



Frequently Asked Questions

February 2025

Why does the raw sewage pump system need to be replaced?

The purpose of this project is to replace the Raw Sewage Pump system and implement structural improvements to the facility.

The Raw Sewage Pump system was built in 1966 with a capacity of 440 million gallons of wastewater and stormwater per day (MGD). The system uses four pumps to meet the needed capacity. When the treatment plant was upgraded in 1988, the pumps were not upgraded. While the capacity remained at 440MGD after the upgrade, pumping untreated combined sewage over a long time has resulted in significant wear on the pumps. The cost to keep the system reliable has significantly increased due to the maintenance and repairs required to keep the pumps in service. In addition, the system could fail during an earthquake due to its age.

What are the benefits of this project?

Replacing the pump system will build redundancy in the system, meeting the needed capacity even if a pump needs maintenance.

The current system needs all four pumps to meet the maximum capacity while the chosen alternative for the new pump system will only require three pumps, making maintenance much easier.

The existing pump system is engine driven which requires the use of gas. The new system will be driven by electric motors, reducing the need for gas at the plant.

This project will also make improvements to the building structure to make it more reliable during a potential earthquake.



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What will the current raw sewage pump be replaced with?

The current system will be replaced with four new pumps driven by four electric motors. Only three electric motors will be needed to meet West Point's 440 million gallons per day (MGD) capacity. This allows West Point staff to work on a pump without reducing the plant's capacity and have a pump available in case another pump needs maintenance.

What is the project's timeline?

Minor construction activities began in 2024. Construction is expected to last five years, until fall of 2029.

The plant must remain operational every day of the year. This makes this project complicated. One pump and its associated engine will be replaced by a new pump and electric motor at a time to maintain West Point's ability to treat incoming wastewater. Most major pump work will be completed in the summer months when wastewater flows are lighter.

Additionally, there will be major electrical and structural work to the building housing the raw sewage pump system. This will ensure the new facility meets current earthquake building standards.

What will the project cost?

The total project cost is \$216.3 million as of January 2025. The Wastewater Treatment Division was able to acquire a low interest loan from the EPA for nearly \$110.3 million of the project's cost.

What will I see and notice during construction?

The biggest impact anticipated at this time is the presence of a large crane. The crane will be onsite to help move equipment in and out of the raw sewage pump building.



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All other construction will take place behind and below West Point's walls.