
MEMORANDUM

To: Eileen Cashman

From: David Morales

Subject: Arcata Marsh Trip

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to express what I have learned and experienced at the Arcata Marshes. We were should the different methods used to try and remove the sludge from the marshes.

Discussion

The trip was at the Arcata Marshes that are apart of the waste water treatment plant. We were given a tour by one of the waste water treatment plant's workers. She took us around the treatment plant in the order of how the waste is processed.

The marshes of the plant have not been properly maintained for almost 30 years. The buildup of sludge on the bottom of the marshes was the effect of the neglect. We were showed systems called Blue Frogs. They are meant to mix the sludge of just one small section of the marsh. We were told that by chance the sludge that is mixed may dissolve or degrade faster and can clean the buildup. We were told that there has been other attempts to clean the sludge but have not shown much progress. The treatment plant is smaller and more environmentally dependent than those in a more urban area.

Conclusion

After the tour I not only better understood how the waste water treatment plant works but also have a better understanding of the work that is necessary to run the plant. The workers that run the waste water treatment plant play a more significant role for the community than expected. The trip helped me understand the work that is needed to support a community with water.