Mendocino Case Study

As representatives of a small community, the Mendocino City Community Services District administrators felt strongly that they needed to deliver terrific wastewater treatment value at the lowest cost for their taxpayers.

But they knew they needed to make a change, as their existing wastewater treatment system left unwanted solid accumulations at numerous points throughout their 1MGD treatment plant. This waste material had to be manually removed to prevent it from reintroducing unfavorable compounds into the treated water.

The existing equipment at MCCSD’s headworks just wasn’t getting the job done. “It would reduce some solids to a smaller size, but would pass everything through,” says MCCSD’s Steve Acker. All non-biodegradable materials had to be manually removed, or they would simply pass through the process or accumulate in the aerator, aerobic digester, sludge dryer, and other points in the treatment facility.

Manual removal of the non-dispersibles was difficult, expensive, and hazardous, but the City of Mendocino didn’t have a large enough budget to accommodate an extensive renovation of the outdated headworks. This posed a difficult dilemma: the solid waste problem had to be fixed, but the existing headworks design didn’t appear to be conducive to a simple and inexpe

Screentec’s main benefit is that plastics and other solids are kept out of our process. – Steve Acker, City of Mendocino
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Mike Kelley, the former District Manager, says that he had searched for a number of years for a screening solution. Finally, he discovered Screentec, Aqualitec’s unique vertical screen design. Screentec was the only screening product that could match MCCSD’s technical requirements as well as their unique footprint constraints. The unit had to accommodate a 12-ft deep headworks design, serviced by a small 8-ft manhole, constraints that had proven to be too challenging for every other wastewater screening product on the market.

Screentec’s three-year maintenance cost was $0.

Aqualitec’s experts ensured that the Screentec installation went smoothly. Instantly, solid waste accumulation in MCCSD’s facility dropped to a fraction of its former levels. Personnel were no longer required to manually fish the solids out of the system, drastically reducing labor costs and exposure to hazardous conditions. Best of all, Screentec hasn’t required any maintenance in its three-year service history at MCCDS.

Aqualitec has been building state of the art pump protection equipment for over 15 years, and has performed over 1,000 successful installations worldwide. The Screentec design was a powerful investment for the City of Mendocino, meeting the utility authority’s needs for cleaner wastewater output with reduced manual labor, decreased risk to personnel, and tremendous reliability.