

PRESS RELEASE

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CITY OF BENICIA SEES WATER SAVINGS Saves Minimum of 14.6 Million Gallons Per Year at Water Treatment Plant

Benicia, CA (October 7, 2020) — The City of Benicia’s Water Treatment Plant concluded a two-month study resulting in an operational change that is projected to save the City more than 14.6 million gallons of water per year. Over the last two months, operators at the water treatment plant have been studying how to wash filters more efficiently. These filters are a critical step in the water treatment process that prevents solid materials from entering the water distribution system. These filters, made of granulated carbon, need to be cleaned, or backwashed, at least once per day to continue to provide safe, quality drinking water for our residents and businesses.

“By continuously assessing our water treatment process, we found that we could effectively backwash our filters using less water and flow rate times, resulting in a savings of at least 40,000 gallons of water per backwash,” said Rainier Garcia, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor. “Making these minor optimization changes will save anywhere between 14 and 22 million gallons of water annually, resulting in better efficiency and good water conservation, and maintaining the integrity of high-quality drinking water to our residents.”

This operational study comes on the heels of the City’s recent [Condition Assessment \(June 2020\)](#), which evaluated the City’s water and wastewater infrastructure. “We are not only looking at our assets, but also our operations,” said Kyle Ochenduszko, Deputy Public Works Director. “This change demonstrates to our rate payers that we are continuously looking for ways to save water and reduce costs.”

Questions or comments on water and wastewater operations may be directed to Kyle Ochenduszko, Deputy Public Works Director, at 707.746.4240 or email kochenduszko@ci.benicia.ca.us.

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