
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: KYLE SIPES
FROM: JULI SIOSON-EBITNER
SUBJECT: ARCATA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT TRIP
DATE: OCTOBER 7, 2016
CC: EILEEN CASHMAN

Purpose

The purpose of the trip for the Arcata wastewater treatment plant trip was for the ERE students to learn more about the wastewater treatment on September 30, 2016.

Discussion

Students were first introduced to the head works where they saw the filter. Water is pushed through while the excess waste – such as trash, plastic, and the occasional dollar bill- is pulled up and away from the water. Only one side of the head works was on because it was summer; summertime there isn't a lot of incoming water until students come back fall and winter increasing the flow dramatically.

Sludge from the treatment plant is turned into compost. This is regulated and a way that Arcata wastewater treatment plant manages its sludge. The water is led to the oxidation ponds. While there are many oxidation ponds only a couple are used at a time. Students got a closer look at them and also learned about how fragile they can be. They are able to die and emit awful smells.

Students were introduced to blue frog which is a mixer and aerator that helps increase the biological activity. Unfortunately, the power was off due to a blackout so no one could see it in action.

Conclusion

This field trip helped students get a better understanding for wastewater treatment. It helped to see what everything was instead of just on a chart.