

## ASTORIA HONORS DR. KING

Marchers stand with candles outside the Liberty Theater before taking part in a candlelight walk to honor Martin Luther King Jr. Monday. More than 75 people participated in the walk, which is in its fourth year. See more photos at [DailyAstorian.com](http://DailyAstorian.com)

JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

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ONE DOLLAR

## SHAPING UP STORMWATER



EDWARD STRATTON — The Daily Astorian

The Port of Astoria submitted a proposal to create a centralized stormwater treatment facility on a strip of land owned by the Oregon Department of State Lands on the western edge of Pier 3, overlooked by the Astoria Riverwalk.

### The Port of Astoria joins a parade of agencies cleaning up stormwater runoff

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

In August, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality served notice to the Port of Astoria and 20 percent of all industrial stormwater permit-holders in Oregon: Clean up your runoff and make it operational by June 30, 2016.

The Port submitted its plan to DEQ Dec. 31 to install a centralized biofiltration system, including shellfish exoskeletons to pull out copper, to treat storm runoff before it enters the Columbia River.

The Port falls under the

DEQ's requirements, needing a 1200-Z industrial stormwater permit to discharge storm runoff from its industrial lands.

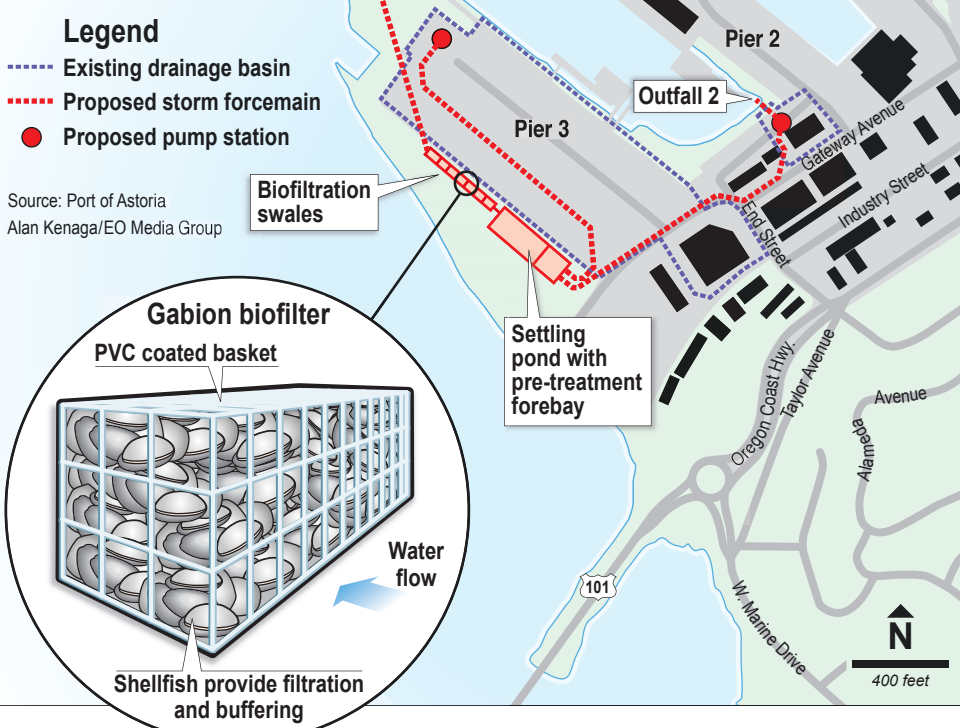
In 2012, DEQ reissued new industrial stormwater permits with lowered benchmarks for a number of pollutants, including 0.02 milligrams per liter allowed for copper. Over the first two years of its permit, the Port reported quarterly samples that were on average 50 to 100 percent above the DEQ's benchmarks for copper at sampling points at the end of Pier 3 and in between piers 3 and 2, just north of the maintenance shop.

DEQ sent a letter Aug. 8 mandating the Port meet the more stringent Tier II Corrective Action requirements to reduce the amount of copper making it to the waterways. Copper can inhibit the ability of fish to smell and sense danger, and affect other aquatic invertebrates and algae.

The Port staff worked on the issue. And before the Dec. 31 deadline, the Port Commission contracted with environmental engineer Ada Banasik from the firm Maul Foster Alongi to create the plan for a centralized stormwater treatment facility.

### Port of Astoria reveals stormwater treatment upgrade plan

The Port's proposed plan to treat storm water includes pumping the runoff to a settling pond and bioswales before it is discharged into the Columbia River.



#### Centralized stormwater

The Port met the DEQ requirements for the new Tier II designation and need to reduce copper pollution. But Rob Evert, the permit and projects coordinator at the Port, said the agency is using this opportunity to plan a centralized stormwater treatment facility for the entire central waterfront.

"What sort of technology

would be appropriate for both the copper that is required for treatment, but also the current activities here at the Port?" asked Banasik.

The Port's new plan involves pumping stormwater from catch basins throughout its central waterfront, through force mains, to a single treatment center located on a strip of Pier 3 owned by the Oregon Department of State Lands.

The system would begin with an initial reservoir to pretreat stormwater, settling out suspended solids and retaining floating effluent, such as tree bark and oil; then a settling pond to remove other suspended solids and contaminants such as metals and organics by sedimentation.

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## Neawanna by the Sea under new management

### Area assisted-living facility hires firm to address concerns

By ERICK BENGEL  
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — Neawanna by the Sea, a retirement and assisted-living facility in Seaside, is trying to improve its operation after an unfavorable 2014.

After a September inspection by the state Office of Licensing and Regulatory Oversight revealed some deficiencies, the office restricted Neawanna's ability to admit new residents because of its ongoing failure to be in compliance with the Oregon administrative rules for residential care and assisted living facilities.

It was the third state inspection in 2014 — following others in February and July — to show a lack of "substantive compliance" on Neawanna's part.

"Because things were not heading in the right direction, (the restriction) is an effort to say, 'You need to circle the wagons and not bring new people into the community and focus on getting your service back into compliance,'" said Cory Oace, manager of the community-based care licensing unit that oversees Neawanna.

These deficiencies are not all that unusual, though, Oace said.

Though Neawanna may lose its license if its lingering deficiencies are unresolved in the next announced inspection, the business is in no greater danger of losing its license than many of the nearly 500 community



ERICK BENGEL — EO Media Group

Neawanna by the Sea on North Wahanna Road in Seaside is under new management to address deficiencies found in state Office of Licensing and Regulatory Oversight inspections.

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