



PFAS Pilot Test and Regulations

Environmental Services Department

Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee
February 11, 2026



Overview



- Informational Only
- PFAS (“Forever Chemicals”) are widely used, highly persistent compounds. They are linked to significant health risks.
- Tacoma’s Environmental Services Department has proactively addressed emerging PFAS concerns.
- In 2024, ES partnered with UWT, Ecology, Aquagga (Tacoma, WA) and ECT2 (Portland, ME) to study in-line PFAS concentration and removal technologies, and in 2025, we completed the full-scale, on-site pilot at CTP.
- PFAS monitoring is the subject of current legislation, we anticipate limits in the future.

Background



- PFAS are contaminants of emerging concern, and continue to be a primary environmental concern for residents of Tacoma.
- Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) is classified as a “likely human carcinogen” by the EPA.
- EPA finalized National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for six PFAS in 2024.
- WA Dept. of Ecology adopted the EPA 2024 limits.

3

Legislative Actions



- PFOA and PFOS were designated as ‘hazardous substances’ under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, AKA Superfund law) in 2024.
- Recent legislation and WA Dept. of Ecology issued permits include PFAS monitoring.
 - SB 5033 (became law 1/1/26)
 - HB 2279 (current proposed)
 - Central Treatment Plant Permit issued 2/2025

4

●●● ES Efforts



- ES proactively addressed concerns about PFAS in our biosolids and TAGRO products. TAGRO was first analyzed for PFAS in 2019.
- January 2023, the ES Laboratory invested in an LC-QQQ instrument to analyze PFAS in-house.
- ES Laboratory became fully accredited by Ecology for 1633 PFAS in soil and water matrices in 2025.
- Our current testing already meets the requirements of SB 5033.

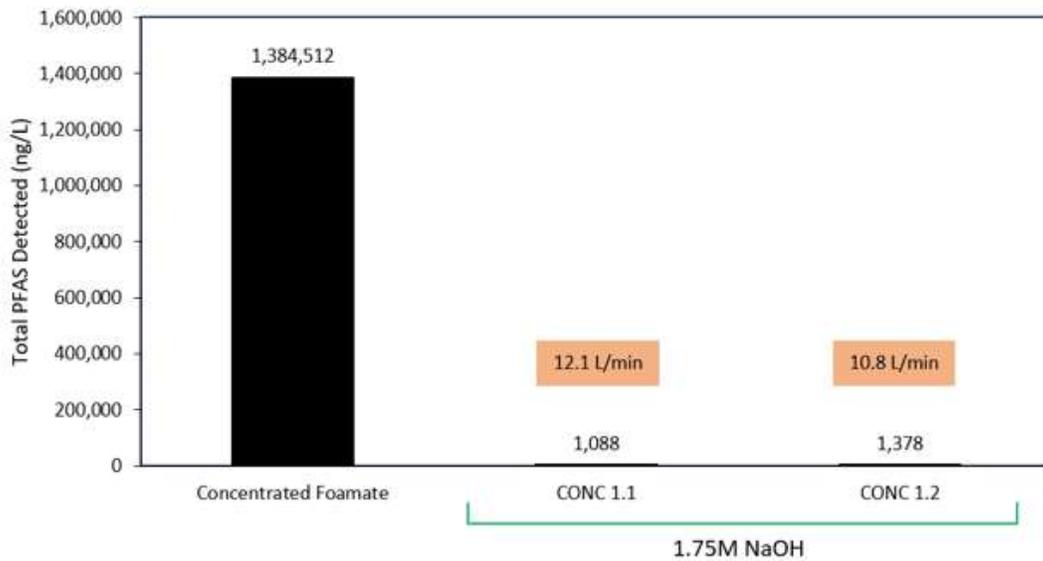
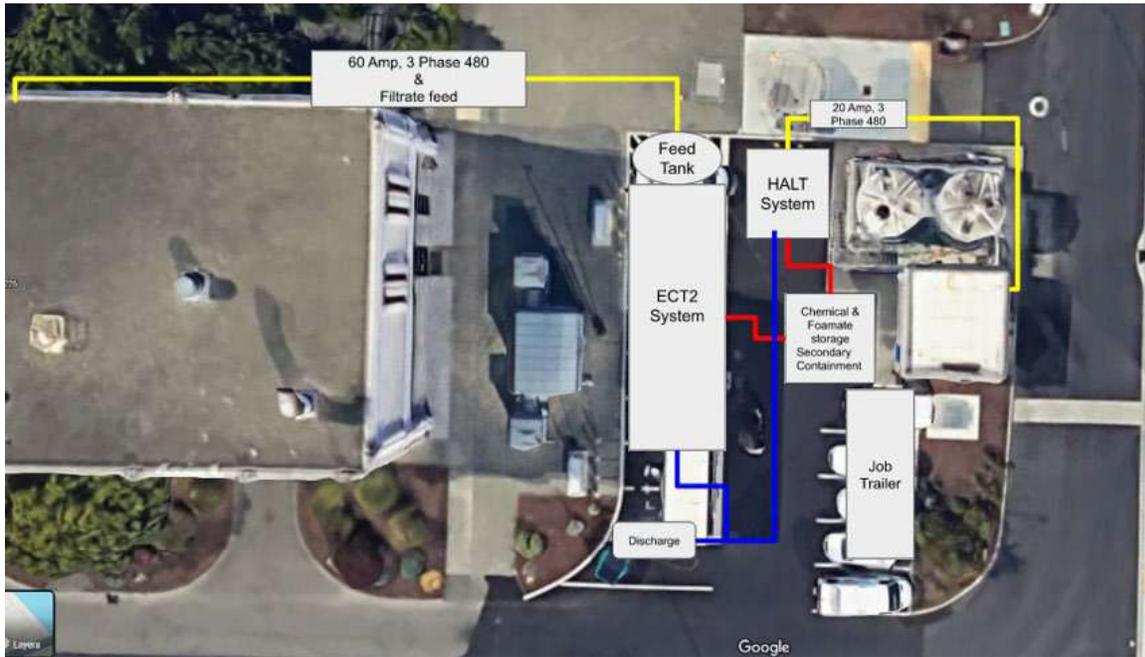
5

●●● Advancing the Science



- “Cutting the Chain: Innovation to Destroy PFAS in Sludge Dewatering Filtrate at the City of Tacoma Central Wastewater Treatment Plant”.
- In 2024 ES partnered with UWT, Aquagga and ECT2 on an EPA & Ecology grant funded project to study PFAS removal and destruction at the CTP.

6



Recommendations



- ES has acted proactively to ensure that we are regional leaders in PFAS testing and science, advancing our mission of supporting healthy neighborhoods and a thriving Puget Sound, leaving a better Tacoma for all.