



NEWS RELEASE

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WATER QUALITY TESTS AT METRO WASTEWATER SHOW NOTHING UNUSUAL Three Water Quality Tests at Metro Wastewater Reclamation District Find No Compounds that Would Be Unusual for Wastewater

DENVER, March 2 — Metro Wastewater Reclamation District water quality tests over the past five weeks have identified no chemical compounds that would be unusual for wastewater.

Water quality samples were collected Jan. 26, Feb. 2, and Feb. 14. Metro's laboratory analyzed all the samples.

Samples were taken from areas of the Metro District's treatment plant where dead or sick ducks have been found, including secondary clarifiers and the chlorine contact basin.

"We are pleased with the results of these tests," said Steve Rogowski, director of operations and maintenance.

"There had been allegations made that surfactants in Metro's wastewater might have been causing the duck problems, but no abnormal levels of surfactants were found. The tests confirm what we had suspected, which is that we were doing nothing different operationally than we normally do."

There have been no duck deaths in recent days.

"We're happy that a number of ducks recovered here have been released into the wild," Rogowski said.

The testing looked for surfactants, diesel and gasoline range organics, and a variety of other chemicals.

"We're used to tackling some demanding jobs here, but the duck issue was particularly challenging. What made it so difficult was that no one had any idea what was causing the problem or where to start looking for solutions," added Rogowski. "I'm very pleased with the response from our people."

The Metro Wastewater Reclamation District is the largest wastewater treatment agency in the Rocky Mountain West. It treats about 130 million gallons of wastewater a day and serves 1.5 million people in a 380-square mile service area that includes Denver, Arvada, Aurora, Lakewood, part of Westminster, Wheat Ridge, and Thornton, together with about 40 sanitation and water and sanitation districts in the metropolitan Denver area.

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