

State of Oregon
Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

Date: May 30, 2013

To: Environmental Quality Commission

From: Dick Pedersen, Director

Subject: Agenda item G, Tour: Albany-Millersburg Talking Water Gardens
June 19-20, 2013, EQC meeting

Why this is important The commissioners will have the opportunity to tour a wetland designed and engineered for wastewater treatment and learn about the project's benefits for water quality, recreation and environmental education. The project was designed in response to DEQ regulations that required cooler temperatures of treated wastewater going back into the Willamette River.

Background Talking Water Gardens opened to the public in March 2012 and has received many awards for its planning and implementation. It is a wastewater treatment system that uses natural treatment, in the form of an engineered wetland, to remove pollutants from and cool wastewater. The project is the first of its kind nationally, and is a partnership between the Albany-Millersburg municipal treatment system and ATI Wah Chung industrial treatment system.

EQC involvement No action is requested. City of Albany staff will lead the 90-minute tour, and commissioners will have opportunities to learn more about the project and its benefits.

Additional project information 1. [Talking Water Gardens homepage](#)

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Information provided by the City of Albany