



# AWWU Update

*A presentation to  
Assembly Enterprise and Utility Oversight Committee  
July 18, 2024*

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# Presentation Topics

- Update on Asplund Water Pollution Control Facility National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) 301(h) Permit Renewal
- Asplund Permit Integrator Contract Amendment – Upcoming Assembly Action
- Project Management Office Contract – Upcoming Assembly Action
- Abbott Road Emergency Water Main Replacement



# NPDES Permit

## Clean Water Act Section 301(h)

- EPA permits wastewater discharge under the Clean Water Act's (CWA) National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (or NPDES)
- Most facilities need to meet water quality goals by meeting primary (30%/30%) and secondary treatment standards (85%/85%)
- Under section 301(h) of the CWA, Asplund is allowed a very narrow waiver for Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) removal requirements because the facility:
  - Discharges into marine waters with large tides and currents that facilitate mixing
  - Demonstrates that CWA goals are met without secondary treatment and meet nine (9) criteria
- Other parameters such as toxicity are in full effect and extensive additional monitoring of the discharge and receiving water body is required



# NPDES Permit

## Nine Criteria Required to Qualify for 301(h)

**Environmental  
monitoring  
program**

**Meets NPDES  
permit limits**

**Toxics control**

**Meets state  
water quality  
standards**

**Removes 30%  
of BOD/TSS\***

**Pretreatment  
program  
implemented**

**Industrial  
Pretreatment  
requirements  
enforced**

**Balanced  
native  
population of  
shellfish, fish,  
and wildlife**

**Does not  
constrain other  
discharges**





# Cook Inlet Science Advanced by Over Three Decades of Monitoring

- Current permit requires us to perform annual environmental monitoring to:
  - Ensure Cook Inlet is protected
  - Differentiate between natural changes and those that may be caused by Asplund discharge
  - Measure compliance with state and federal regulations
  - Help monitor facility performance
  - 301(h) requires additional monitoring compared to other (advanced treatment) discharges

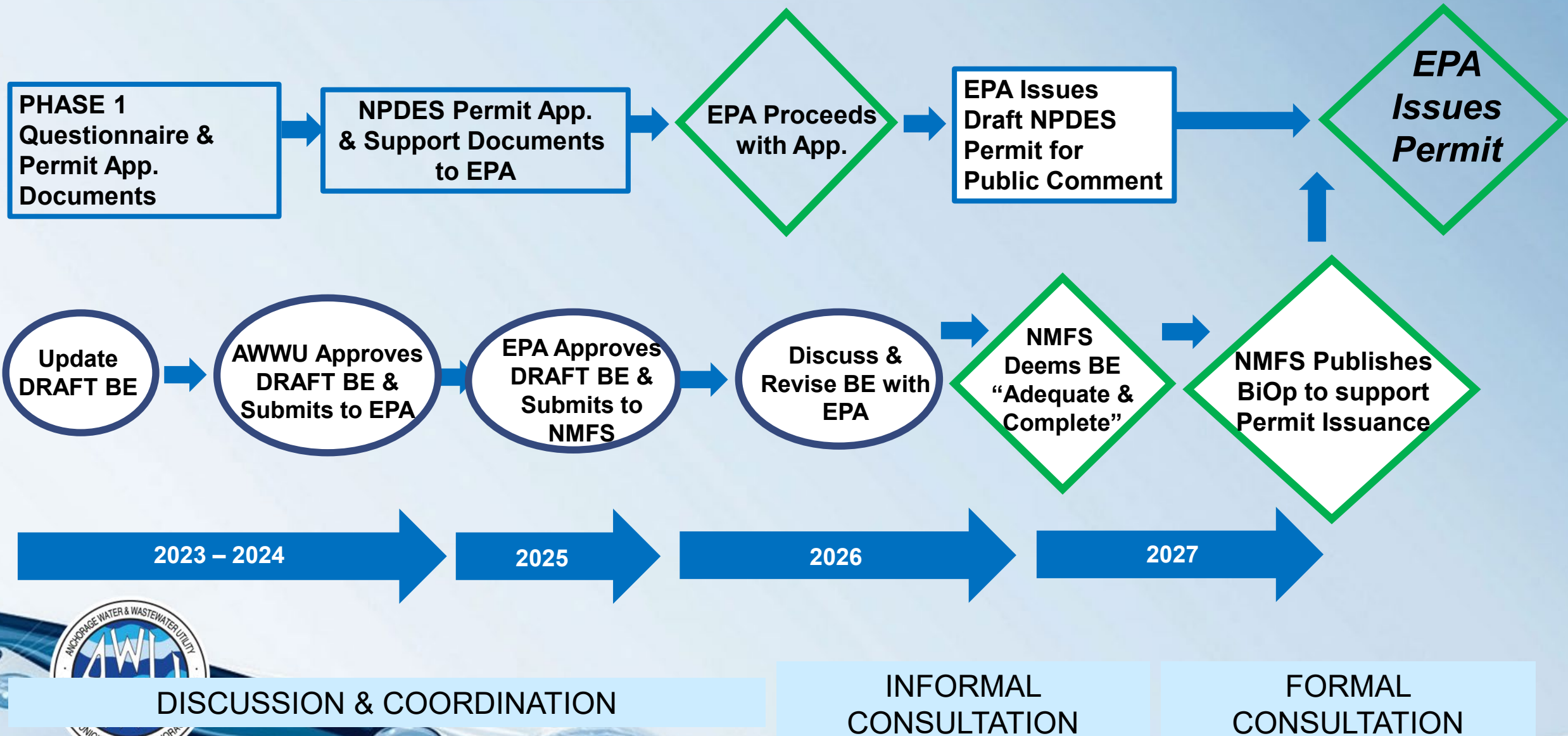


# Cook Inlet Science in Progress – Summer 2024

- Update of Biological Evaluation (BE)
  - Extensive data collection in Cook Inlet
  - Fish tissue sampling
  - Collaboration with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- Additional Studies/Modeling/Model Calibration of Asplund Discharge
- Updated Permit Application
- Public Outreach



# Permit Renewal Process Timeline



# Upcoming Asplund Permit Integrator Contract Amendment

- Original Contract \$3,500,000
- Additional Services Needed
  - Outfall Mixing Zone/Chlorine Degradation Study – Additional Iterations with EPA/ADEC
  - JBER/Leachate Support
  - Pretreatment Industrial User Survey and Local Limit Development
- Anticipate Request for Assembly Approval of Additional \$340,515 in late July/early August





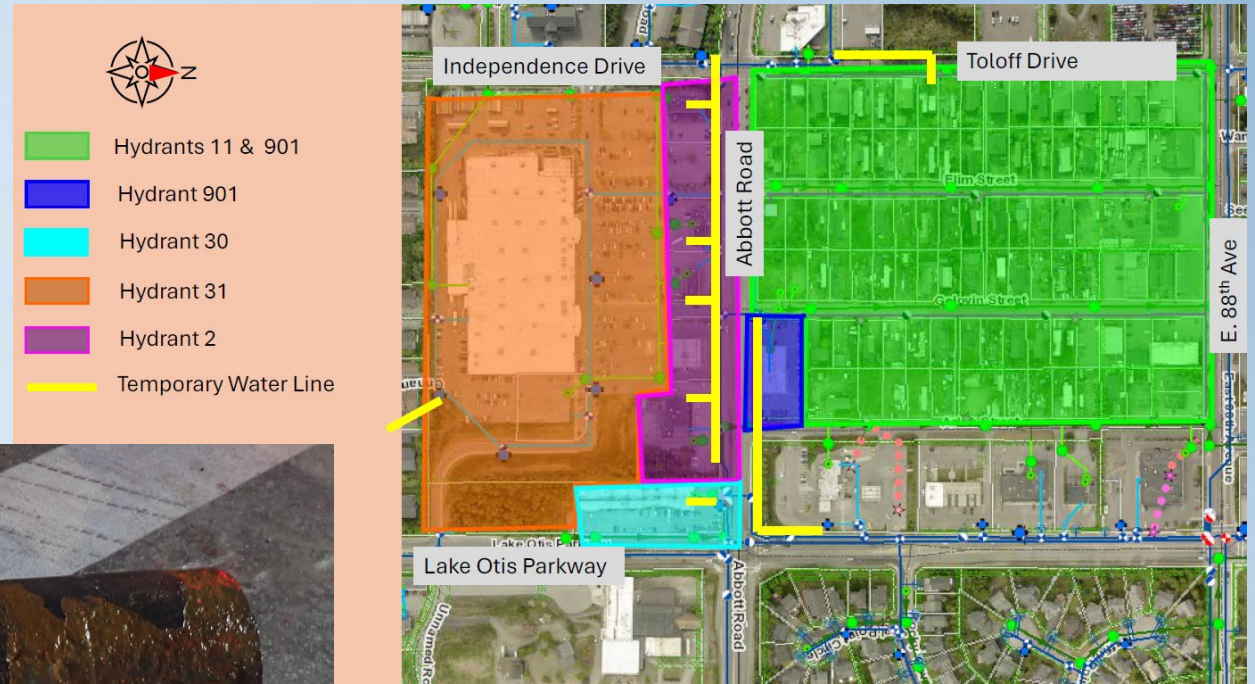
# Project Management Office (PMO) Contract

- PMO to Supplement MOA Staff for Grant Funded one-off Projects
- To date:
  - \$35 million in approved Federal Budgets
  - \$55 million pending Fed/SoA budget approvals and competitive Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant
  - \$25 million in AWWU/HLB/SWS/MOA match in capital budgets
- Future: Assumed \$15-20 million in annual Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funds and other grants
- Contractor Selected through Competitive RFP Process
- Negotiations with Selected Contractor in Progress
- Anticipate Request for Assembly Approval by September



# Abbott Road Emergency Water Main Replacement

- Second break in this area in less than a year
- Large disruption when it fails
- Pipe is in very poor condition
- Emergency pipe replacement project in progress
- Using term construction contractor to setup temporary water and complete emergency repairs before winter





# Questions?

