

# Water Reuse Advancements in Desalination and PFAS Research - Embracing the “Electrification” Concept

February 23, 2023

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**01**  
**EC 101**



**02**  
**PFAS Electrocoagulation Case Study for BGNDRF**



**03**  
**Pitch to Pilot Desalination Research Summary**



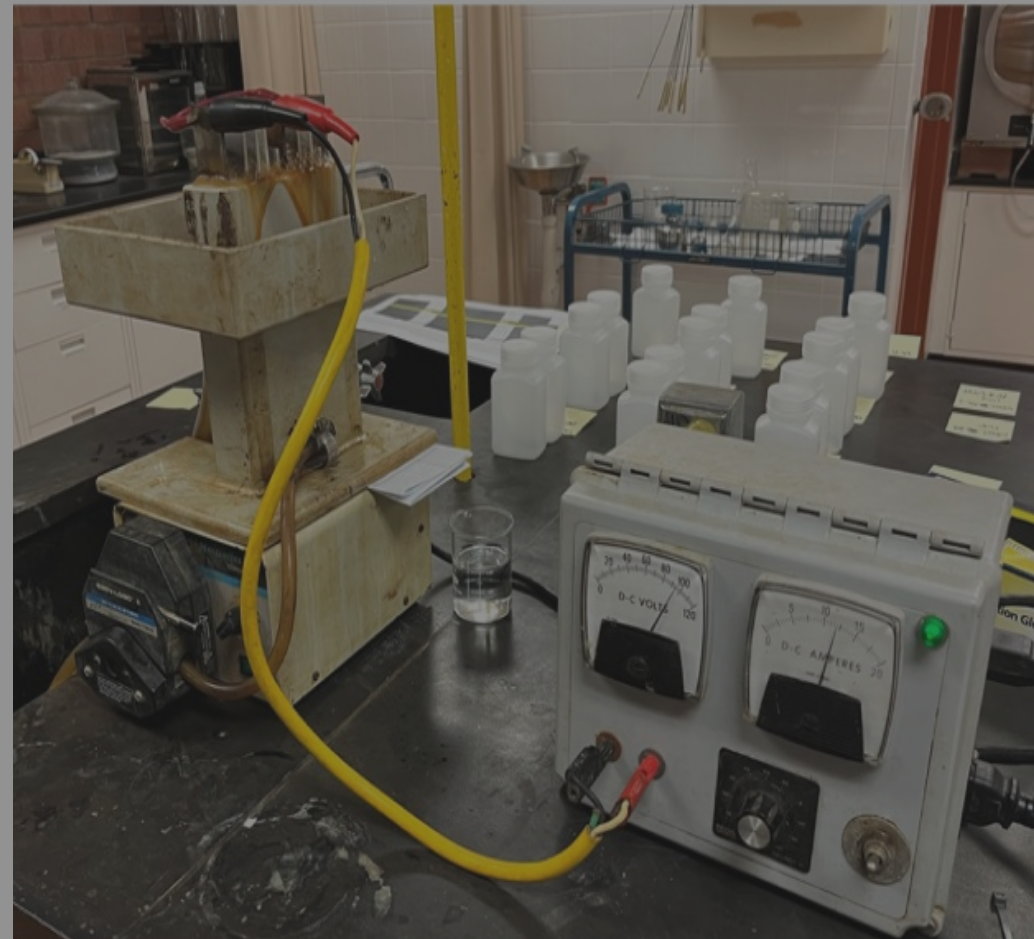
**04**  
**Regional Brine Management Concept for West Valley**

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# AGENDA



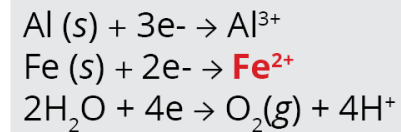
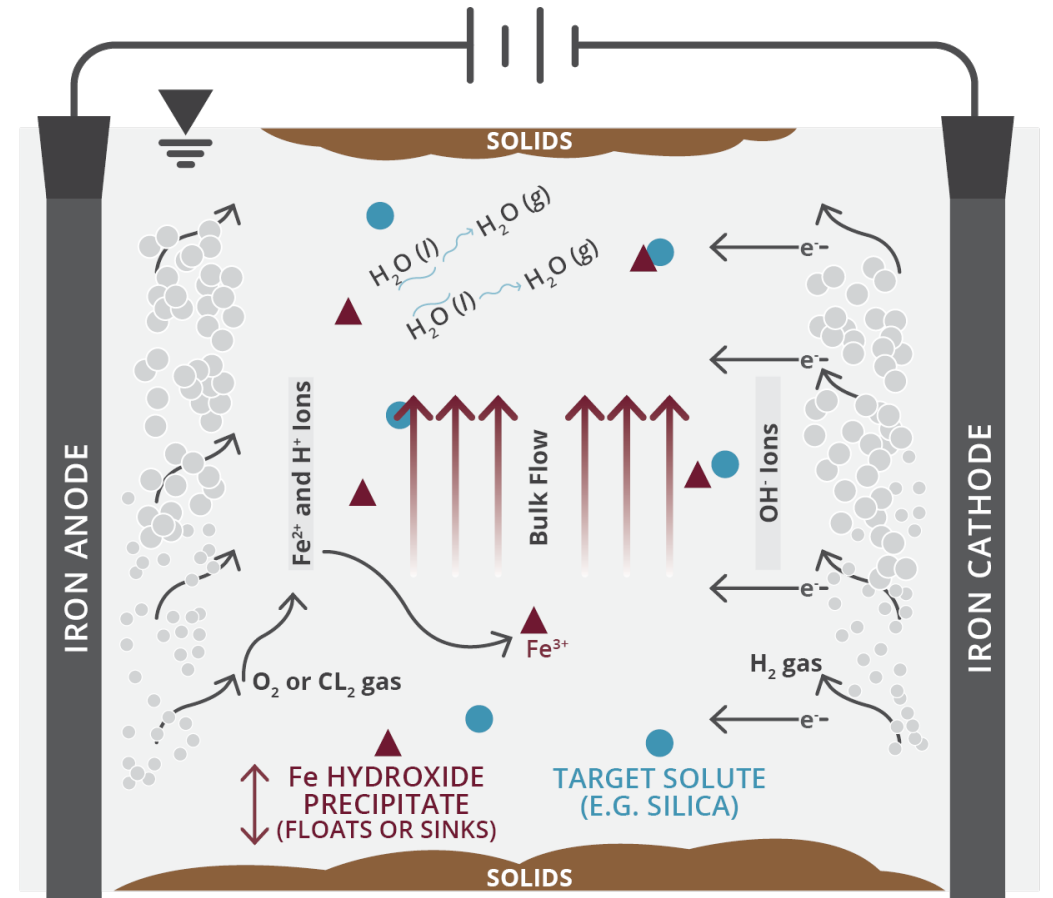
01  
EC 101



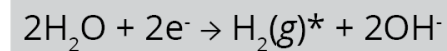
# EC Removal Mechanisms

Standard Configuration with NO chemical catalyst

## EC Only (Fe Blades)



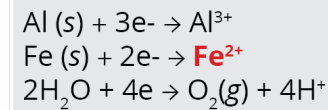
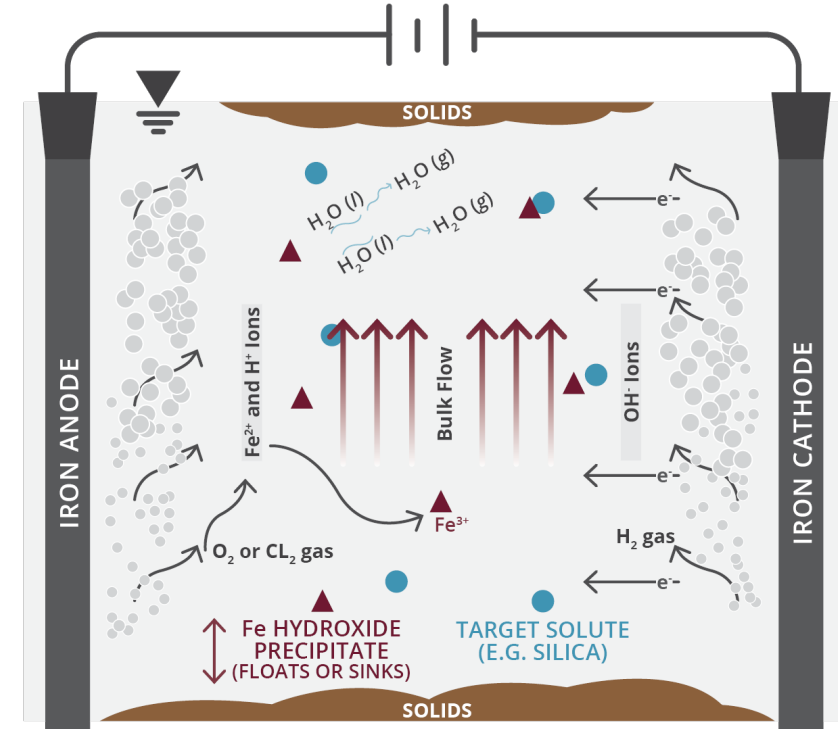
Anodic reactions (Oxidation)



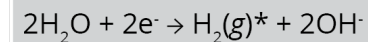
Cathodic reactions (Reduction)

# Advanced Oxidation Process

## EC Only (Fe Blades) + Fenton (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>)



Anodic reactions (Oxidation)



Cathodic reactions (Reduction)

+

\*H<sub>2</sub>(g) only generated if:  
1.) Salt bridge > 8%; 2.) Polarity duration > 1.5 minute;  
3.) Platinum or titanium electrode used

## EC Removal Mechanisms....

Standard Configuration with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> catalyst to drive E-Fenton Reaction



Electro-Fenton Reaction



GARVER

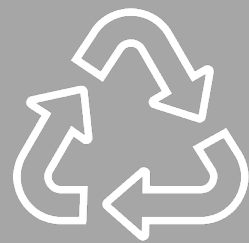


# Electro-Coagulation vs. Chemical Coagulation

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	Potassium Alum $KAl(SO_4)_2 \cdot 12(H_2O)$	Ferric Chloride $FeCl_3 \cdot 6(H_2O)$	Electro-coagulation $Fe^{2+}$ or $Al^{3+}$





02

## PFAS Electrocoagulation Case Study for BGNDRF

# Background

Bureau of Reclamation owns and operates [\(BGNDRF\)](#) in Alamogordo, NM

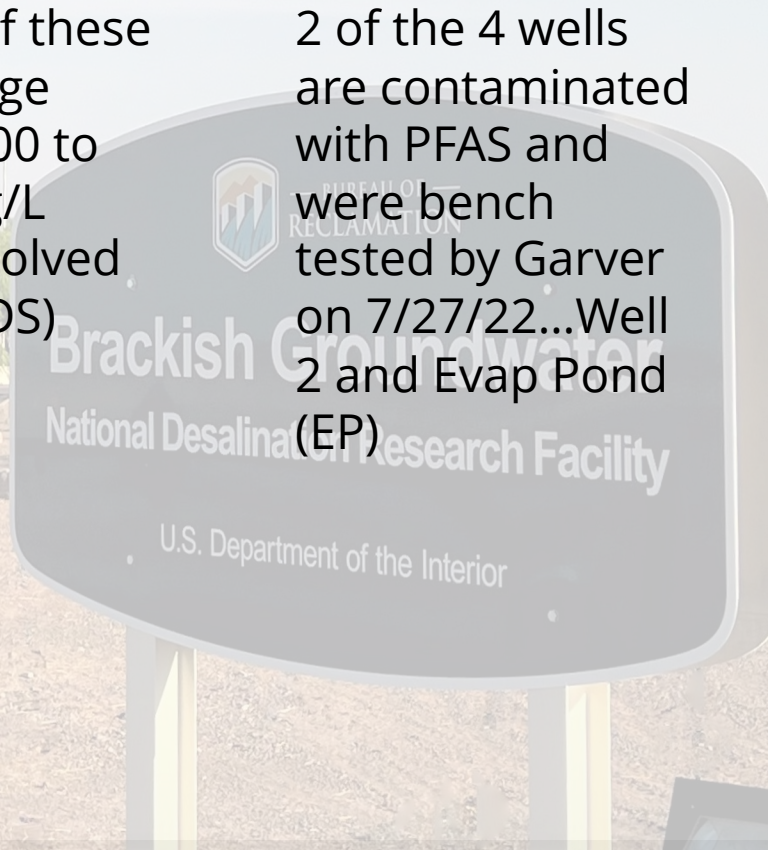
Four groundwater wells used for supply of brackish water to desal research trains and three evaporation ponds to store spent brine

Salinity of these wells range from 1,000 to 6,000 mg/L total dissolved solids (TDS)

2 of the 4 wells are contaminated with PFAS and were bench tested by Garver on 7/27/22...Well 2 and Evap Pond (EP)

## Problem

Due to NM regulations the facility's discharge permit no longer allows any water with PFAS to enter the sewer adding stress to the evaporation ponds capacity





# Why Test EC for PFAS removal?



We have tested it before on three types of challenging waters with successful results



BOR has seen the efficacy of EC (when performed correctly) in removing challenging contaminants in P2P Pilot train



BOR paid for exhaustive WQ analysis (including total organic fluorine) while Garver ran the bench tests in-kind



Determine the PFAS removal efficacy for 24 compounds and the fate of the residuals generated (destructive vs. non-destructive)

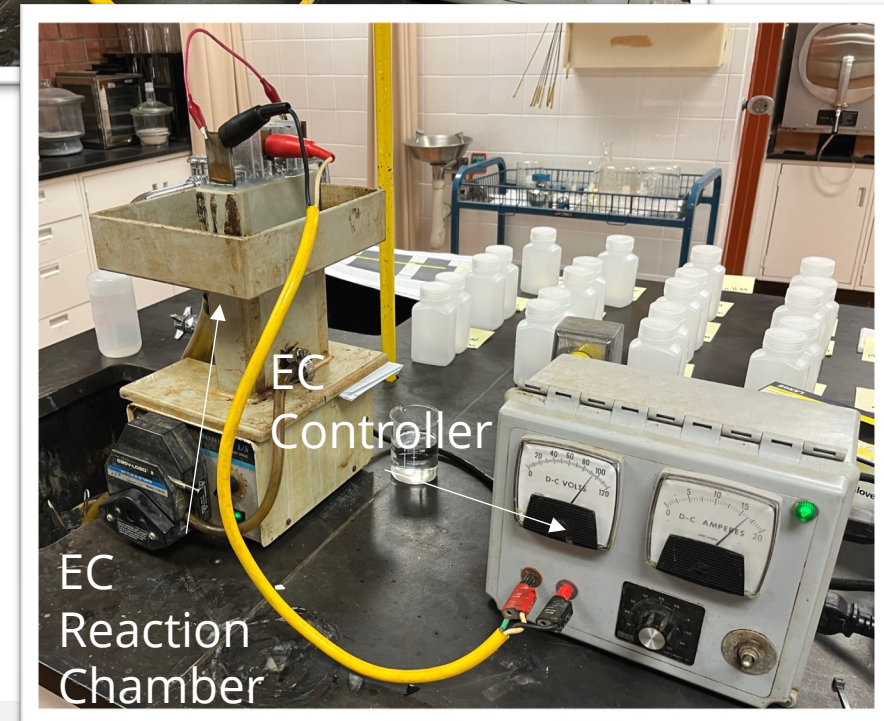
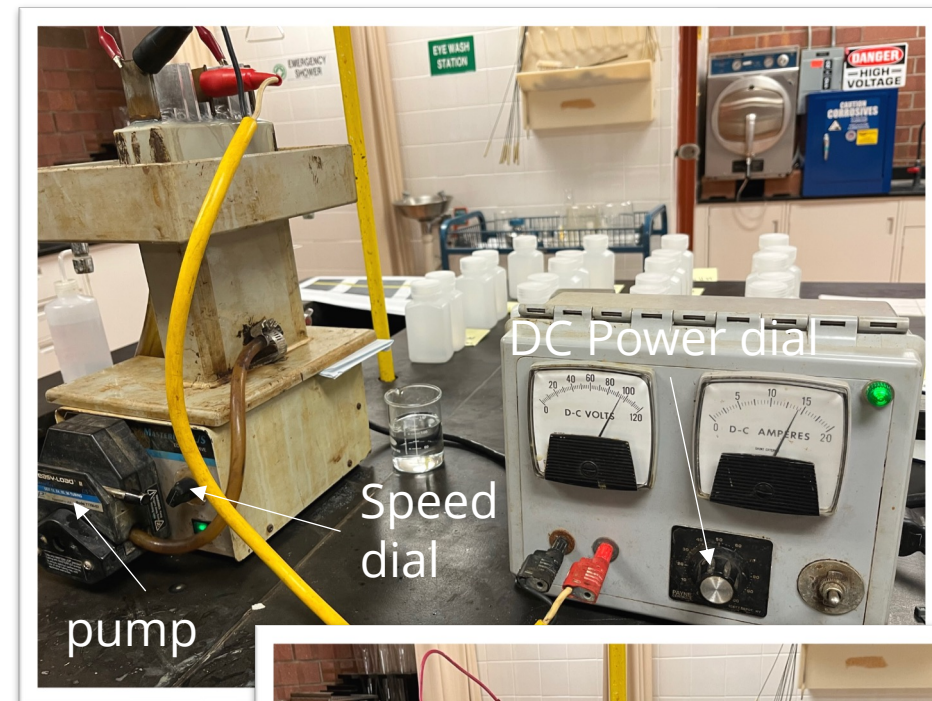


If EC proves to be a viable, destructive treatment tech, then further piloting / full scale design may ensue



## Well 2 1-min HRT | ambient pH

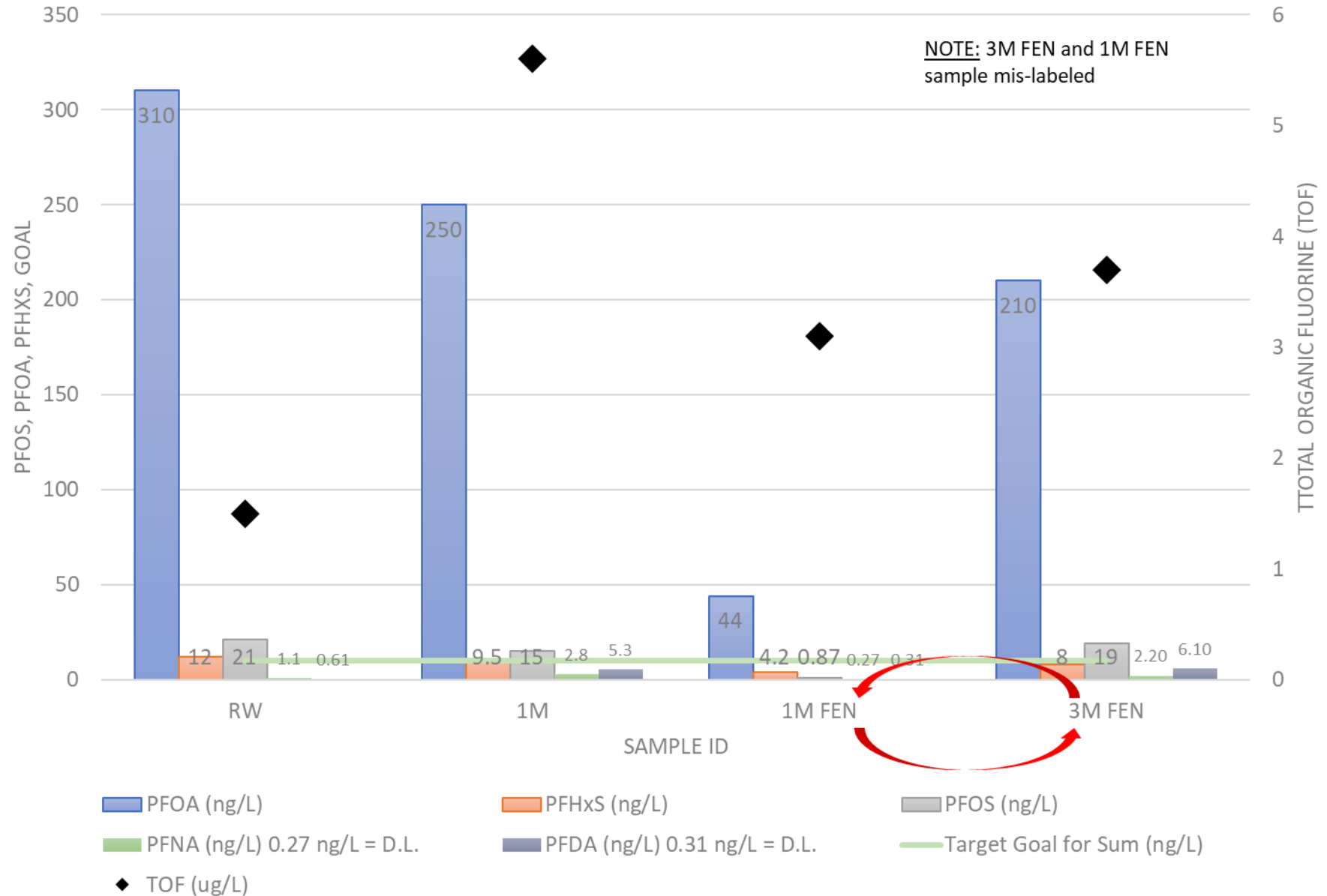
- Temperature of water rose 4°C quickly due to ohmic heating effect over 1.5 min process time
  - Higher the TDS, higher the temperature rise due to ohmic heating
- Chamber required jumping in high conductivity chamber b/c only 2.5-amps pulled due to lower TDS
  - Split in 2 equal chambers
- 96-V @ 15-amps (initial) to 94-V @ 17 amps (final) as metal was dissolved in solution



# Well 2 - Lab Data

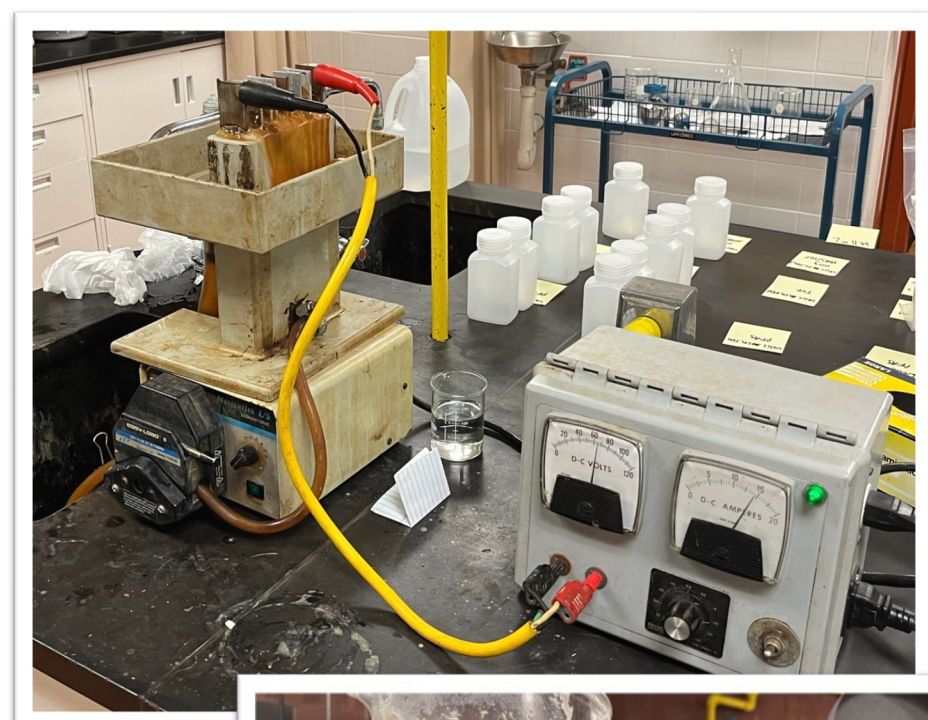
- 1M FEN and 3M FEN mis-labeled
- Longer, E-Fenton run time resulted in better removal for PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFDA and PFNA
- 1M and 1M FEN led to 155% to 900% increase in PFNA and PFDA
- 3M FEN brought PFNA and PFDA back to ND
- TOF increase in all TW centrate samples may be indicator of C-F destruction

Well 2 Priority PFAS Removal



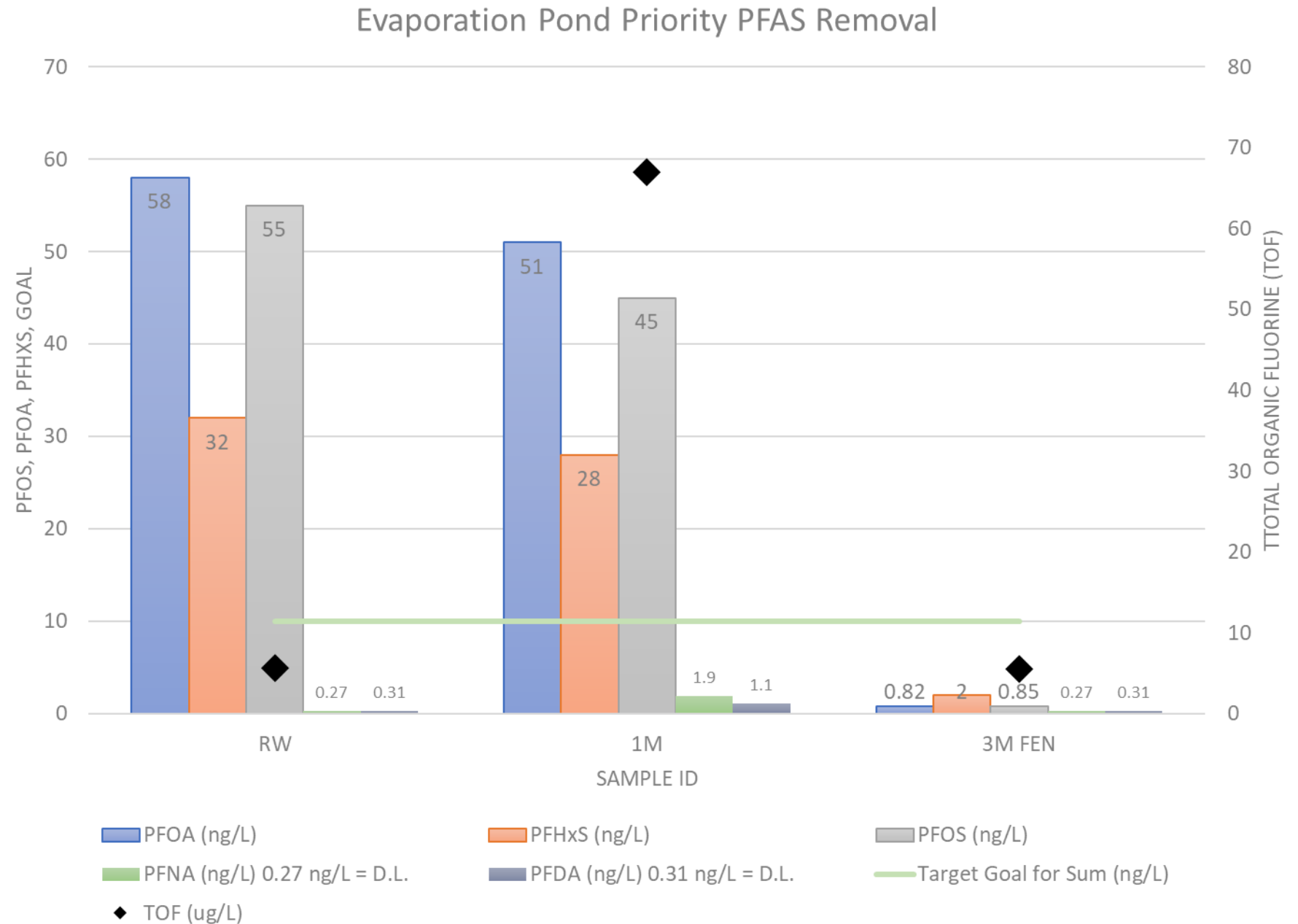
# EP 3-min HRT | ambient pH | E-Fenton

- Highest temperature rise of all tests, but could not record temperature until centrifuged 2-hrs later
  - Allowed to cool
- Chamber did NOT require jumping due to high conductivity of EP sample
- 66-V @ 15-amps (initial) to 68-V @ 12.5 amps (final)
  - Significant quantity of bubbles generated during process caused the amperage to bounce between 10 and 15 amps
- Solids separated well, leading to clear filtrate



## EP - Lab Data

- Longer, E-Fenton run time resulted in better removal for PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFDA and PFNA
- 1M FEN led to 255% to 600% increase in PFDA and PFNA
- 3M FEN brought PFNA and PFDA back to ND
- TOF increase in 1M concentrate samples may be indicator of C-F destruction



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# ADVANCES in WATER RESEARCH

A Publication of The Water Research Foundation

## Ozone



### 03

## Pitch to Pilot Desalination Research Summary

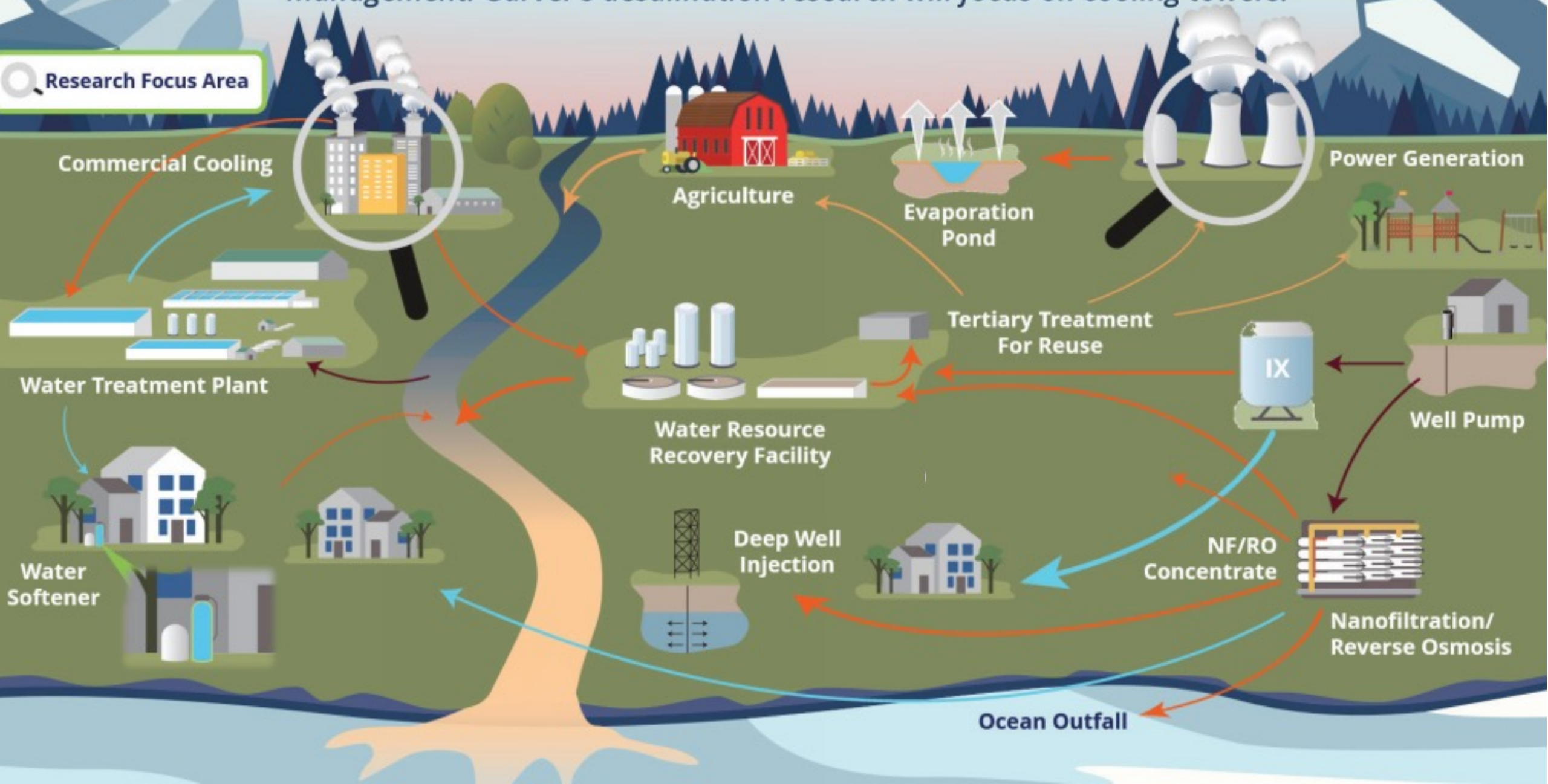


**BOR Funded Desalination Pilot for Cooling Tower Blowdown - A Reuse Model for Challenged Waters**

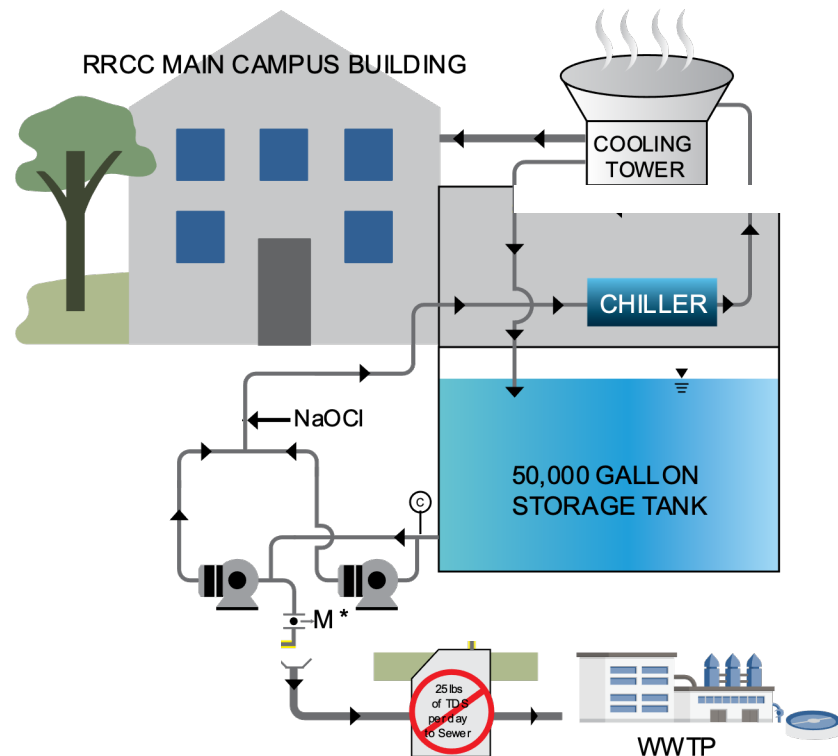
ERIC DOLE, PE, PSAP | GARVER  
YULIANA PORRAS-MENDOZA | BOR  
June 13, 2022

*Understanding where salt loading comes from sets the stage for salinity management. Garver's desalination research will focus on cooling towers.*

Research Focus Area

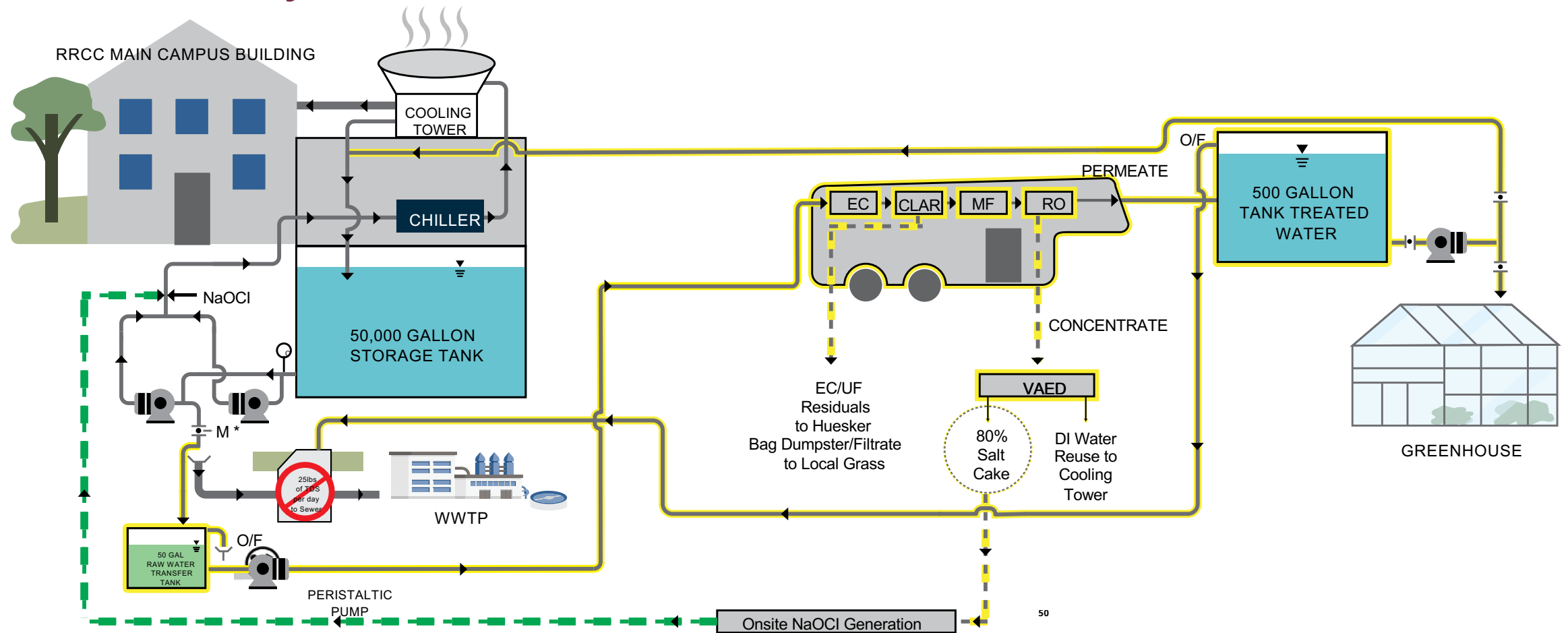


**Cooling tower blowdown is a major contributor to salt loading of watersheds** and should be considered especially if IPR or DPR is means to enhance water security.





**Garver's team offers an innovative treatment train** for cooling tower blowdown that prevents high salinity wastewater from entering the sewershed **and** eliminates the need for blowdown make up water **while** evaluating the salt slurry waste stream as feedstock for chlor-alkali industry.



**We were able to consistently produce high quality permeate without irreversible fouling due to removal of scale forming compounds**

TARGET CONSTITUENT	10th Percentile			Average			90th Percentile		
	Raw Water	Filtered EC Supernatant	Permeate	Raw Water	Filtered EC Supernatant	Permeate	Raw Water	Filtered EC Supernatant	Permeate
TH as CaCO3 (mg/L)	699.7	174.3	0.1	743.38	428.68	1.38	810.4	723.4	4.86
pH	8.1	7.9	7.1	8.3	8.8	8.8	8.7	9.3	9.9
TDS (mg/L)	1683	1515	5	2848.7	1686.2	11.4	1992	1966	21.2
Silica (mg/L)	15.61	0.30	0.3	17.7	1.39	0.3	19.4	3.24	0.3
TSS (mg/L)	5.0	5	5	5.3	12.5	5	5.3	17.8	5
Total Phosphate (mg/L)	0.11	0.05	0.05	0.16	0.06	0.05	0.19	0.05	0.05
TOC (mg/L)	5.79	4.84	0.5	6.38	5.18	0.51	7.34	5.46	0.5
*ORP (mV)	180	-141.8	-182.9	194.00	-112.40	-124.60	211	-70	-61.2
*Temperature (°C)	15.86	13.19	12.86	18.09	16.99	16.96	19.94	21.23	21.33
Total Coli (mpn/100 mL)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.18	1.67	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
OPERATING PARAMETER	10th Percentile			Average			90th Percentile		
Energy Intensity (kWh/kgal)	39.6			44.9			51.4		
Pressure (psi)	312			346			386		
Permeate Flow (gpm)	0.72			0.80			0.86		
Perm Flux (gfd)	11.9			13.2			14.3		
Concentrate Flow (gpm)	0.80			0.88			0.97		
% Recovery 3-stg RO	43%			48%			52%		
**% Recovery Overall	49%			54%			59%		

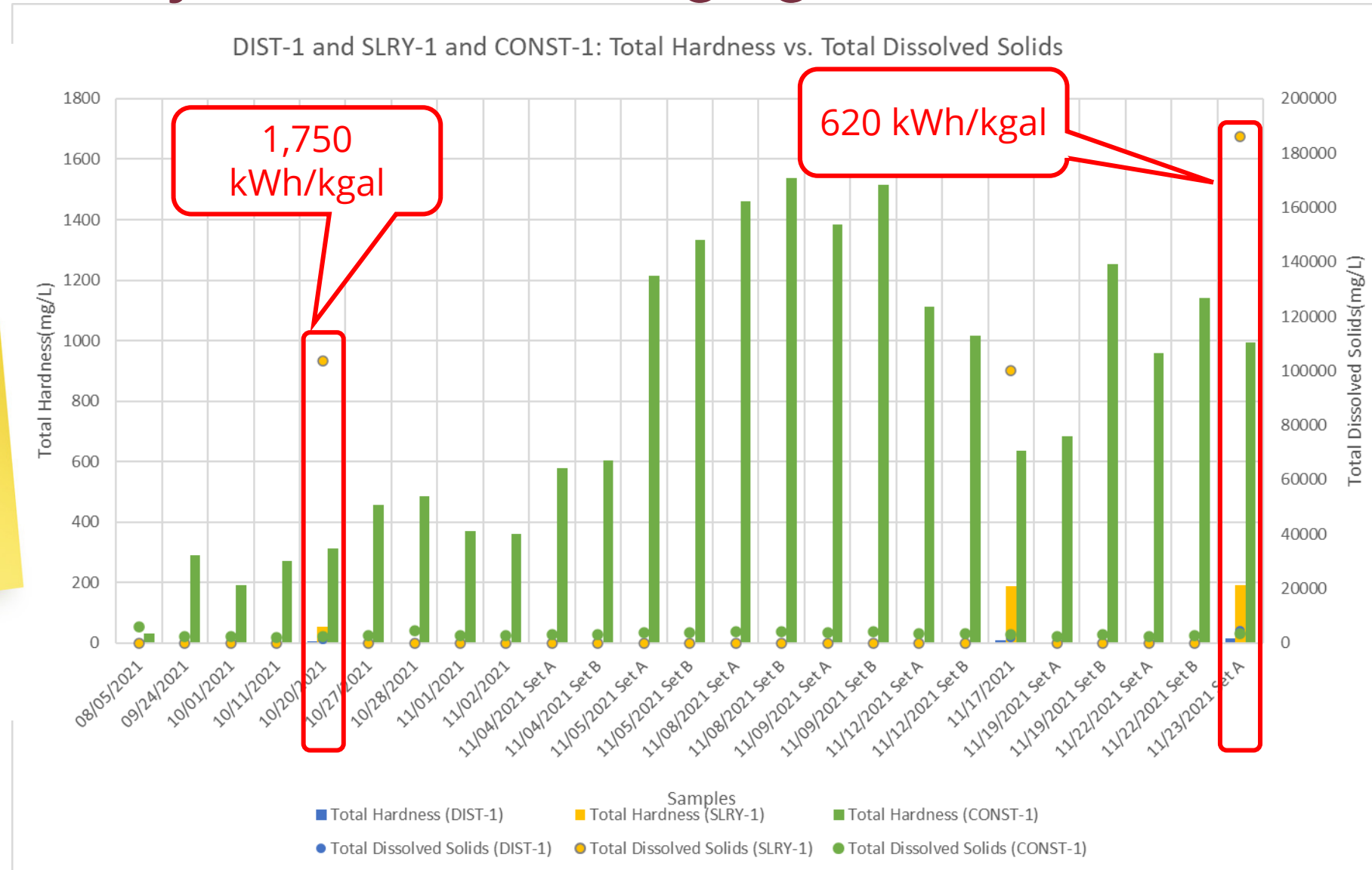
\*As trended through in-line analyzers

\*\*@ 400 ppm TDS w/ Blend

# How did the VAED system do at managing the concentrate?

## Highlights:

- Significant reduction of hardness and TDS
- Higher conductivity = lower kWh/kgal
- Significant room for energy efficiency improvement
- Cooling is key - modifications identified to significantly improve performance



# What NAWI thinks of our research

“This demo is an EXCELLENT opportunity to see the sort of small-scale, distributed desal system NAWI seeks to develop and advance with both its pilot program and our overall baselining and roadmapping.”

Dr. Peter Fiske  
Executive Director, NAWI

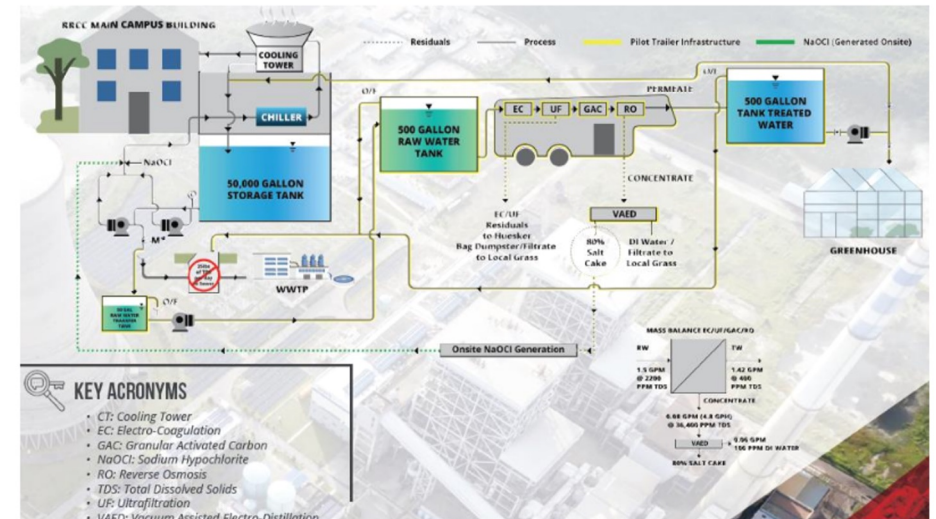


Our industry partners put this as their TOP priority...

- Funding for demos is scarce
  - USBR's Pitch-2-Pilot is highly effective, but very small
  - Piloting in commercial settings is a cost often borne by the technology developer
- Successful pilots often stimulate a wave of commercial opportunities
- DWR in particular lists this as a critical need for California
- NAWI's vision of distributed desalination and water reuse is completely dependent on a succession of pilots and demos
- There are existing trial sites and demo facilities funded by ReNUWIt and USBR – these can be valuable leverage points for our pilots

## What does one of these systems look like?

Garver's Pitch-2-Pilot demo of a ZLD blowdown treatment system

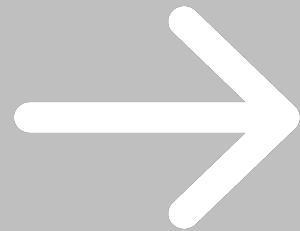
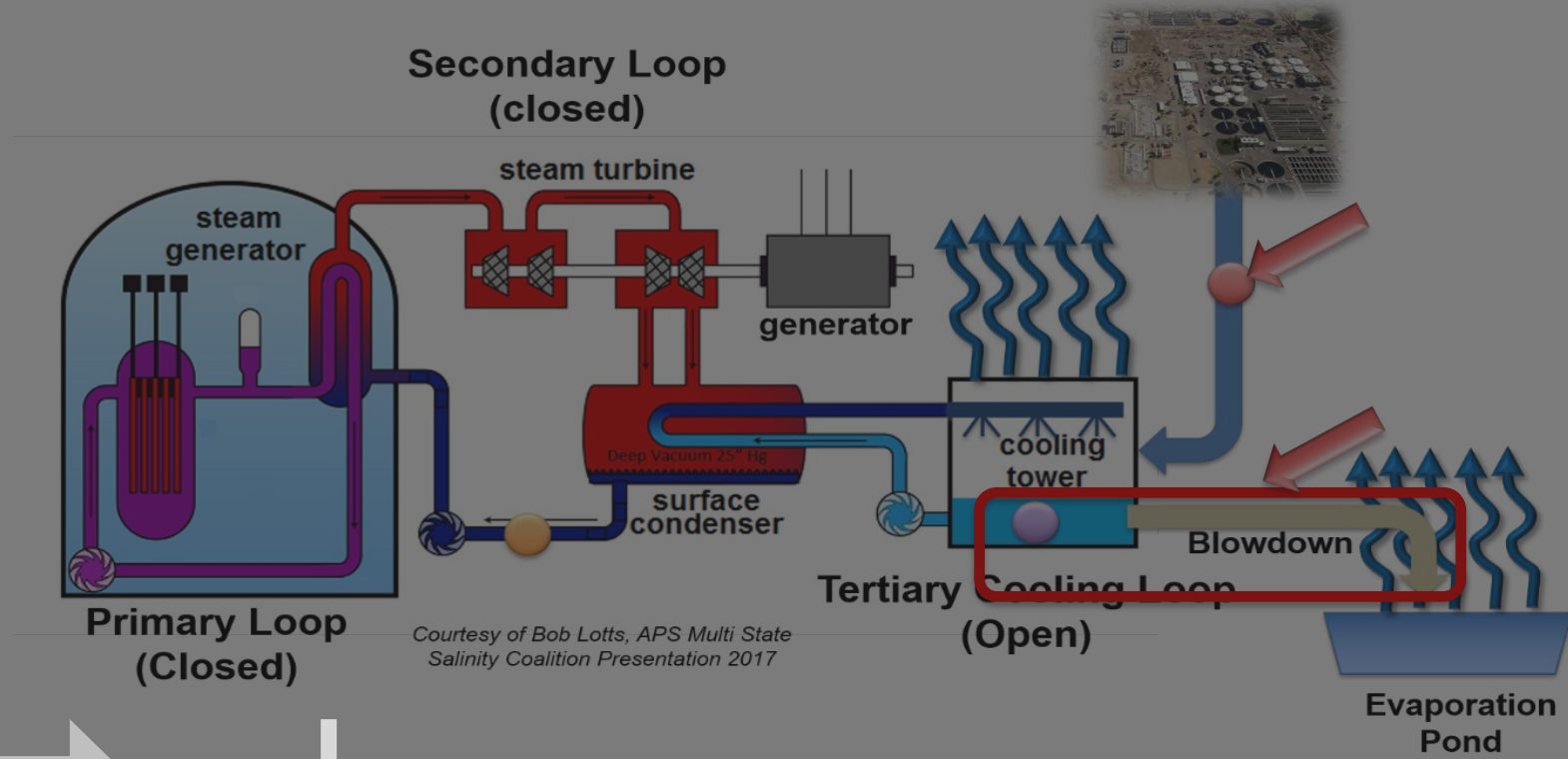


**On 3/23/22 NAWI,  
DOE, NREL,  
Lawrence Berkley  
Labs, Oakridge Labs  
and APS  
participated in a tour**



# On 5/24/22 The BOR's Water Treatment Interagency Working Group also toured the P2P





04

# Regional Brine Management Concept for West Valley





**Largest Nuclear  
Power Plant**  
in the United States



**Only Nuclear Facility that Uses 100%  
Recycled Water for Cooling**  
in the World



**12 GWt Capacity**  
(4.2 GWe)



**32,000,000 MW-Hours**  
in 2017

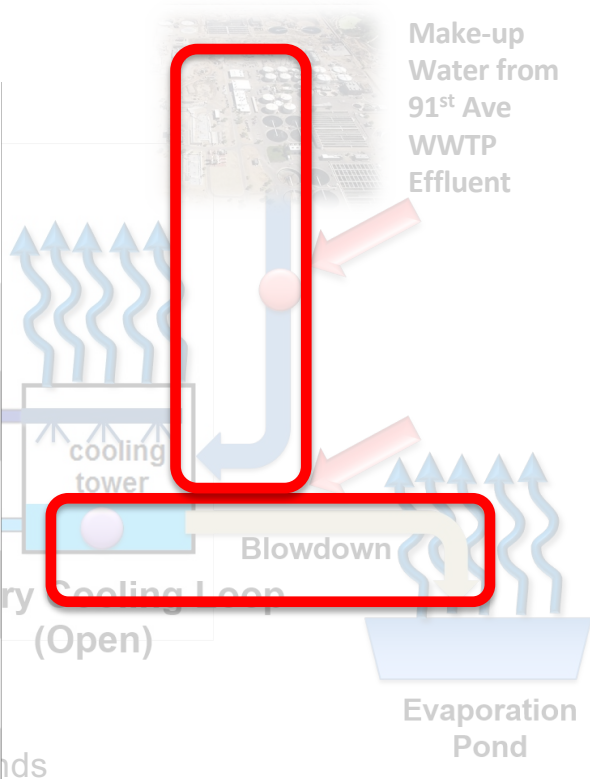




# The Opportunities: EC Based Treatment Solutions at PVGS

Secondary Loop  
Palo Verde Water Quality

Parameter	WRF Influent (mg/l)	WRF Reservoir (mg/l)	Cooling Towers (mg/l)
Ca	200	100	2500
Mg	150	25	750
PO <sub>4</sub>	10	1	10
SiO <sub>2</sub>	20	5	150
Cl	350	350	5,500 – 10,000
TDS	1000	1000	25,000



- Sulfuric acid + chlorine added to sump – blowdown to ponds
- Chemical softening + trickling filters for tertiary treatment of 91<sup>st</sup> Ave WW - ~ 100 tons/day



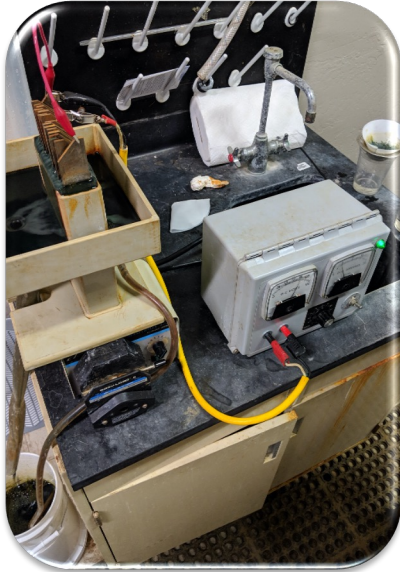
# A Problem:

## Upcycling of salt in Valley directly impacts PVNGS



# Garver's EC Demo at PVGS on 1/25/19

Source: PVGS Make-up Water / 91<sup>st</sup> Ave. WWTP Secondary Effluent



High conductivity bench top EC unit processing sample water. Clear 11 um filtrate in plastic cup bottom. Filtrate sent to PVGS Lab for analysis



Ferrous hydroxide sweep floc settling after 1 minute



Ferrous hydroxide sweep floc settling after 5 minutes



# Garver's EC Demo at PVGS on 1/25/19

## Results – APS Email

Rafael.Balderrama@aps.com | Dole, Eric J.; Jeffrey.Brown@aps.com; Odegard-Begay, Andrea M.; Watts, Michael J.; Robert.Lotts@aps.com; Richard.Lange@aps.com 2/26/2

RE: Checking In

You forwarded this message on 2/26/2019 8:42 AM.

Bing Maps + Get more ap

Eric –

We have in fact, received and reviewed the chemistry results for the samples processed on January 25<sup>th</sup>. The results suggest a significant decrease in hardness and silica. There was, however, an increase in chlorides and we assume that this would be exacerbated by the addition of HCl when added to adjust pH. All considered, a very successful test.

Given these results, we have prepared an Net Present Value (NPV) assessment based on some order of magnitude assumptions and attached the results for a proposed EC rebuild of the PV Water Resources tertiary system. The following assumptions were made:

- Design and large scale demonstration = \$1M
- Facility re-design and construction = \$64M over 4 years
- 33% increase in cycles of concentration in non-summer months (with a corresponding reduction in effluent from the SROG) based on the chemistry results for the bench-scale demo.
- 40% reduction in operating costs – no chemicals but engineers, operators, and maintenance remain
- \$100K per year increase in OPEX for plate replacement (no basis for this one).
- Discount rate of 10.2%

These assumption were iterated on to produce a model that achieved the required ROI. You can see that the EC option becomes less expensive (i.e., achieves the discount rate) in 2045 which is the extent of the current licensed life for Unit 1.

More realistic inputs would include transition time. There would be a point at which power generation would be impacted by available cooling water if system start-up and swap-over didn't occur in 12 days. Also, I really believe that the CAPEX would be much higher than \$64M and the project would need to be accelerated to a shorter time frame. I have no idea of what the cost would be to change chemistry and we also would need to assess the impacts on the CW chemistry if we're to add more HCl to the process, which raises our chloride concentration factor (we already blowdown on this). It will then come down to coming up with a program on how to manage solids.

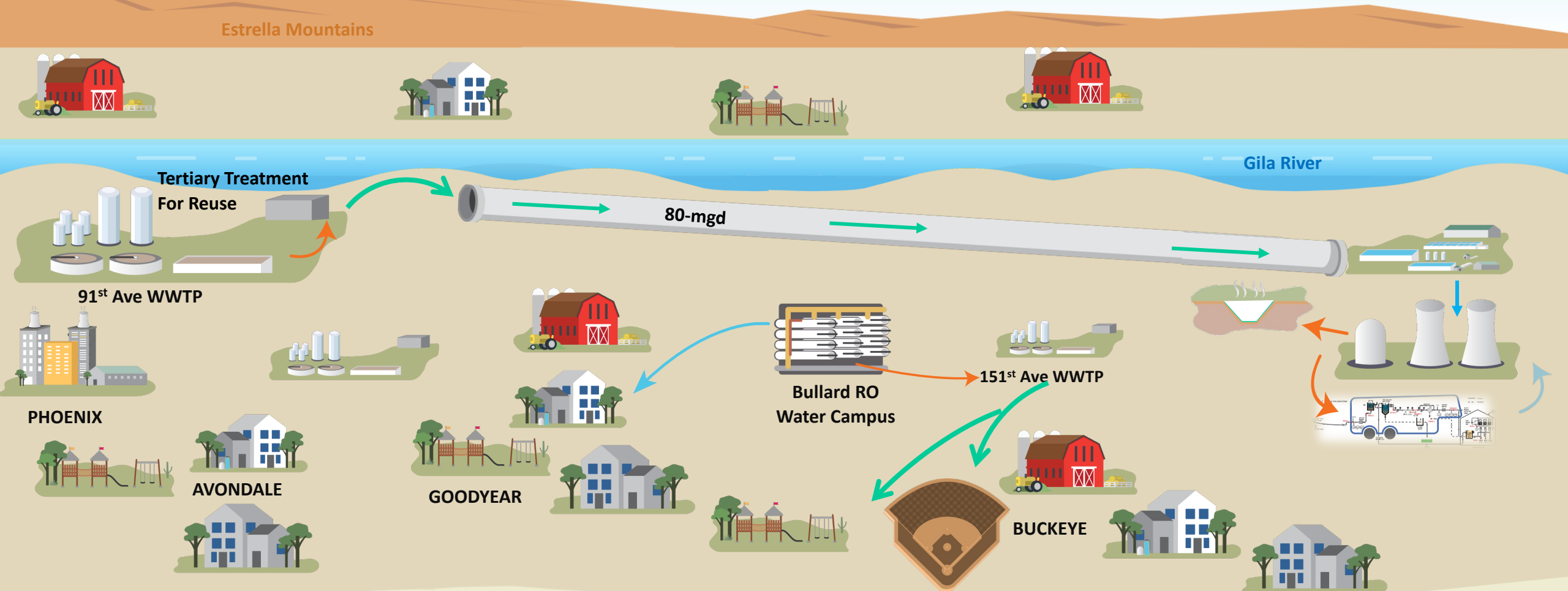
Again, the above scenario likely under-estimates the capital cost. Wholesale replacement of the tertiary plant is not feasible. However, if Garver is willing to provide more realistic capital and operating cost estimates for a specific application, such as a smaller scale installation to take a side slip stream of water that either heads to a reservoir or an evap pond, this technology may be an alternative to the RO process now considered to support municipal concentrate management. We'd be happy to discuss additional details if you wish.

Thanks – Rafael

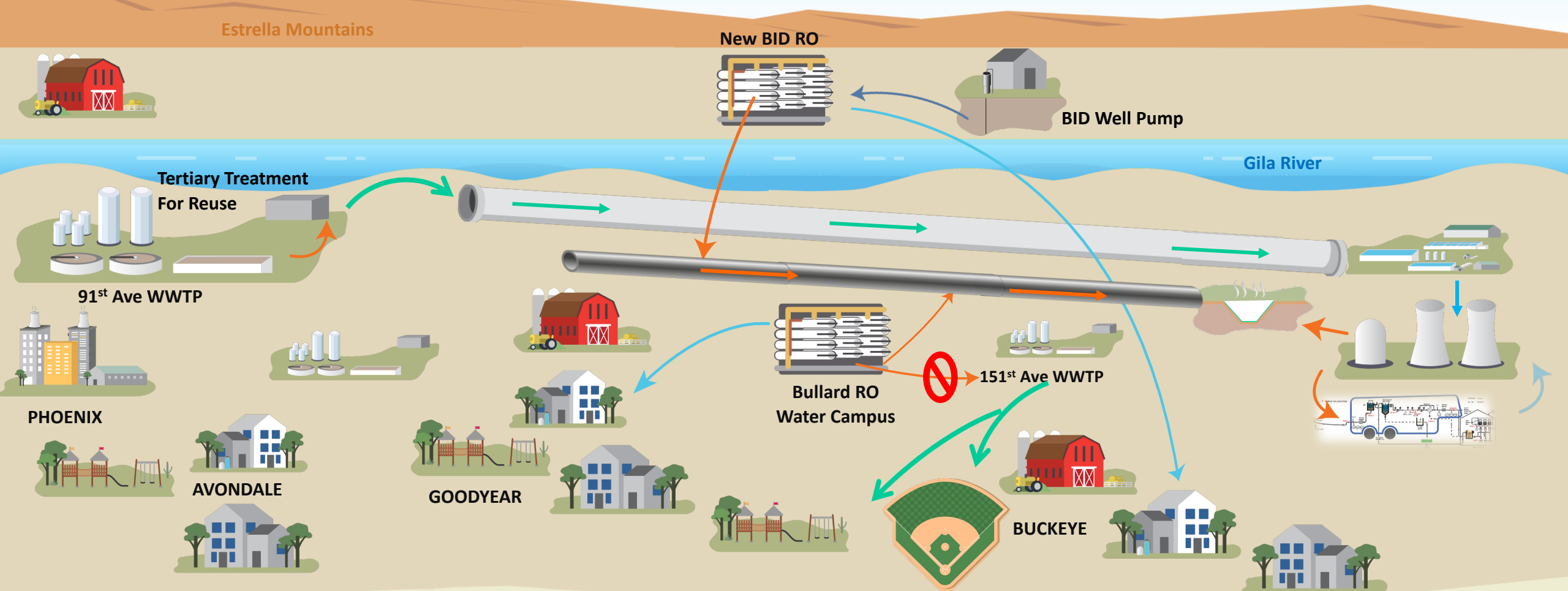
### Highlights:

- Significant reduction of hardness and silica
- 33% more COC with EC than existing treatment
- 40% saving in OPEX – no chemicals
- Increase in chlorides
- Prelim ROI still high
- ROI assumptions need refinement

# Garver's Regional Brine Management Concept for PVNPP & West Phoenix Suburbs



# Garver's Regional Brine Management Concept for PVNPP & West Phoenix Suburbs





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**Q&A**

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