
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: PROFESSOR ARCHIBALD

FROM: GARRETT MITCHELL

SUBJECT: ARCATA WWTP REFLECTION

DATE: 10/7/19

CC:

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to reflect on what visiting the Arcata Wastewater Treatment Plant taught us about the process of treating and recycling wastewater.

DISCUSSION

Visiting the water treatment plant and talking with the experienced ex-worker put into perspective what the treatment of wastewater truly entails and helped to realize the conceptual work we had done in class into a physical, hands-on example. The information regarding the disposal of biogas generated from the digester was particularly interesting to me personally since I intend to pursue the renewable energy discipline of this major and seeing the wasted potential energy gave me new ideas on how to properly utilize it. The trip also proved to put the scale of the plant's operation in perspective, as the plant itself was relatively small compared to other plants that service greater municipalities. Even so, it was impressive to see the man-made oxidation ponds working to reduce the water's biological oxygen demand as opposed to more power-consuming alternatives. Finally, it was a valuable trip to me because it reaffirmed to myself how much I love the renewable energy sector of environmental engineering, due to how abhorrent the odor was around different parts of the plant. I am very glad to see other people interested in the process of wastewater treatment because I know that even if I don't choose to pursue this discipline of engineering, there are plenty of others that will.

CONCLUSION

I think this is a valuable trip for anybody in Humboldt State's engineering program to go on, because it will let them definitively decide which branch of the program to work toward. It also proves the need for well-funded, well-functioning plants as they serve such an important role in an urban or suburban zone.