



## Densification of Solids for Improved Plant Performance

# Do more with less!

## PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. What and Why?
2. Definitions
3. Background /Application
4. Technology
5. Case Studies

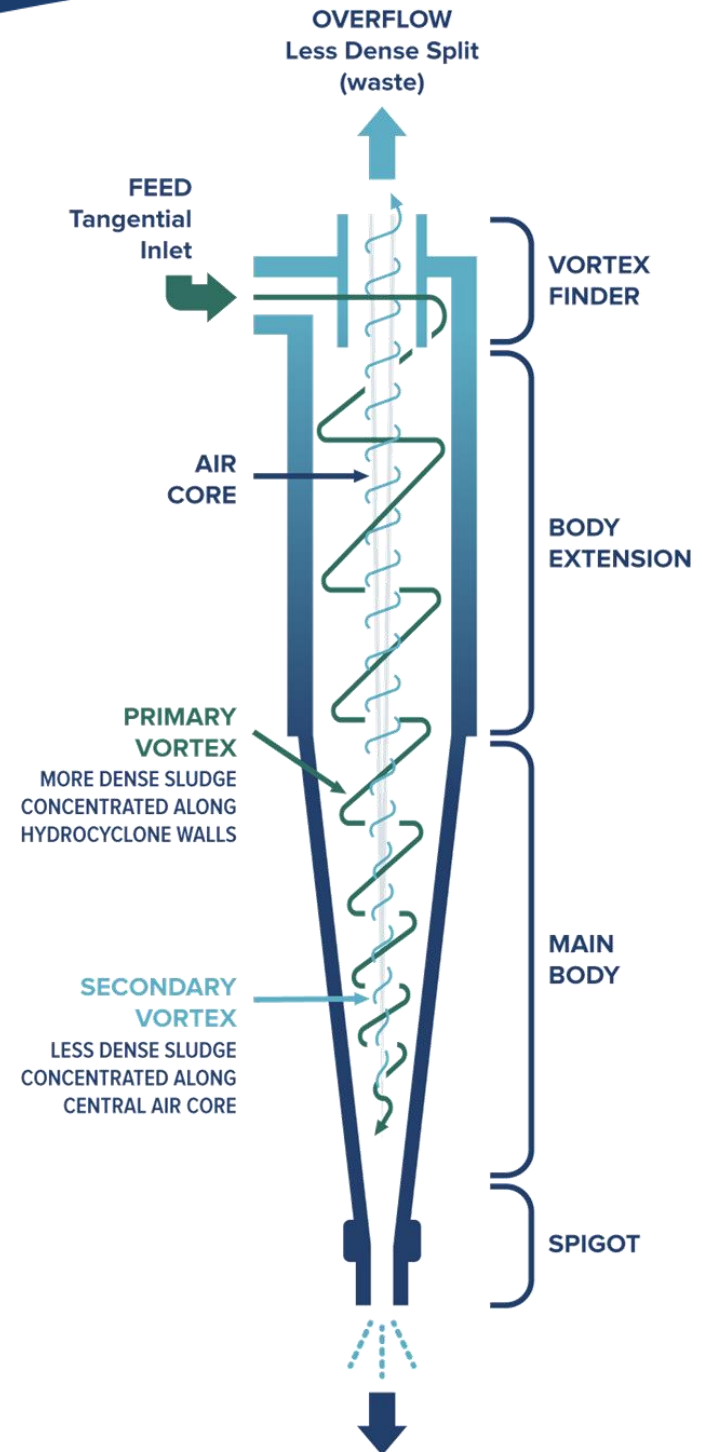


## Sludge densification

- AGS – Activated Granular Sludge
  - batch selection
- BAS – ballasted activated sludge
- MOB – mobile organic biofilm
- Hydrocyclones – gravimetric selection

What is gravimetric selection?

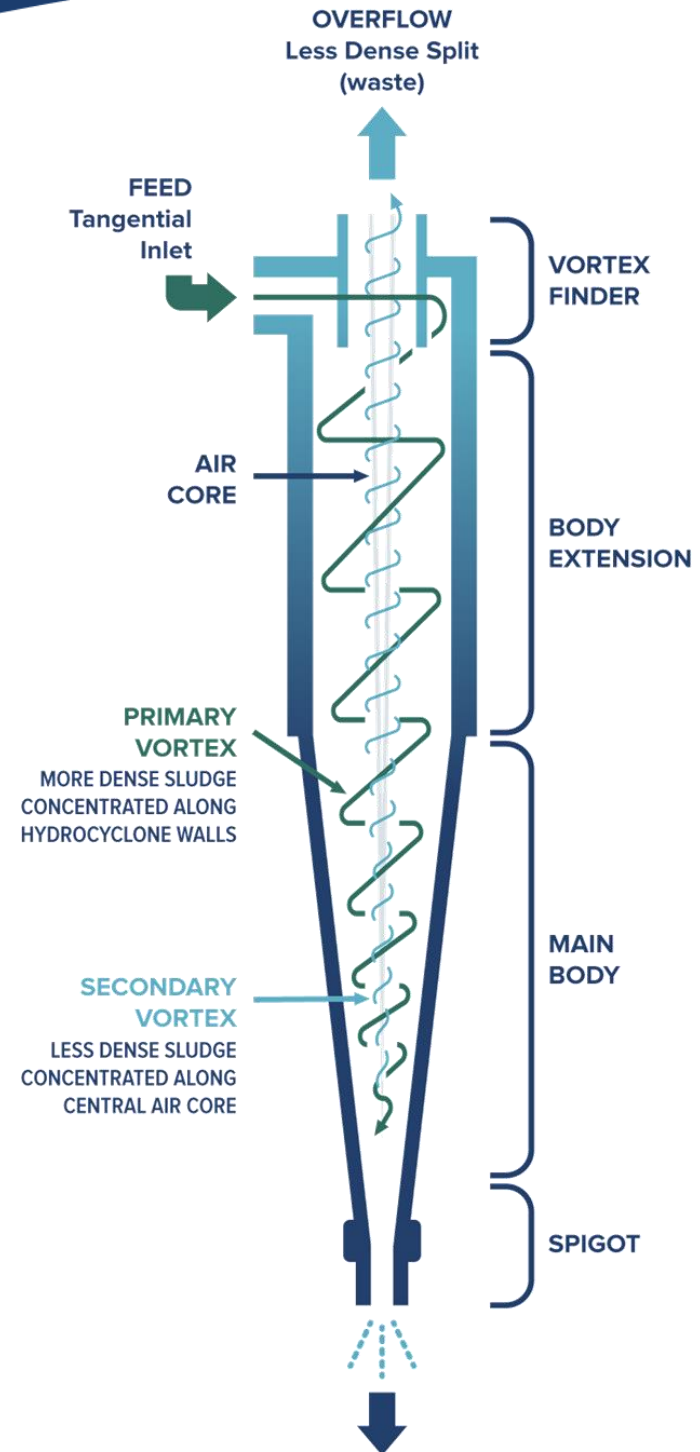
In the simplest terms we are separating the heavier / denser material from the lighter fraction.



## Why gravimetric selection?

By retaining the heavier biomass we can:

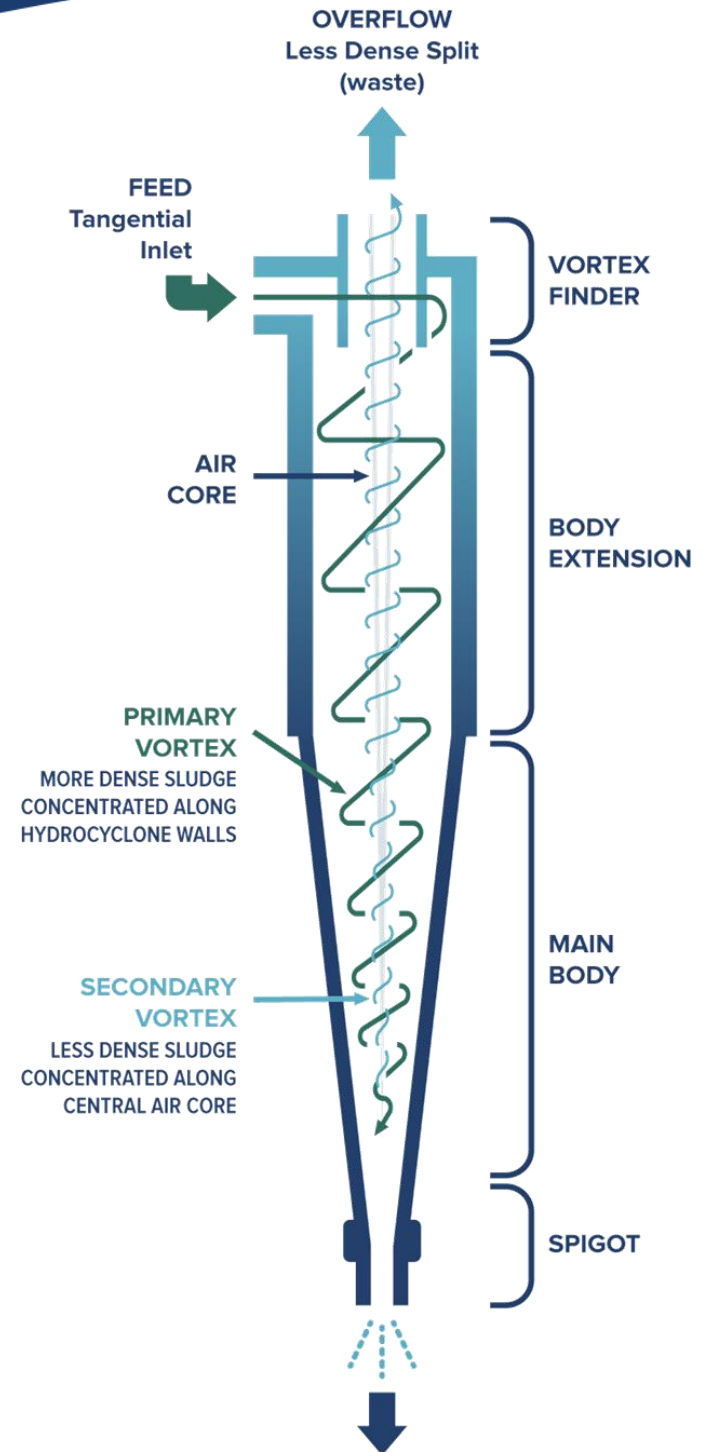
- Increase clarifier solids throughput
- Improve SVIs (year round)
- Enhance BNR (N and P)



## Definitions:

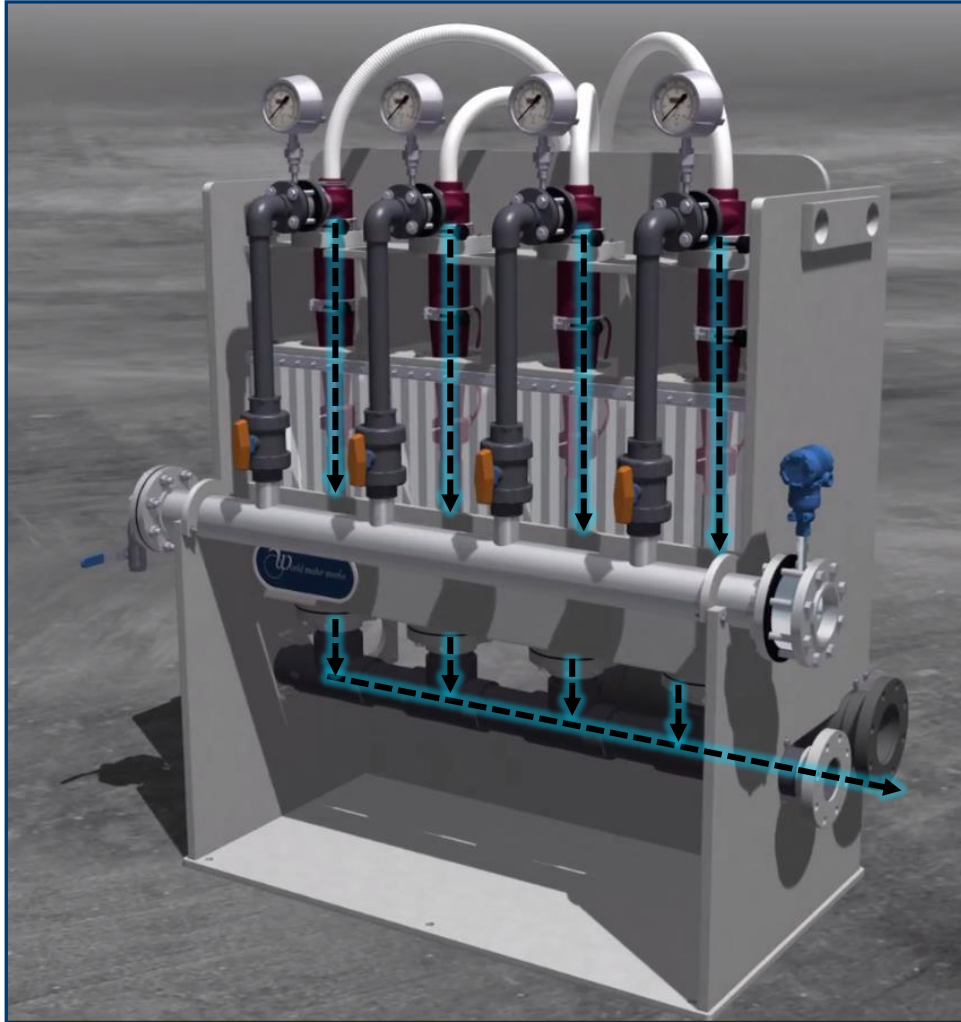
Overflow – lighter fraction to be wasted to solids handling

Underflow – heavier / denser material (RAS)

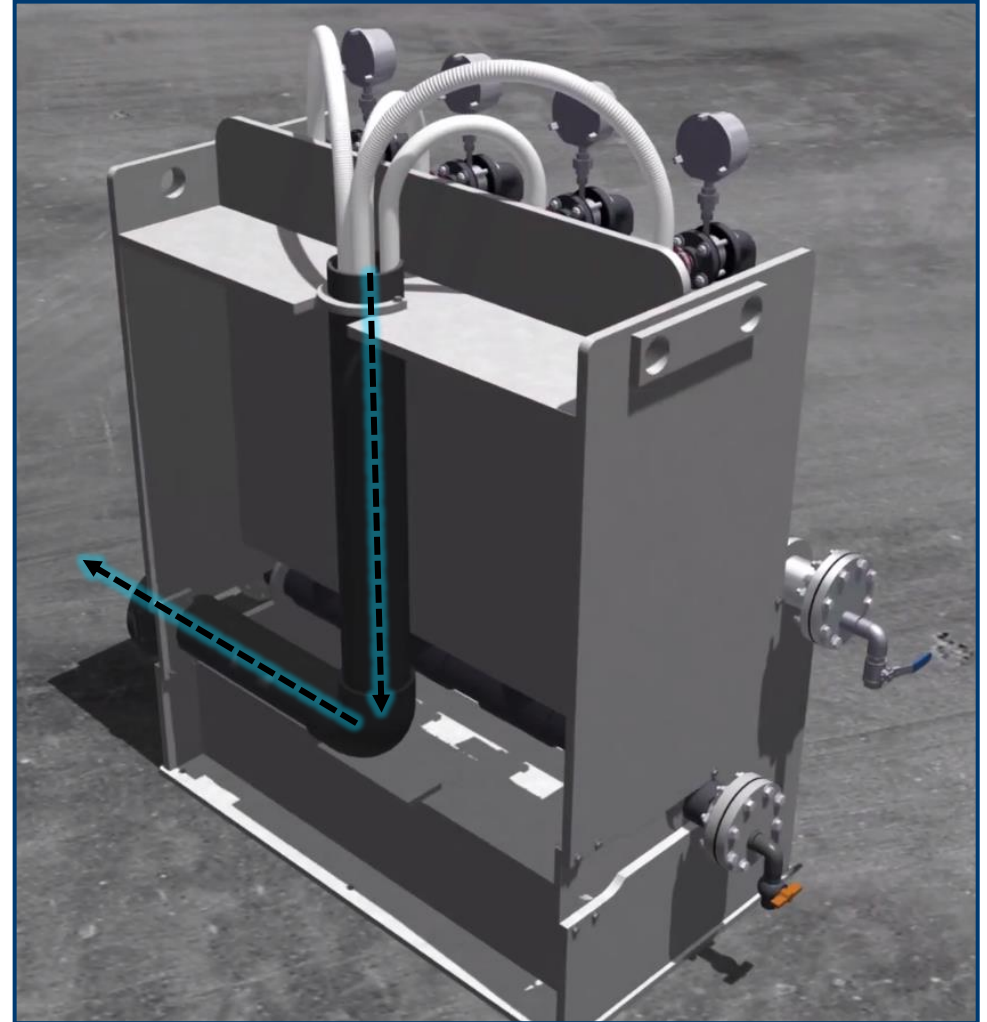


# System Overview

## Skid Flow Paths



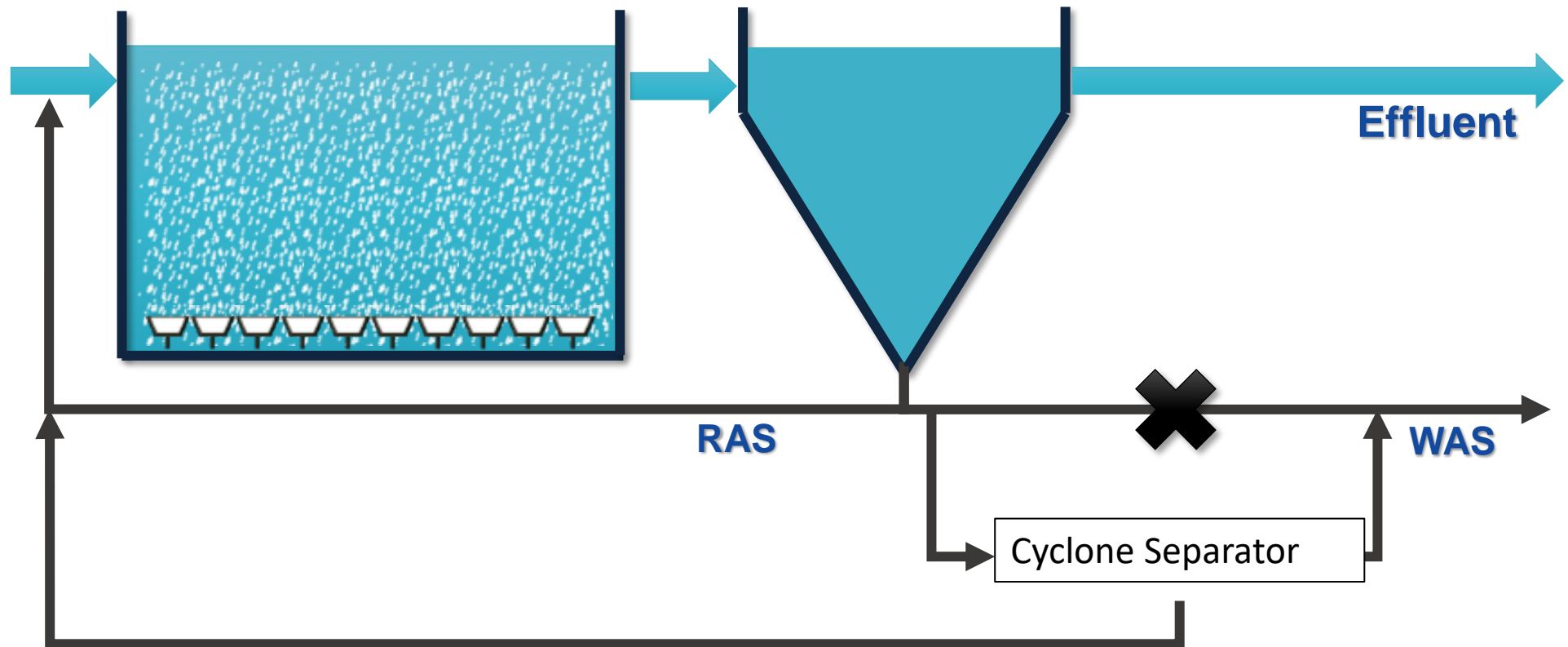
UNDERFLOW



OVERFLOW



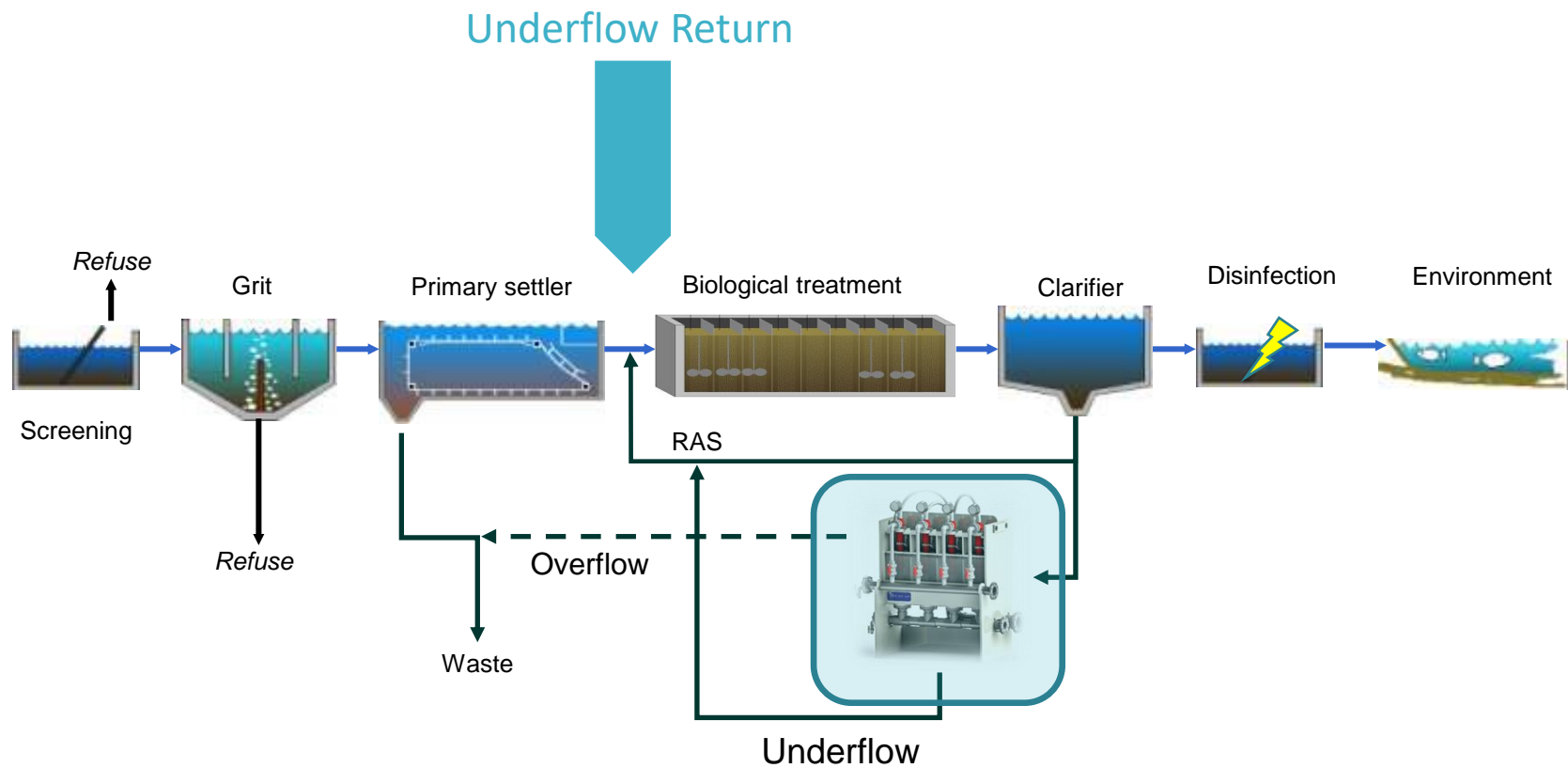
# Process Flow: Clarifier Wasting



- **WAS WASTING: >500,000 GPD Total Plant Flow**



# Clarifier Wasting Application



# System Overview

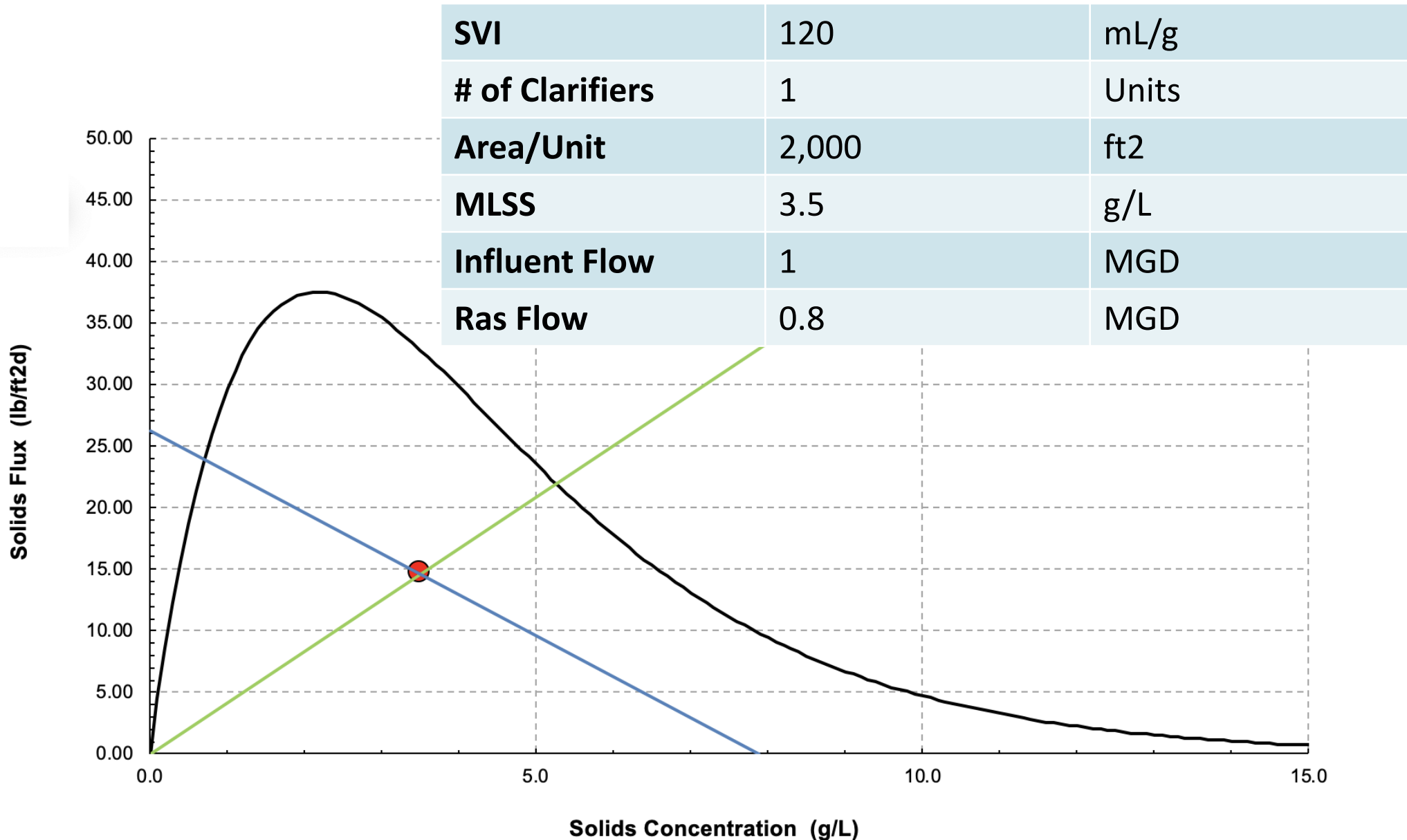
## Settling Behavior

FEED FLOW    OVERFLOW    UNDERFLOW



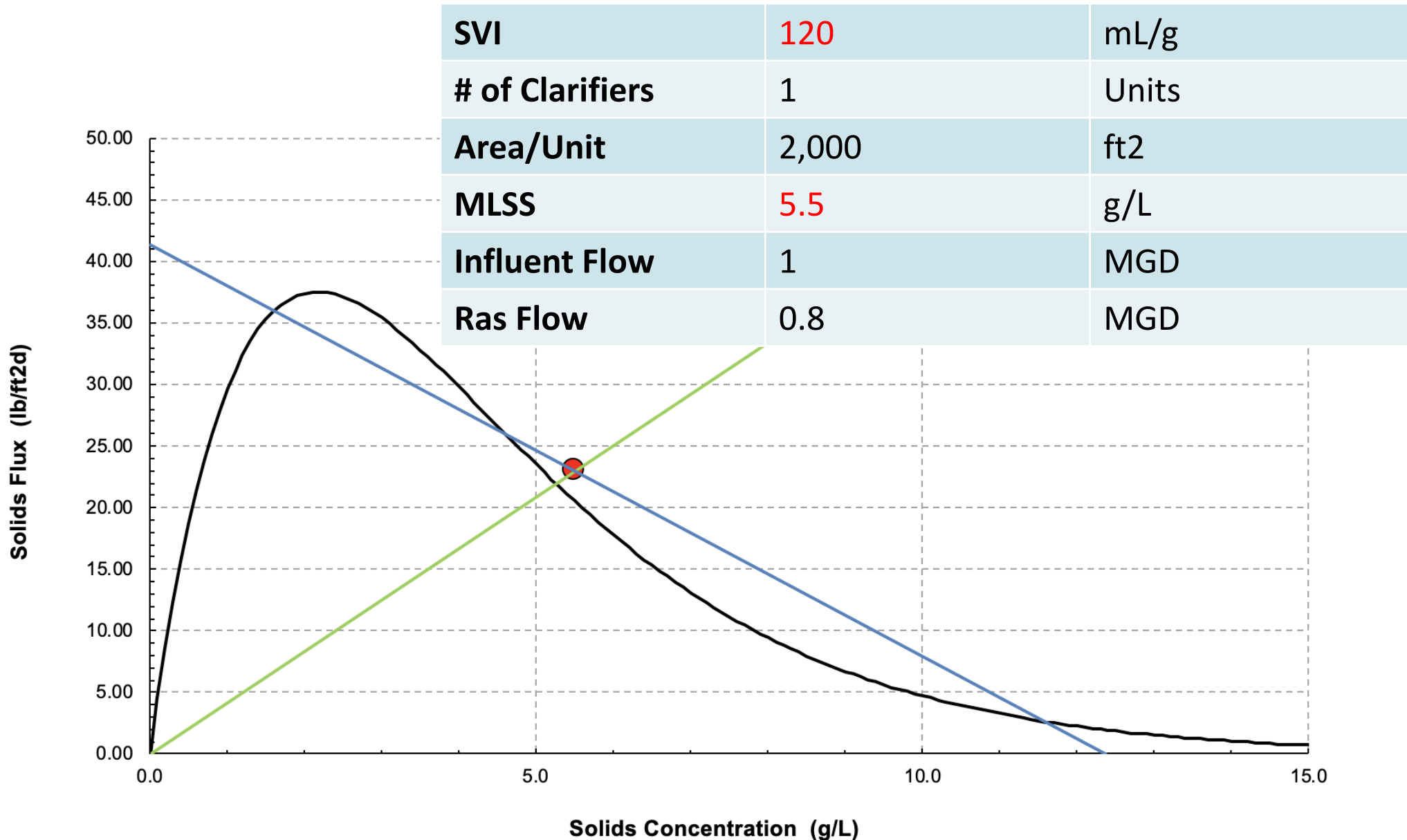
# Purpose

## Aerobic Granular Sludge (AGS)



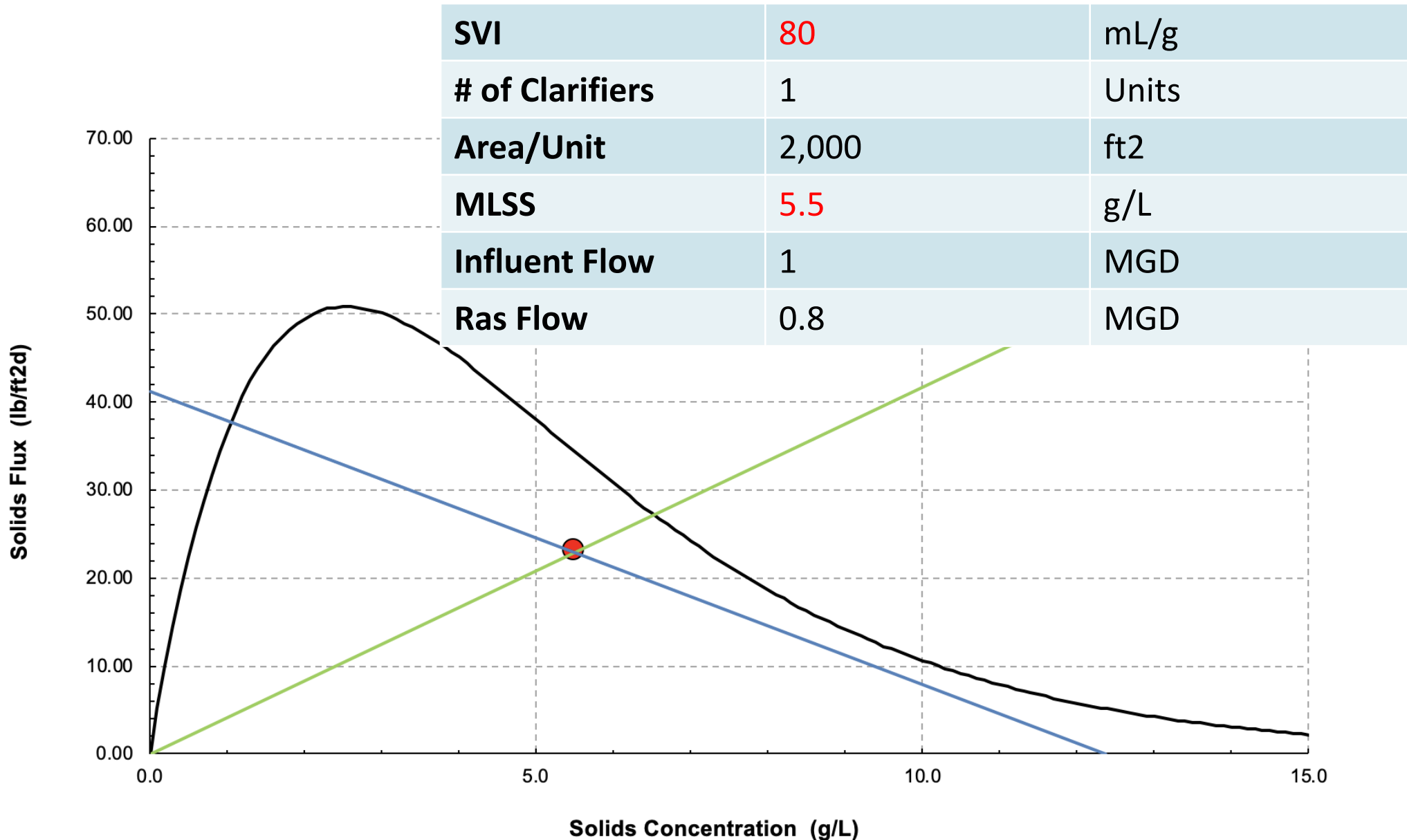
# Purpose

## Aerobic Granular Sludge (AGS)



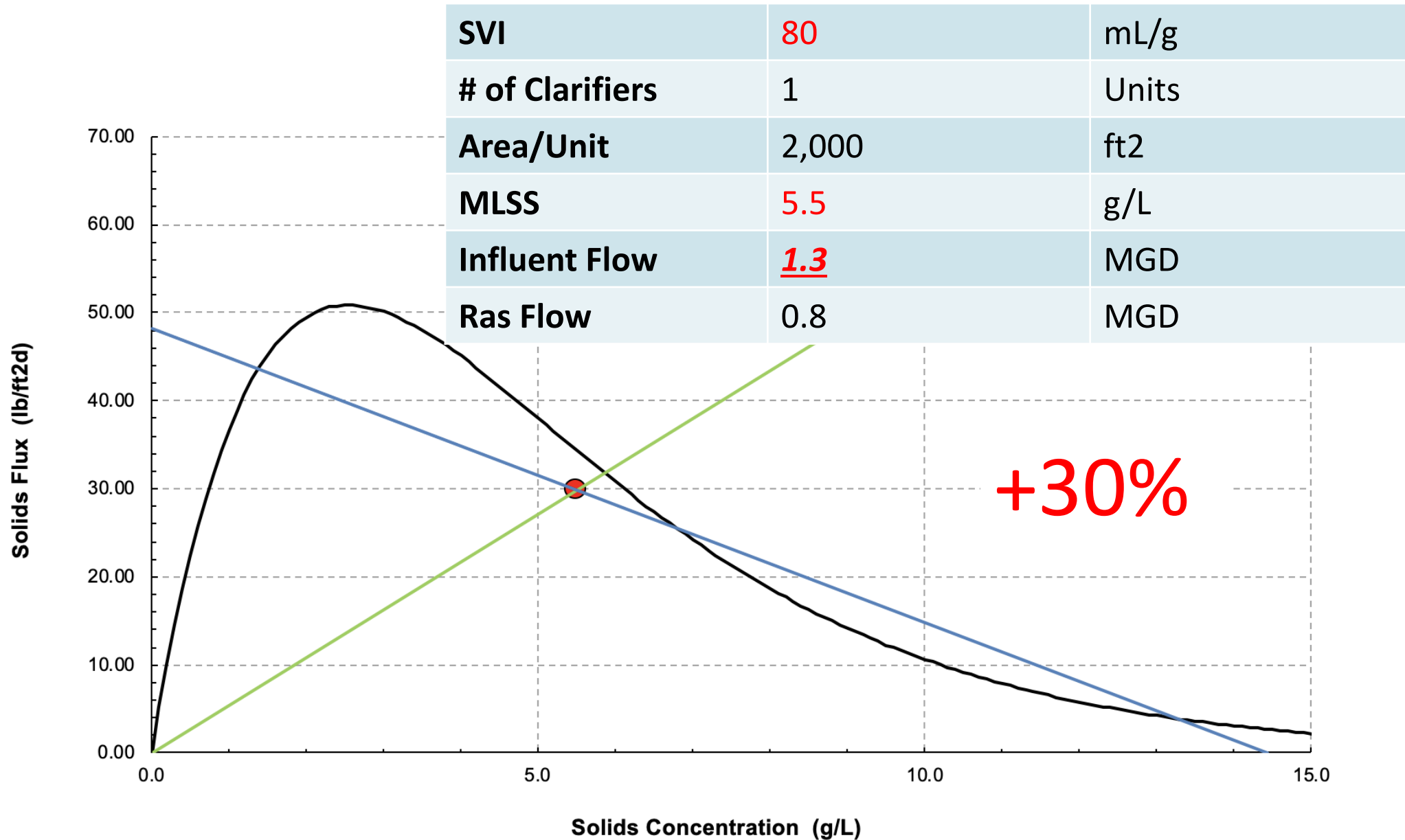
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## Aerobic Granular Sludge (AGS)



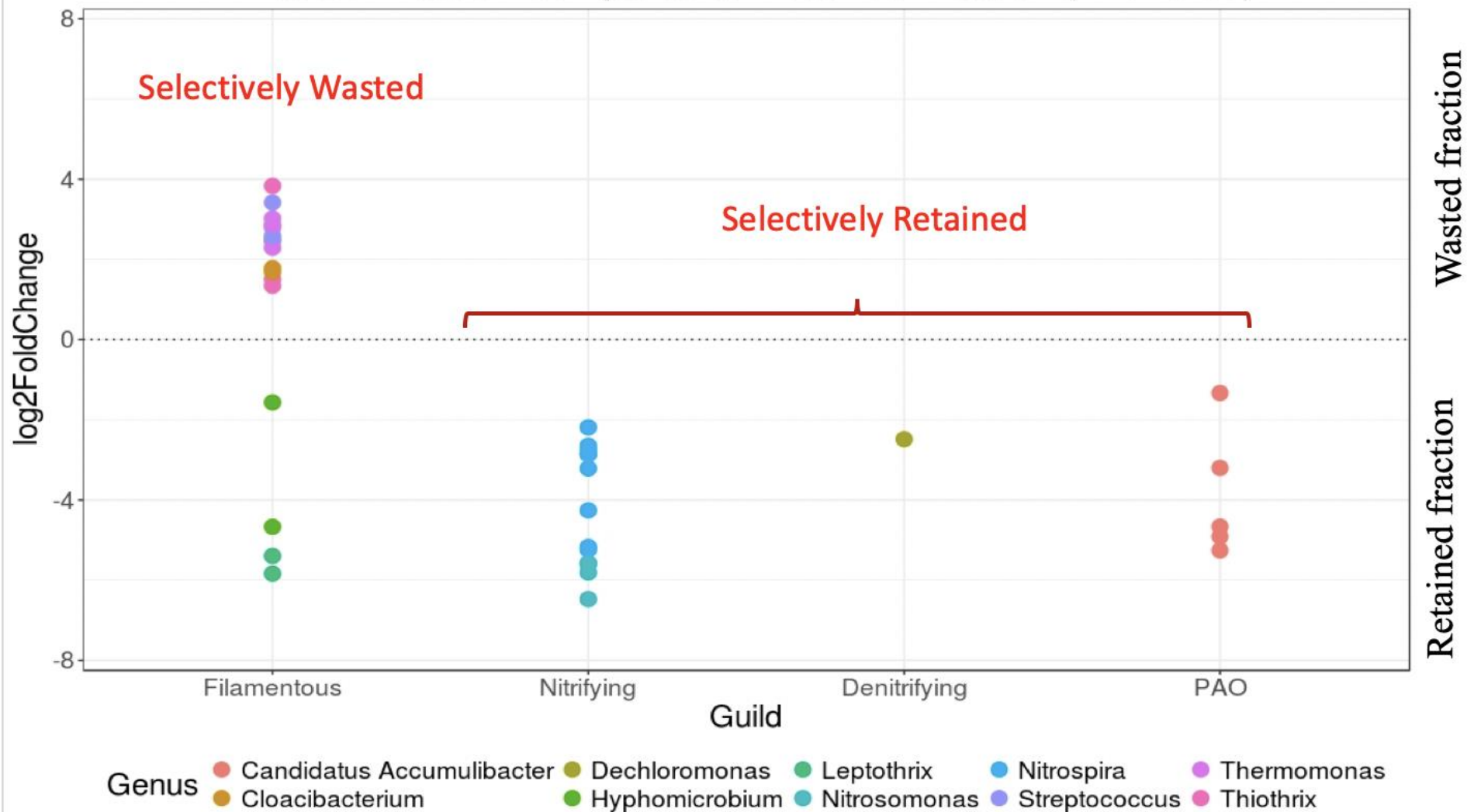
# Purpose

## Aerobic Granular Sludge (AGS)



# Microbial communities enrichment in the granule fraction

Differential Abundance of  
Wasted Fraction Compared to Retained Fraction ( $P \leq 0.05$ )





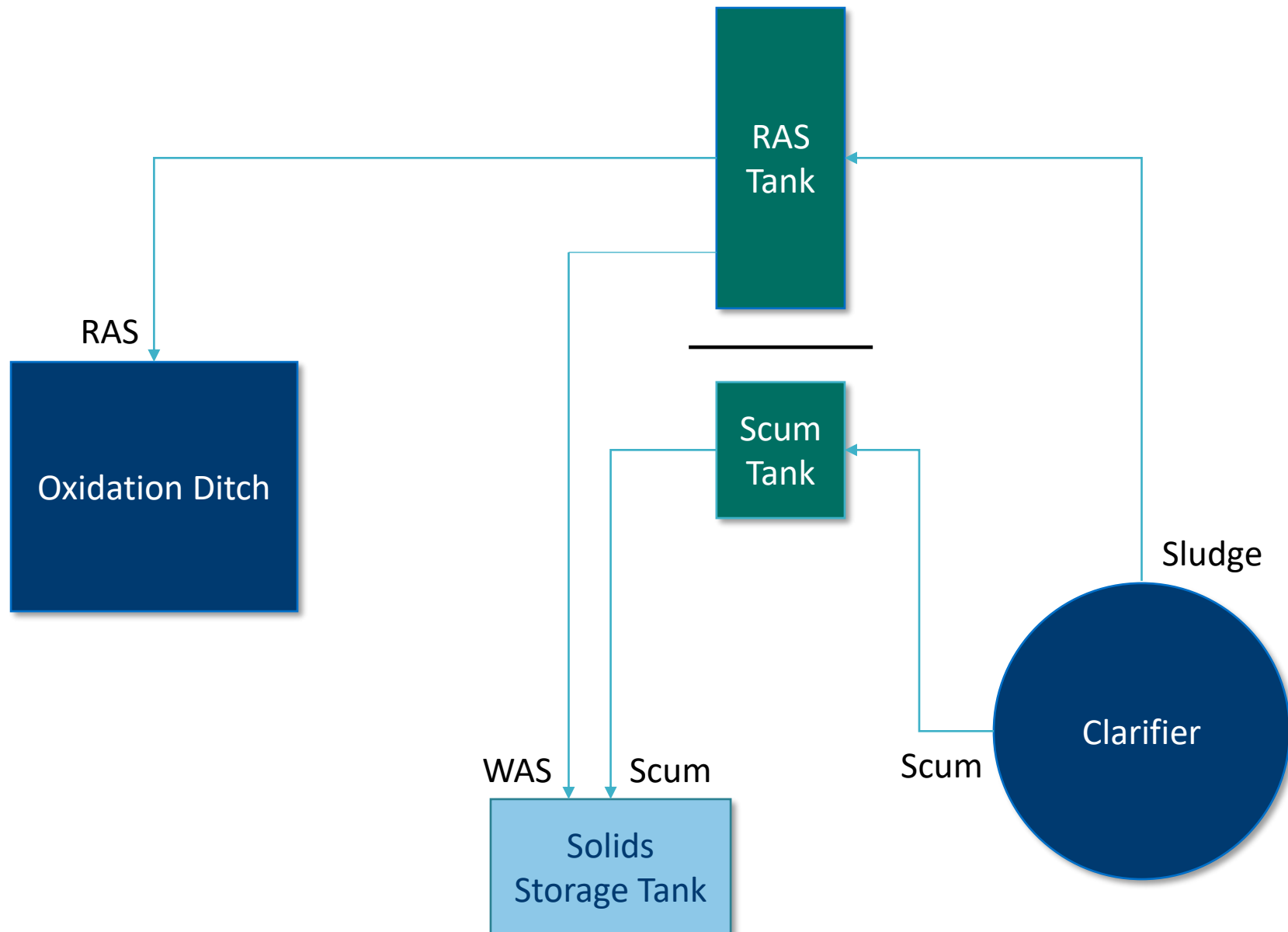
# Case Study #1

Installation: 2019

3.8 MGD – A2O Oxidation Ditch

# inDENSE Case Studies

## Pennsylvania - Oxidation Ditch

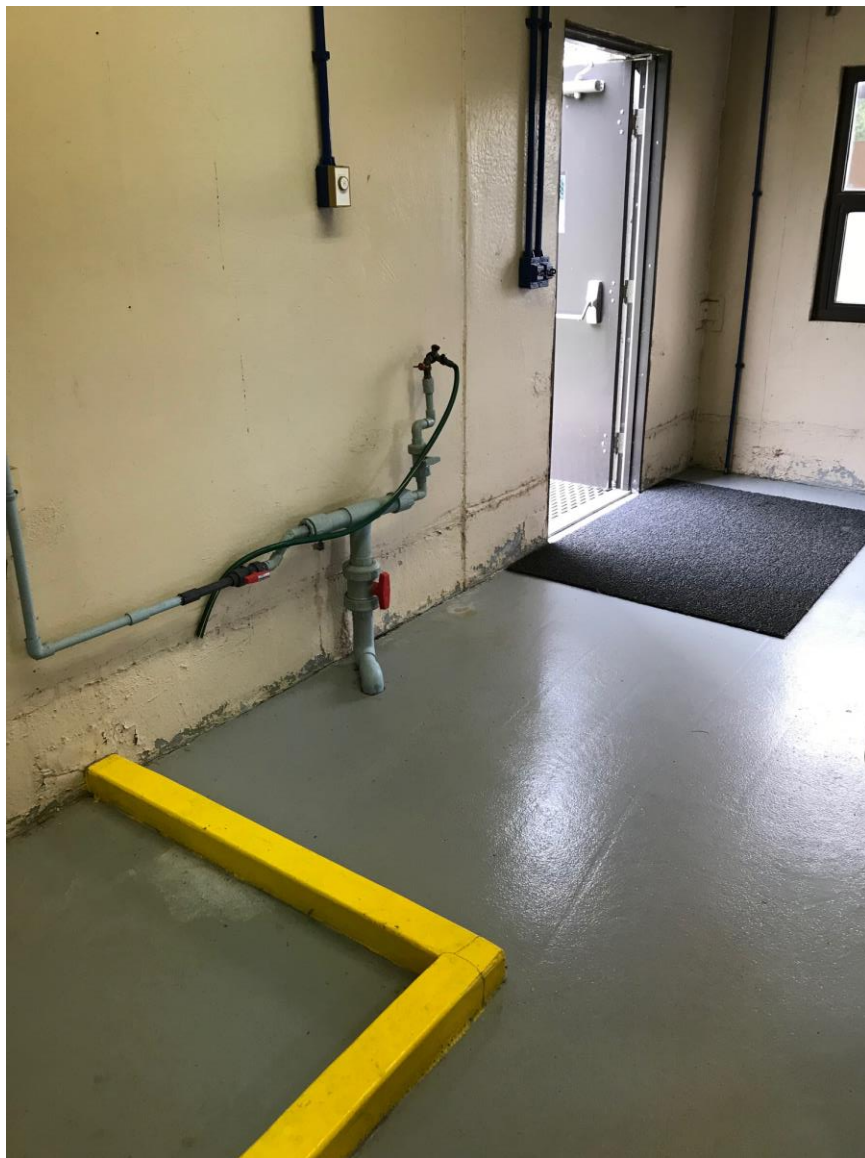


## Pennsylvania - Oxidation Ditch



# inDENSE Case Studies

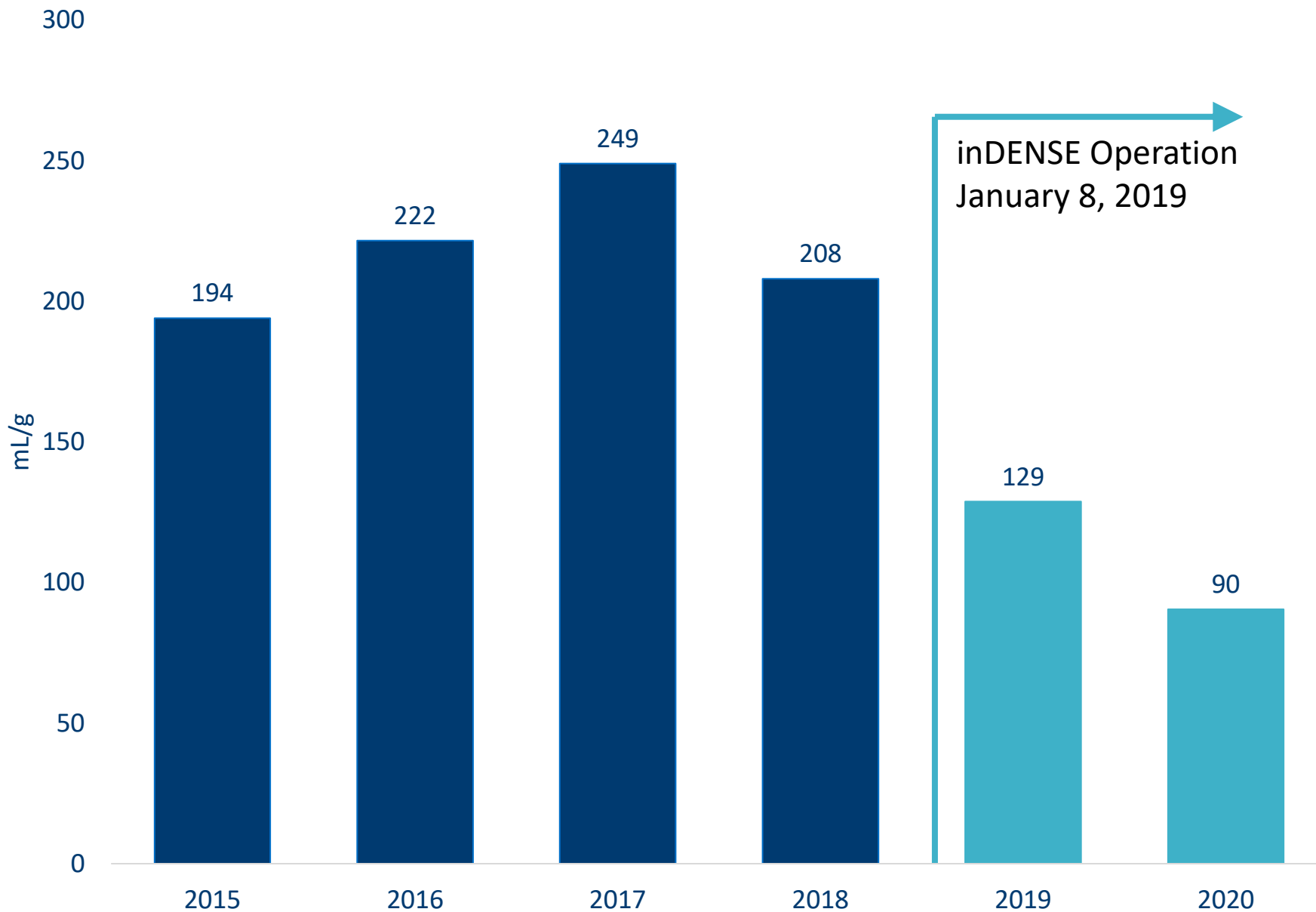
## Pennsylvania - Oxidation Ditch



# Case Studies

## Pennsylvania - Oxidation Ditch

AVERAGE SVI BY YEAR



# Case Studies

## Pennsylvania - Oxidation Ditch

### Results:

- Improved plant performance and operation during winter
  - 38% improvement from 2018 to 2019
  - 58% improvement from 2018 to 2020 (current)
    - 2019 to 2020: 33% improvement (current)
  - Nitrification improvements
  - Easier plant operation
- Improvement to sludge dewaterability
  - Disposal volume decreased

Floc Size ( $\mu\text{m}$ ):  
(% in range)

< 150

20%

150 – 500

60%

> 500

20%

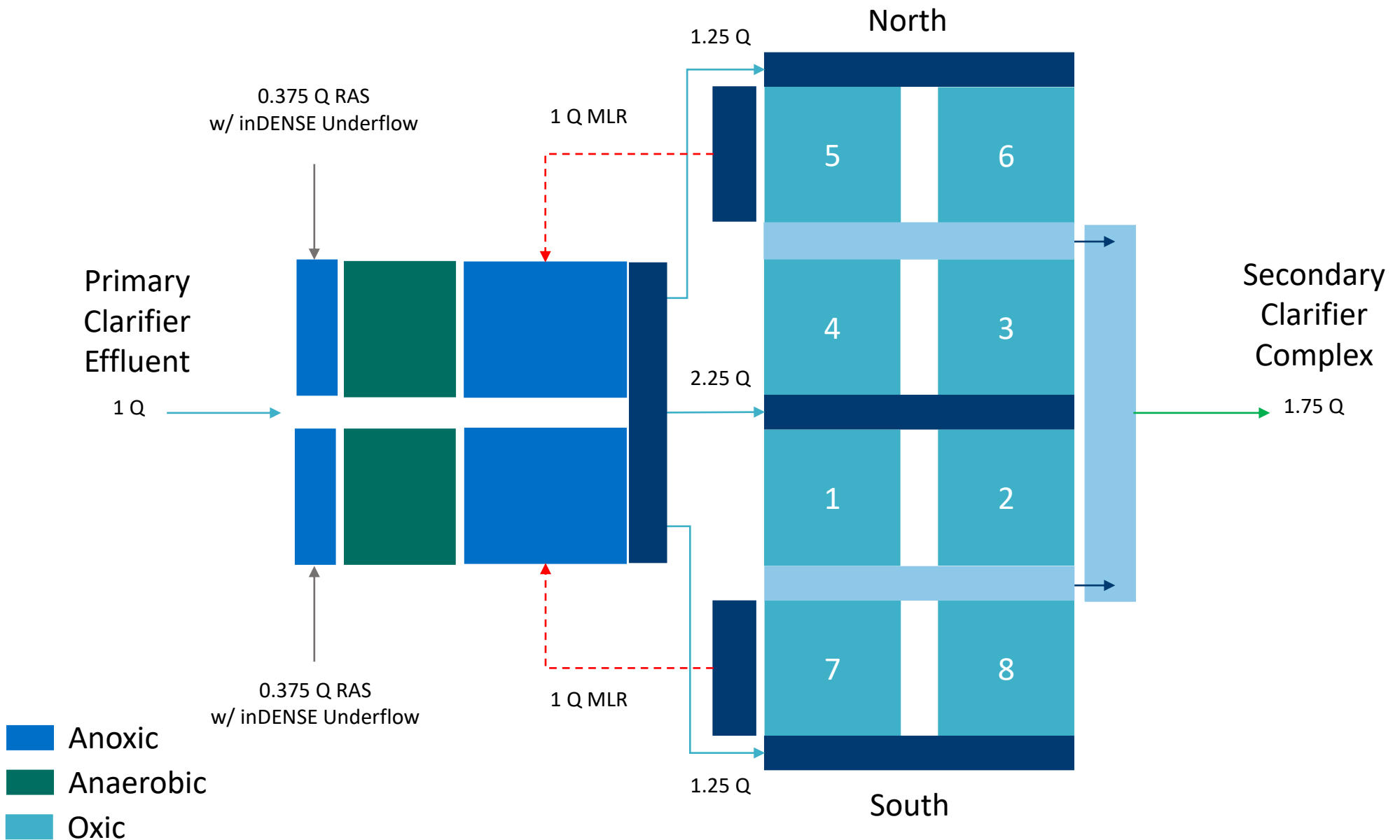
# Case Study #2

Installation: 2019

15 MGD – A2O



## Colorado - Johannesburg



# Case Studies

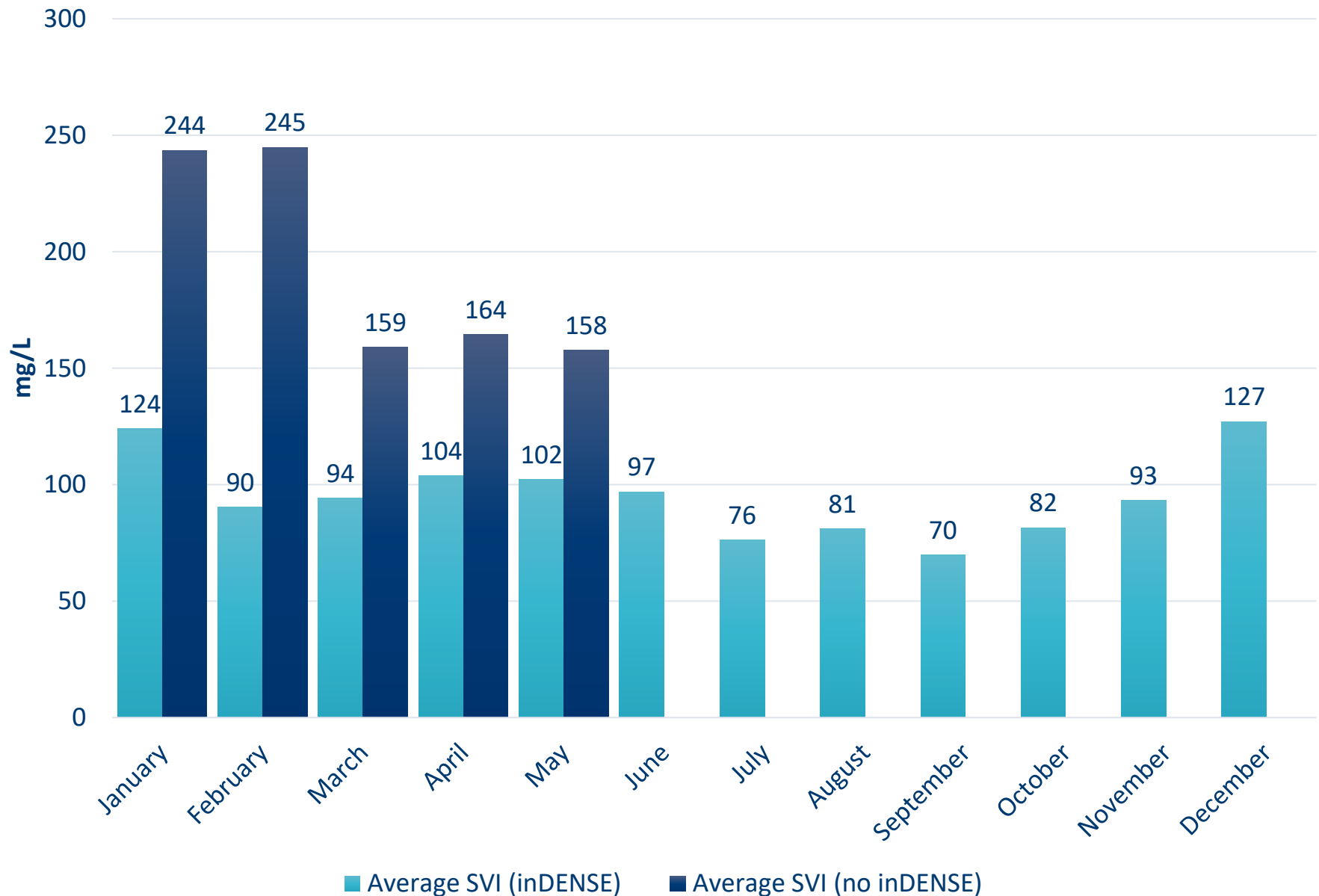
Colorado - Johannesburg



# Case Studies

Colorado - Johannesburg

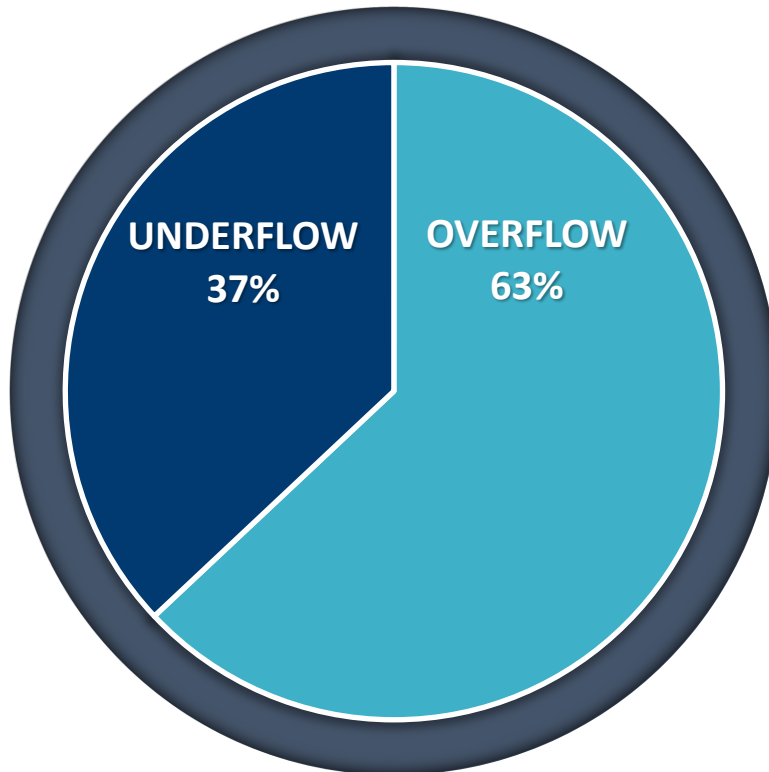
AVERAGE SVI BY MONTH



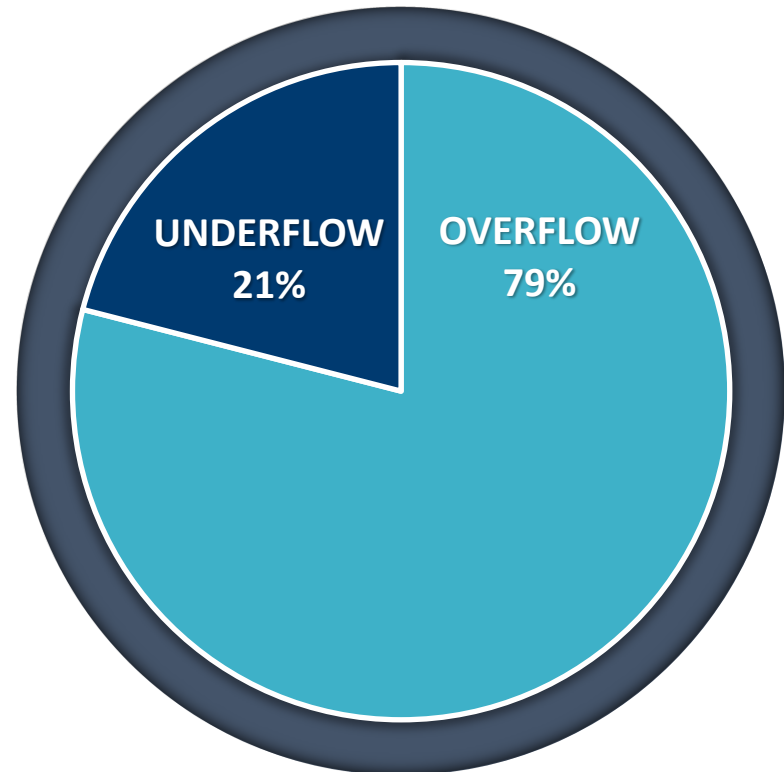
# Case Studies

Colorado - Johannesburg

## Mass Split



## Flow Split





# Case Studies

Colorado - Johannesburg

## Results:

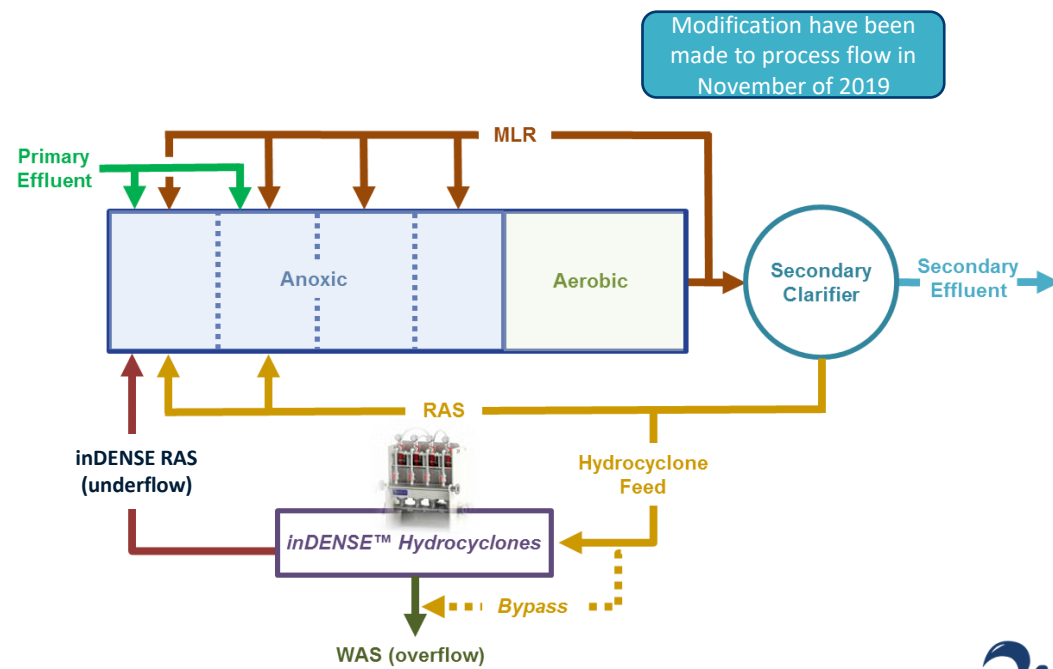
- Improved Settleability lead to:
  - Ease of operation
  - Consistent effluent quality
  - 49% improvement compared to January 2019 to 2020
  - 63% improvement compared to February 2019 to 2020
  - 35% improvement compared to March 2019 to 2020



## Case Study #3

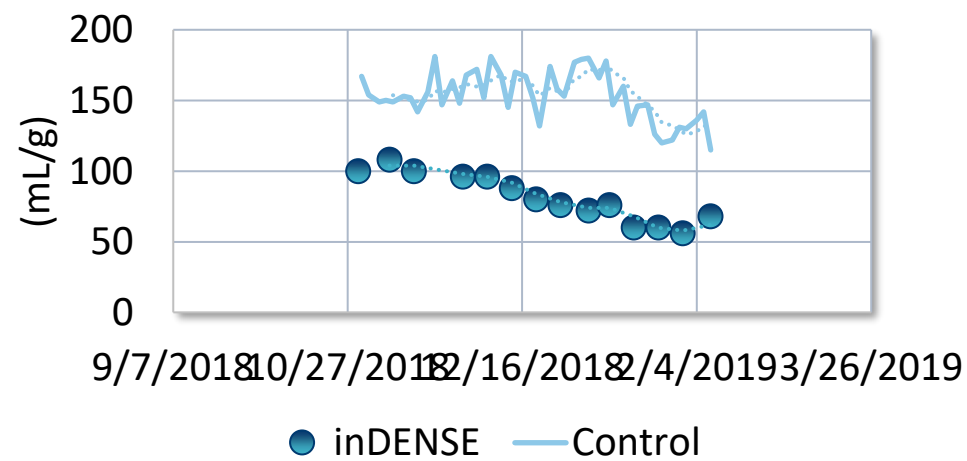
Installation: 2018

8.8 MGD - AO





### inDENSE Train vs. Control Train SVI



## Results:

- Improved Settleability lead to:
  - 35% improvement compared to Control – November
  - 47% improvement compared to Control – December
  - 56% improvement compared to Control January
  - Increase PAO population
  - Increased SRT from 5 days to 7 days
  - Increased clarifier loading from 30 lb/ft<sup>2</sup>/day to 52 lb/ft<sup>2</sup>/day
  - 10-15% of particles >500 um where control was ~2% > 500 um
- Piloting still ongoing



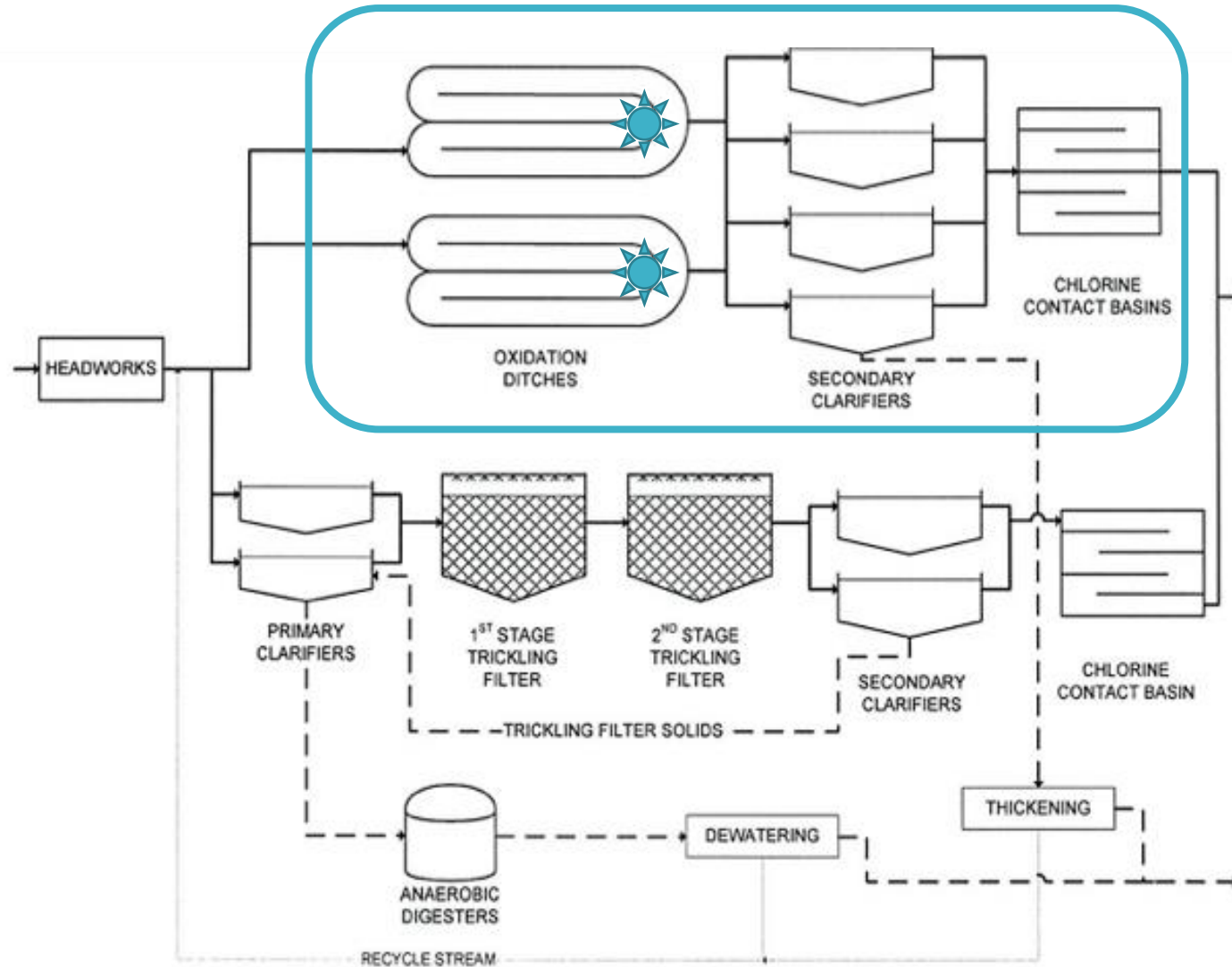
# Case Study #4

Installation: 2019  
10 MGD – Oxidation Ditch

# Case Studies

## Utah - Oxidation Ditch

inDENSE Process Train



# Case Studies

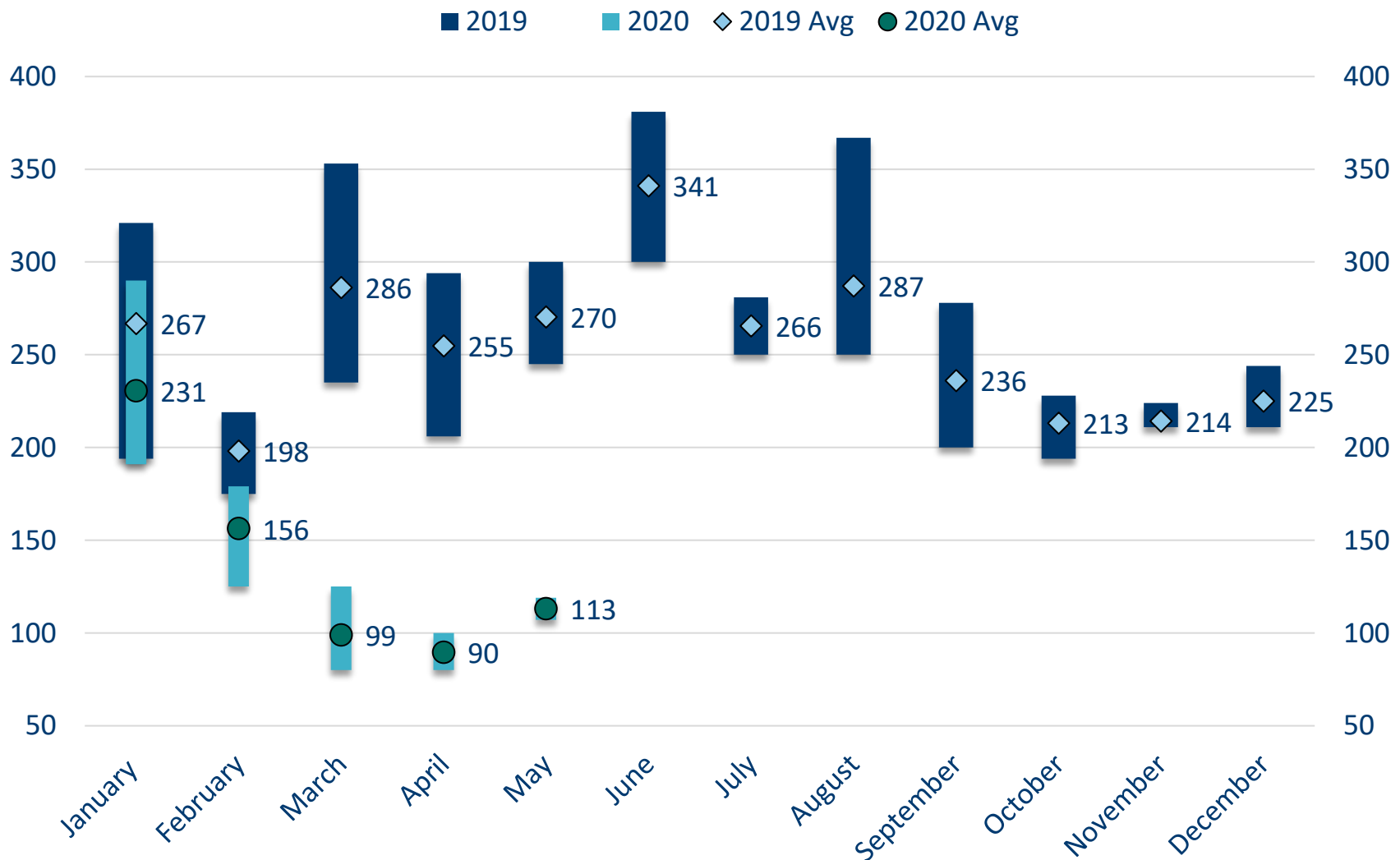
## Utah - Oxidation Ditch



# Case Studies

## Utah - Oxidation Ditch

### Monthly SVI Averages and Ranges



# Case Studies

## Utah - Oxidation Ditch

### Results:

- Improved Settleability lead to:
  - 62% improvement compared to March of 2019 to 2020
- Still looking to validate:
  - Improved capacity
  - Increased clarifier loading



## Denver Metro –Pilot Study

- The reduction in dSVI in the Test basin allowed operation at a solids loading rate to the Test clarifier that was 32% greater than the Control while maintaining equivalent effluent TSS.
- Under the conditions tested in the study, granulation was observed to occur in a full-scale continuous flow system. The total fraction of biomass larger than 250  $\mu\text{m}$  began to increase after one month of operation, and within three months peaked at 56%. The fraction of biomass within the range of 250 to 500  $\mu\text{m}$  fluctuated over time, while the fraction  $\geq 500 \mu\text{m}$  continually increased, peaking at 20% before piloting ceased.

# Acknowledgments

- ARA Consult - Dr. Bernhard Wett
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# THANK YOU

