our water: Safe and abundant  
for generations to come*

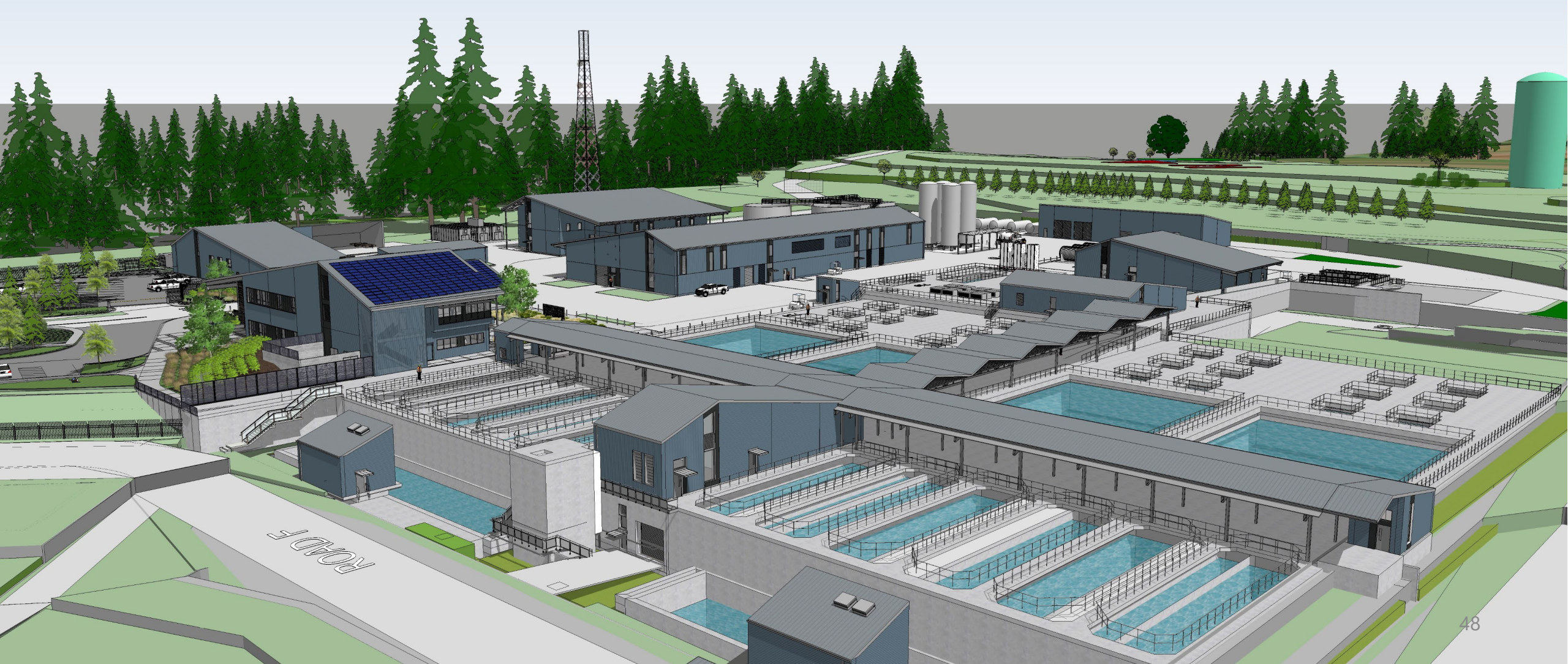
**Learn More** [portland.gov/bullrunprojects](http://portland.gov/bullrunprojects)

# Why filtration?

- ✓ Excellent treatment option for *Cryptosporidium*
- ✓ Reduces disinfection byproducts
- ✓ Addresses high turbidity (fire or storms)
- ✓ Addresses algae concerns
- ✓ Keeps sediment out of distribution system
- ✓ Helps prepare for future regulations and emerging contaminants

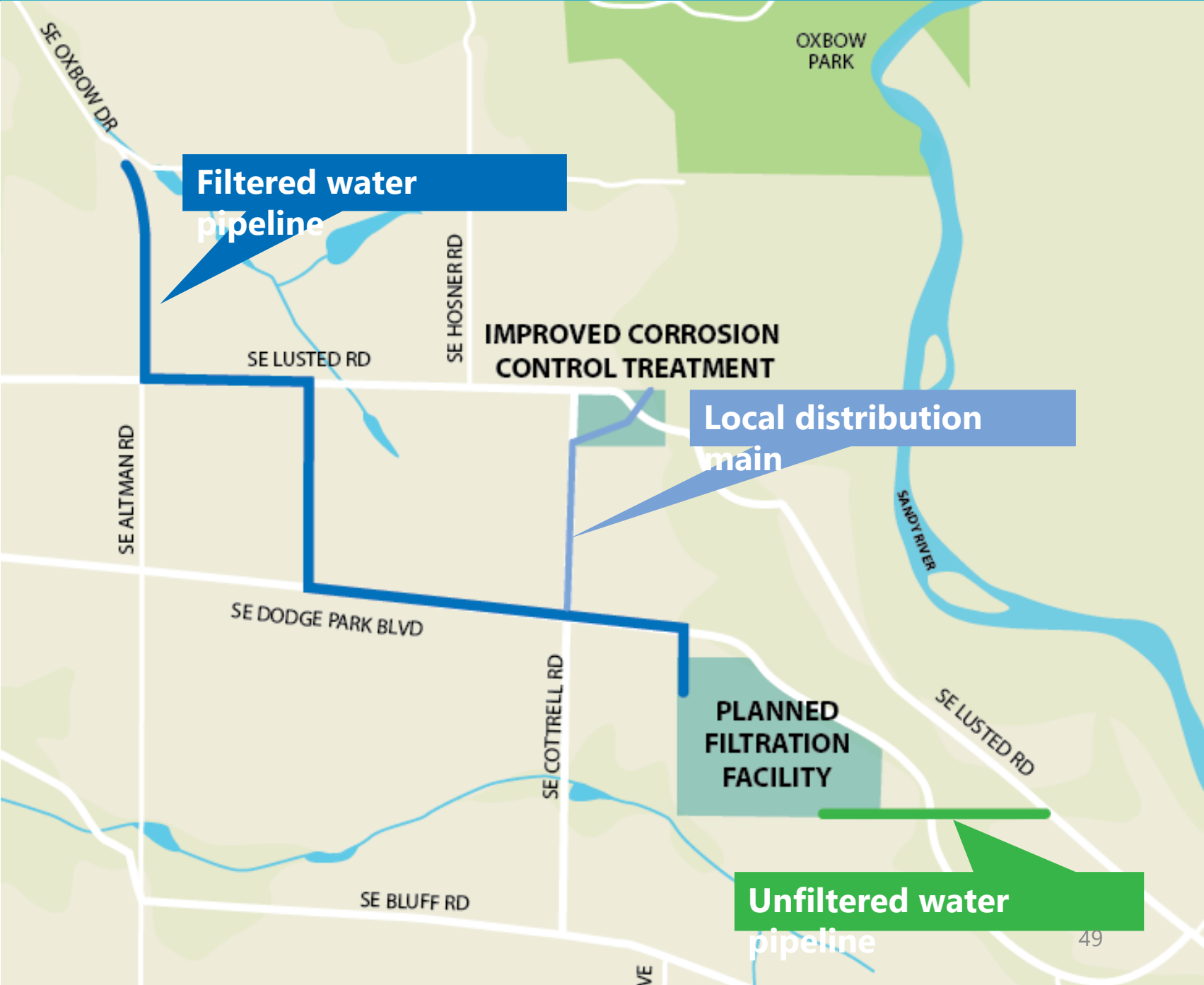


# Design of the filtration facility is taking shape

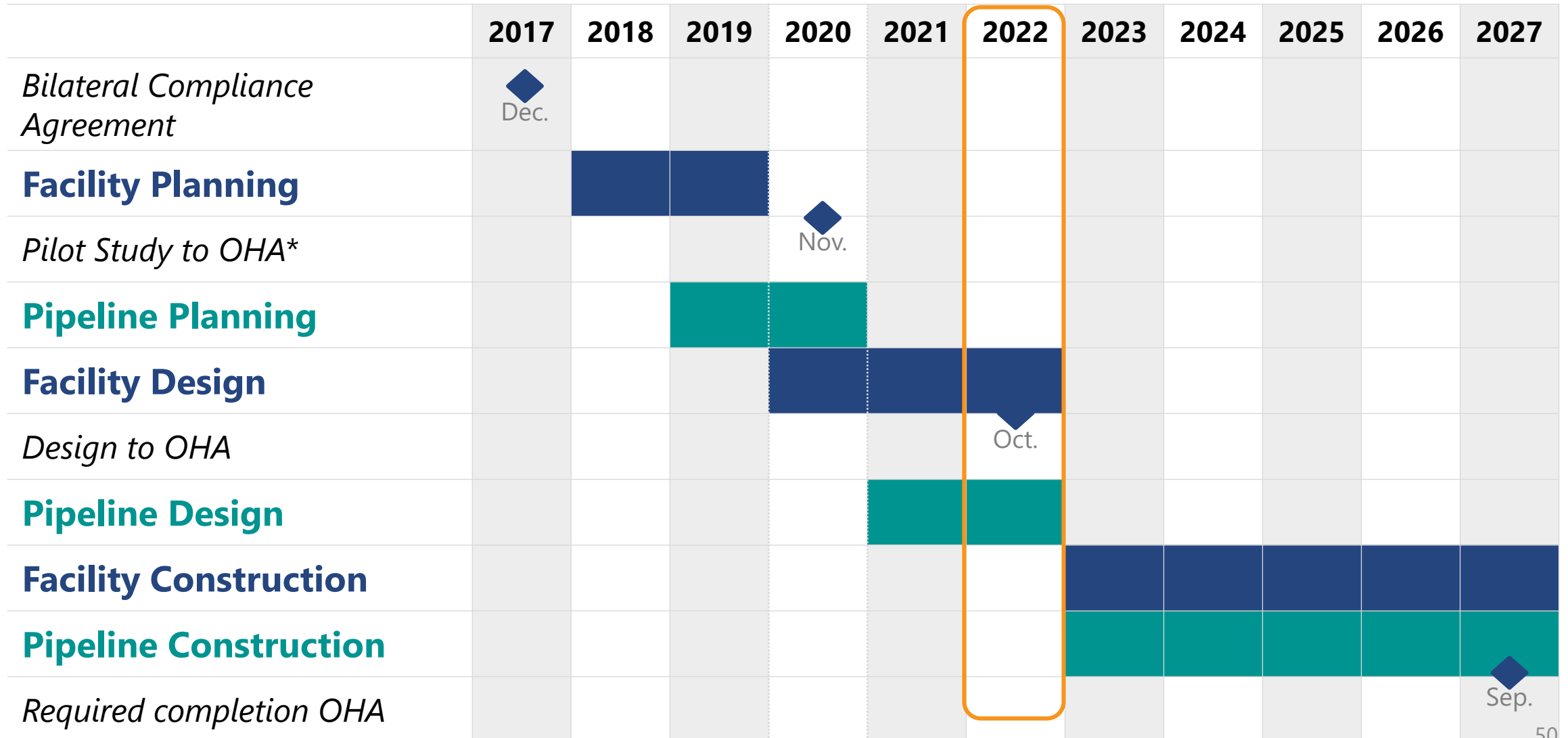




New pipelines will tie the water filtration facility into the existing system



# Construction anticipated to start mid-2023



\*Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

The Bull Run Treatment Projects will help keep our water **safe and abundant** for generations to come



**For our  
health**



**For our  
economy**



**For our  
future**

# On track to deliver filtered Bull Run water to customers beginning September 2027



**Planning  
Completed  
2018-2020**



**Design  
Underway  
2020-2022**



**Construction  
Expected  
2023-2027**

