

Working with more than 95 community wastewater treatment and stormwater management agencies
to protect Oregon's water

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26 March 2013

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
State Capitol - Room 347
Salem, OR 97203

By e-mail to: jennifer.lutman@state.or.us

Chairwoman Dingfelder and Members of the Committee:

Regarding SB 523

The Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies (ACWA) is a private, not-for-profit organization of Oregon's wastewater treatment and stormwater management agencies, along with associated professionals. Our 126 statewide members are focused on protecting and enhancing Oregon's water quality.

SB 523 before you today is nearly identical to an unsuccessful marker bill from the 2007 Legislative Session, SB 317. Another bill in 2007, SB 737, as introduced, would have severely limited municipalities' ability to discharge treated wastewater. In response to the concerns raised in SB 737, Oregon's largest municipalities voluntarily agreed to undertake and fund the most comprehensive evaluation of known and emerging contaminants from wastewater effluent yet conducted in the United States.

After SB 737 became law, Oregon DEQ identified an inventory of 118 Priority Persistent Pollutants. Some pollutants had existing Oregon water quality standards and some were emerging pollutants, such as the anti-bacterial agent Triclosan. Oregon DEQ set threshold levels for each of the 118 Priority Persistent Pollutants, which, if exceeded during testing, required preparation of pollution prevention plans.

Fifty-two of Oregon's largest treatment plants screened their effluent for 117 of the 118¹ Oregon Priority Persistent Pollutants in sampling events held in the summer of 2010 (dry weather) and the winter of 2010 (wet weather). Both sampling events had very similar results.

¹ DEQ concluded that one chemical – bis(tributyltin)oxide was not likely to be found in wastewater effluent

Overall Results

In reviewing the results, DEQ concluded that the pollution reduction measures currently in place are working to keep the majority of persistent pollutants out of municipal wastewater effluent, and that wastewater from municipal treatment plants is not a significant source of persistent pollutants. A DEQ fact sheet on the study results is available at <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/SB737/>.

Of the 52 participating treatment plants² each sampling twice, only five Oregon treatment plants were required to prepare pollution prevention plans – each for one pollutant. These included two communities with high naturally occurring arsenic, one community for a combustion by-product, and two communities for a plant-based sterol common in municipal wastewater. About 68% of the compounds were not detected at any of the treatment plants, even at the very low detection levels that the DEQ laboratory was using.

Study of National Significance

Oregon is the first state in the nation to undertake such an extensive examination of persistent pollutants in municipal wastewater effluent. This study is noteworthy considering the number of chemicals tested, the clean sampling protocols required, and the extremely low laboratory detection levels used in the analysis.

Costs Paid by the Affected Municipalities

The entire cost, (\$1.44 million) for the SB 737 implementation effort was paid by the affected municipalities, including payment of DEQ staff time.

Prevention Efforts Continuing for Oregon Municipalities

Pollution prevention is the most efficient, and cost-effective method to reduce pollution in Oregon's rivers and streams. Example programs include:

- Requirements for Dental Office Amalgam Separator Devices – The 2007 Oregon Legislature passed a bill to require dental offices to install amalgam separator devices, reducing discharges of mercury to the sewer system.
- Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships & Collection of Unwanted Pesticides – These programs are effective at reducing pesticide use while maintaining crop health and provide farmers and ranchers collection events for unwanted pesticides.
- Oregon Clean and Safe – Outreach and education to government agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and the public on existing eco-certification programs that have agreed to incorporate additional Oregon Priority Persistent Pollutants into their screening criteria – more at www.oregoncleansafe.org
- Collection of Unwanted and Unused Drugs – Sixty (60) Oregon law enforcement agencies offer their collection boxes for unwanted and unused drugs. These programs are effective at reducing poisonings, preventing prescription drug abuse especially in teens, and protecting water quality. A list of collection boxes is included with our information.

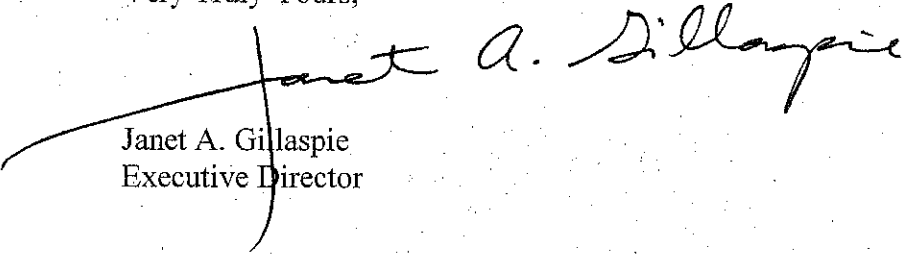
² Only 50 treatment plants sampled in the summer; two treatment plants do not operate in the summer

SB 523

Regarding SB 523, we do not see a need for the bill, even if municipalities would be excluded. Oregon businesses, industries, and municipalities should be focused on reducing toxics in Oregon's rivers and streams in the most effective manner – pollution prevention. If persistent, bioaccumulative toxics and water quality are a concern, the focus should be on source control and effective pollution prevention programs. Signs along outfalls do nothing to improve water quality.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions. I can be reached in Portland at 503/236-6722 or by e-mail at gillaspie@oracwa.org.

Very Truly Yours,



Janet A. Gillaspie
Executive Director

Attachment – Collection Locations for Unwanted and Unused Drugs - Oregon Law Enforcement Collection Sites (3/13)

COLLECTION LOCATIONS FOR UNWANTED AND UNUSED DRUGS

OREGON LAW ENFORCEMENT COLLECTION SITES

Under federal law, only law enforcement agencies can collect all types of unwanted and unused drugs. Law enforcement agencies providing collection drop off sites in Oregon include:

Location	Drop Off Site	Hours of Operation
Albany	Albany Police Department 1117 Jackson St. SE Albany, OR 97322 ☎ 541/917-7680	24/7
Ashland	Ashland Police Department 1155 East Main Ashland, OR 97520 ☎ 541/482-5211	24/7
Astoria	Astoria Police Department 555 30 th Street Astoria, OR 97103 ☎ 503/338-6411	
Beaverton	Beaverton Police Department - City Hall 4755 SW Griffith Drive Beaverton, OR 97005 ☎ 503/526-2261	Monday – Thursday 7:00 am – 9:00 pm Friday 7:00 am – 5:00 pm
Bend	Bend Police Department 555 NE 15 th Bend, OR 97701 ☎ 541/322-2960	Lobby Drop Box 8:30 am – 5:00 pm Monday – Friday Household Medicine only No inhalers, liquids or needles
Canby	Canby Police Department 1175 NW 3 rd Avenue Canby, OR 97013 ☎ 503/266-1104	Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Except holidays
Cannon Beach	Cannon Beach Police Department 163 E Gower St Cannon Beach, OR 97110 ☎ 503/436-2811	Monday – Friday 8:00 am - 5:30 pm

Location	Drop Off Site	Hours of Operation
Central Point	Central Point Police Department 155 S. Second Street Central Point, OR 97502	Lobby Drop Box 24/7
Coburg	Coburg Police Department 91069 N. Willamette Coburg, OR 97408 ☎ 541/682-7853	Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Cottage Grove	Cottage Grove Police Department 400 E. Main St. Cottage Grove, Oregon 97424 ☎ 541/942-9145 x.135	Lobby at City Hall Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Culver	Culver City Hall/Jefferson County Sheriff's Office 200 First Street Culver, OR 97734 ☎ 541/546-6494	24/7
Dallas	Dallas Police Department 187 SE Court Street Dallas, OR 97338 ☎ 503/831-3516	Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Eugene	Eugene Police Department 300 Country Club Road Eugene, OR 97401 ☎ 541/682-5111	Lobby drop box 24/7
Eugene	Lane County Sheriff's Office 125 E. Eighth Avenue Eugene, OR 97401 ☎ 541/682-4150	Lobby drop box 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday – Friday Holidays excluded

Location	Drop Off Site	Hours of Operation
Fairview	Fairview Police Department 1300 NE Village Street Fairview, OR 97024 ☎ 503/674-6200	Lobby drop box Monday - Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Florence	Florence Justice Center 900 Greenwood Street Florence, OR 97439 ☎ 541/997-3515	Lobby Drop Box 24/7
Garibaldi	107 Sixth Street Garibaldi, OR 97118	Monday Noon – 5:00 pm Tuesday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Gladstone	Gladstone Police Department 535 Portland Avenue Gladstone, OR 97027 ☎ 503/557-2760	Lobby drop box 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday – Friday Holidays excluded
Grants Pass	Grants Pass Department of Public Safety 601 NW 5 th Street Grants Pass, OR 97526 ☎ 541/450-6260	Lobby Drop Box 24/7
Gresham	Gresham Police Department 1333 NW Eastman Parkway Gresham, OR 97030 ☎ 503/618-2318	Lobby Drop Monday – Friday 7:00 am – 6:00 pm
Hermiston	Hermiston Police Department 330 S. First Hermiston, OR 97838 ☎ 541/567-5519	Lobby Drop Box 24/7
Hillsboro	Washington County Sheriff's Office 215 SW Adams Hillsboro, OR 97123 ☎ 503/629-0111	Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Jacksonville	City of Jacksonville Police Department 225 S. Third Street Jacksonville, OR 97530	Police Dept. Lobby Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Keizer	Keizer Police Department 930 Chemawa Rd NE. Keizer, OR 97307 ☎ 503/390-3713	Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location	Drop Off Site	Hours of Operation
Lincoln City	Lincoln City Police Department 1503 SE East Devils Lake Road Lincoln City, OR 97367 ☎ 541/994-3636	Lobby Drop Box 24/7
Madras	Jefferson County Sheriff's Office 675 Cherry Lane Madras, OR 97741 ☎ 541/475-6520	24/7 Push button for Dispatch to be buzzed in
Manzanita	Manzanita Police Department 165 S. Fifth Street Manzanita, OR 97130 ☎ 503/368-7229	7 days a week 8:00 am – 4:00 pm Call before bringing in unwanted drugs
McMinnville	McMinnville Police Department 121 SW Adams Street McMinnville OR 97128 ☎ 503/434-7307	Monday - Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
McMinnville	Yamhill County Sheriff's Office County Courthouse 535 NE 5 th Street McMinnville, OR 97128 ☎ 503/434-7506	Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Medford	Medford Police Department 411 West 8th St. Medford, OR 97501 ☎ 541/774-2200	Lobby drop box
Milwaukie	Milwaukie Police Department Public Safety Building 3200 SE Harrison St. Milwaukie, OR 97222 ☎ 503/786-7400	Lobby Drop Box 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday - Friday
Myrtle Creek	Myrtle Creek Police Department City Hall 207 Pleasant Street Myrtle Creek, OR 97457	City Hall Lobby Drop Box Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Location	Drop Off Site	Hours of Operation
Newberg – Dundee	Newberg – Dundee Police Department 401 E. Third Street Newberg, OR 97132 ☎ 503/538-8321	Lobby drop box Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Newport	Newport Police Department 169 SW Coast Hwy Newport, OR 97365 ☎ 541/574-3348	Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
North Bend	North Bend Police Department 835 California Street North Bend, OR 9745 ☎ 541/756-3161	Police Lobby 24/7
Oakridge	Oakridge Police Department 76435 Ash Street Oakridge, OR 97463 ☎ 541/782-4232	In front of Police Department 24/7
Oregon City	Oregon City Police Department 320 Warner Milne Rd Oregon City, OR 97045 ☎ 503/655-8211	Lobby Drop Box (buzz for entry) 8:00 am – 4:00 pm Monday - Friday
Pendleton	Pendleton Police Department 622 Airport Road Pendleton, OR 97801 ☎ 541/276-4411	Lobby Drop Box 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday - Friday

Location	Drop Off Site	Hours of Operation
Philomath	Philomath Police Department 1010 Applegate Street Philomath, OR 97370 ☎ 541/929-6911	Lobby Drop Box 8:00 am - noon 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm Monday - Friday Excluding major holidays
Portland	East Precinct Lobby 737 SE 106 th Avenue Portland, OR 97216 ☎ 503/823-4800 Central Precinct Lobby 1111 SW Second Avenue Portland, OR 97204 ☎ 503/823-0097 North Precinct Lobby 449 NE Emerson Street Portland, OR 97211 ☎ 503/823-5700	Lobby Drop Box Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 6:00 pm Lobby Drop Box 24/7 Lobby Drop Box Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 6:00 pm
Portland	Multnomah County Sheriff's Office 12240 NE Glisan Street Portland, OR 97230 ☎ 503/261-2810	Lobby Drop Box 24/7
Prineville	Prineville Police Department 400 NE 3 rd Street Prineville, OR 97754 Mosaic Medical Clinic 375 NW Beaver Street Prineville, OR 97754	Lobby Drop Box 24/7 Lobby Drop Box Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

	<p>Clinic Pharmacy</p> <p>1103 NE Elm Street</p> <p>Prineville, OR 97754</p>	<p>In-Store Drop Box</p> <p>Monday – Friday</p> <p>9:00 am – 4:00 pm</p>
Redmond	<p>Redmond Police Department</p> <p>777 SW Deschutes Avenue</p> <p>Redmond, OR 97756</p> <p>☎ 541/504-3400</p>	<p>Monday – Friday</p> <p>8:00 am – noon</p> <p>1:00 pm – 5:00 pm</p>
Roseburg	<p>Douglas County Sheriff's Office</p> <p>1036 SE Douglas Avenue</p> <p>Roseburg OR 97470</p> <p>☎ 541/440-4463</p>	<p>Daily</p> <p>6:00 am - Midnight</p>
Salem	<p>Salem Police Department</p> <p>555 Liberty Street, SE - Room 130</p> <p>Salem, OR 97301</p>	<p>Lobby drop box</p> <p>24/7</p>
Seaside	<p>Seaside Police Department</p> <p>1091 S. Holladay</p> <p>Seaside, OR 97138</p> <p>☎ 503/738-6311</p>	<p>Lobby drop box</p>
Sheridan	<p>Yamhill County Sheriff's Office</p> <p>120 SW Mill Street</p> <p>Sheridan, OR 97368</p> <p>☎ 503/843-2431</p>	<p>Monday – Friday</p> <p>8:00 am – 5:00 pm</p>
Sherwood	<p>Sherwood Police Department</p> <p>20495 SW Borchers Drive</p> <p>Sherwood, OR 97140</p> <p>☎ 503/625-5523</p>	<p>Monday – Friday</p> <p>8:00 am – 5:00 pm</p>

Location	Drop Off Site	Hours of Operation
Springfield	Springfield Police Department 230 Fourth Street Springfield, OR 97477 ☎ 541/726-3714	Justice Center Lobby
Talent	Talent Police Department 604 Talent Avenue Talent, OR 97540 ☎ 541/535-1253	Monday - Friday 8:00 am - noon 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Tigard	Tigard Police Department 13125 SW Hall Blvd. Tigard, OR 97223 ☎ 503/718-2561	Daily 8:00 am – 11:00 pm
Tillamook	Tillamook County Sheriff's Office 5995 Long Prairie Road Tillamook, OR 97141 ☎ 503/842-2561	7 days a week 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Tillamook	Tillamook Police Department 207 Madrona Avenue Tillamook, OR 97141	Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Toledo	Toledo Police Department 250 W. Hwy. 20 Toledo, Oregon 97391 ☎ 541/336-5555	Lobby Drop Box 24/7
Troutdale	234 SW Kendall Court Troutdale, OR 97060 ☎ 503/665-5175	Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Location	Drop Off Site	Hours of Operation
Warrenton	Warrenton Police Department 225 S. Main Avenue Warrenton, OR 97146 ☎ 503/861-2235	Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
White City	Jackson County Sheriff's Office 3131 Avenue C White City, OR 97503	Seven days a week 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Wilsonville	Wilsonville Police Department Clackamas County Sheriffs Office 30000 SW Town Center Loop E Wilsonville, OR 97070 ☎ 503/682-1012	8:00 am – 4:00 pm Excludes weekends and holidays
Winston	Winston Police Department 201 NW Douglas Blvd. Winston, OR 97496 ☎ 541/ 679-8706	
Deschutes County	Citizens can bring unwanted and unused prescription medications and/or over-the-counter drugs to the Sheriff's Office substations or main office during regular business hours. Sheriff's offices are located in Bend, Terrebonne, Sisters, & La Pine	Monday - Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Call ahead for Deputy availability ☎ 541/ 388-6655

If you have additional drop off sites to add to the inventory, please e-mail that information to: aillaspie@oracwa.org

SB 737 Sampling Shows Oregon Wastewater Utilities Working to Reduce Toxics



The final round of SB 737 effluent sampling results for the 52 affected Oregon wastewater treatment plants confirmed that Oregon wastewater treatment plants, and associated pollution prevention programs, continue to effectively control discharges of Priority Persistent Pollutants to Oregon's rivers and streams.

Under SB 737, passed by the 2007 Oregon Legislature, the 52 largest treatment plants in Oregon (over 1 MGD) screened their effluent for 117 of the 118 Oregon Priority Persistent Pollutants in sampling events held in the summer of 2010 (dry weather) and the winter of 2010 (wet weather). Both sampling events had very similar results.

Overall Results

Oregon DEQ set threshold levels for each of the 118 Priority Persistent Pollutants, above which pollution prevention plans would need to be prepared. DEQ calls the thresholds Plan Initiation Levels. Exceeding a threshold in either sampling event required preparation of a pollution prevention plan.

DEQ concluded that the results show that the pollution reduction measures currently in place are working to keep the majority of persistent pollutants out of municipal wastewater effluent, and that wastewater from municipal treatment plants is not a significant source of most persistent pollutants. A DEQ fact sheet on the study results is available at <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/SB737/>.

Of the 52 participating treatment plants each sampling twice, only

five Oregon treatment plants must prepare pollution prevention plans – each for one pollutant. These include:

- The Cities of Klamath Falls and Ontario for arsenic, where background arsenic concentrations are elevated from volcanic soils,
- The City of Hermiston and Oak Lodge Sanitary District for beta-sitosterol, a plant-based sterol common in municipal wastewater, and
- The City of Portland (Columbia Blvd. Treatment Plant – a combined sewer system) for pyrene, a polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon associated with combustion.

About 68% of the compounds were not detected at any of the treatment plants, even at the very low detection levels that the DEQ laboratory was using.

Chemicals that were found in wastewater effluent, but below Plan Initiation Levels included:

- Legacy pesticides including 2,4,6-Trichlorophenol, 2,4,5-Trichlorophenol, and pentachlorobenzene,
- Poly Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) - - by-products of combustion - - including benzo(a) anthracene, benzo(b)fluoranthene, chrysene and others,
- Metals including arsenic, lead, and methyl mercury,





- Legacy chemicals including PCBs,
- A consumer chemical fragrance - galaxolide and
- Flame retardants

Every treatment plant exceeded the Plan Initiation Levels for cholesterol and coprostanol, natural by-products of digestion. After further examination, DEQ staff suspended pollution prevention plan requirements for those pollutants due to limited information about toxicity, lack of feasible municipal pollution prevention activities, and lack of cost-effective treatment options.

Study of National Significance

Oregon is the first state in the nation to undertake such an extensive examination of persistent toxics in wastewater treatment facility effluent. This study is noteworthy considering the number of chemicals tested, clean sampling protocols, and the extremely low laboratory detection levels used in the analysis

The effluent results were analyzed by the Oregon DEQ Laboratory and paid for by the SB 737 affected municipalities. Each of the 52 affected wastewater treatment plants paid about \$15,000 for the sampling effort. The DEQ laboratory worked collaboratively with Oregon municipal lab managers to develop the sampling protocols, design the sampling programs, and develop the testing efforts.

Prevention Efforts Continuing for Oregon Municipalities

Although a limited number of municipalities are required to develop new SB 737 pollution prevention plans, this is not the end of pollution prevention activities for Oregon wastewater municipalities.

For instance, under the DEQ revised toxic water quality standards, most - - if not all - - Oregon wastewater treatment plants will need water quality variances for legacy chemicals such as PCBs and other pollutants. These communities will need to prepare a pollution prevention plan as part of the variance application.

Other drivers for developing pollution prevention plans might include:

- Maintaining high quality biosolids for beneficial reuse,
- Meeting Oregon water quality standards for metals and other toxics,
- Preparing to meet future water quality standards,
- Assisting in evaluation of Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) test failures, and
- Building community partnerships to reduce the use of toxic materials, especially in households.

Example pollution prevention activities that communities might institute include:

- Working with OSU Extension, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and local drinking water providers to organize an event to collect legacy pesticides from area ranchers and farmers,
- Supporting and promoting local household hazardous waste collection events,
- Working with schools to clean out lab chemicals, remove mercury-containing equipment, and revise procurement practices,
- Promoting eco-certified soaps and cleaners,
- Specifying that electronic devices including computers, monitors, and laptops meet environmental standards set by EPEAT (see www.epeat.net),
- Ensuring landscaping practices meet Eco-Biz standards,
- Working with local law enforcement agencies to establish a collection box for unwanted and unused drugs,
- Inspecting equipment and transformers at the treatment plant and pump stations to ensure no PCB equipment is used where it could fail into effluent, and
- Outreach and education to the public on proper use of pesticides, including herbicides.

