

Presenter: Todd S. Webster, Ph.D., P.E.

Biographical Background:

Dr. Todd Webster is a Vice President of Envirogen Technologies, Inc. He has over 20 years of experience in all aspects of biological and physico-chemical treatment system design, installation and operation in the potable water sector, with an emphasis on clean-up activities for contaminated groundwater laden with emerging contaminants of concern. He has a Ph.D. and Masters in Civil/Environmental Engineering and is a Professional Civil Engineer in the State of California.



A Lifecycle Performance Company

Design, Commissioning and Operation of a Regenerable Ion Exchange System in Hawai'i for the Treatment of Groundwater Contaminated with Nitrate- Case Studies

**Presented at the Hawai'i Rural Water Association Technical Conference
May 24, 2023**

Todd S. Webster, Ph.D., P.E., Vice President, Envirogen Technologies, Inc.

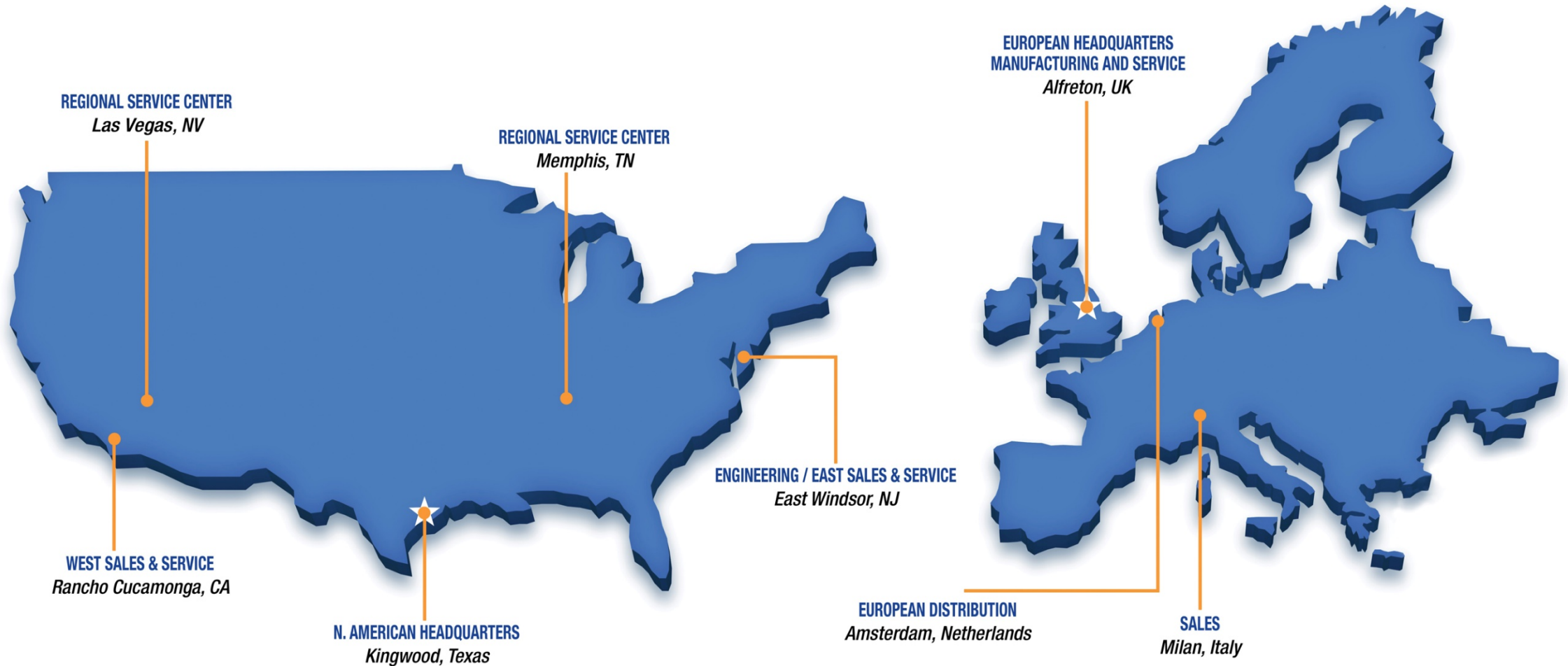


Outline of Presentation

- ***Envirogen Introduction***
- ***Environmental Issue in Hawai'i***
- ***Regenerable Ion Exchange Summary***
- ***Legacy IX Design vs. New IX Design***
- ***Smaller IX Systems Applied in Hawai'i***
- ***Other Contaminant Treatment-Metals***
- ***Life-Cycle Cost information***
- ***Continued Innovation with Regenerable IX***
- ***Conclusions***

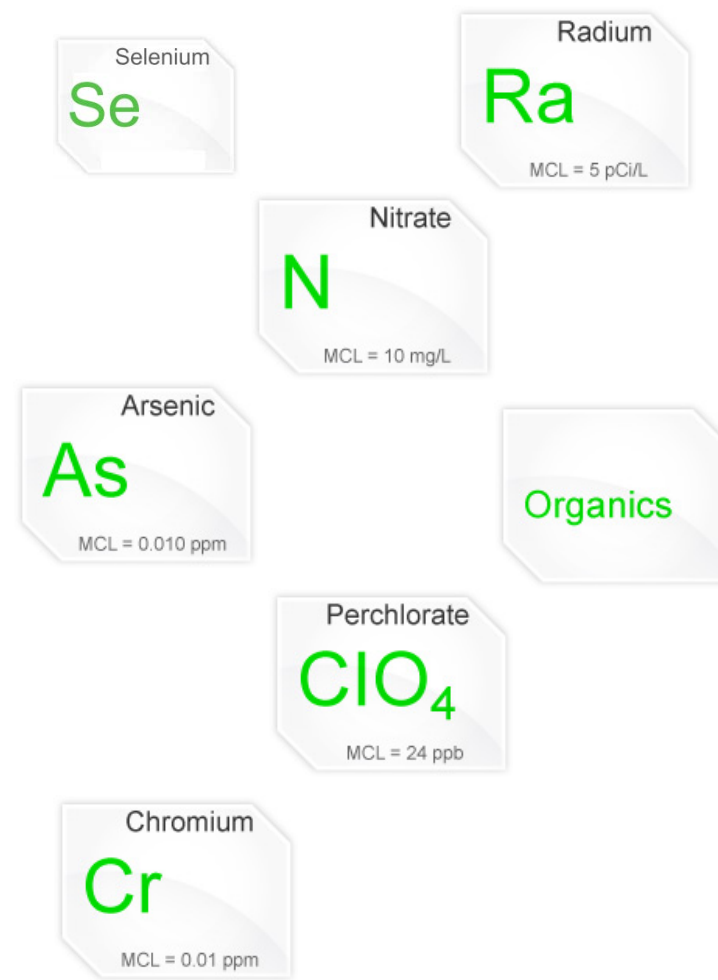
What We Do and Where We Are Located

- We solve complex challenges relating to water availability and quality by providing technical solutions on a guaranteed basis
- Our goal is establishment of long term relations with our client base



What we treat...

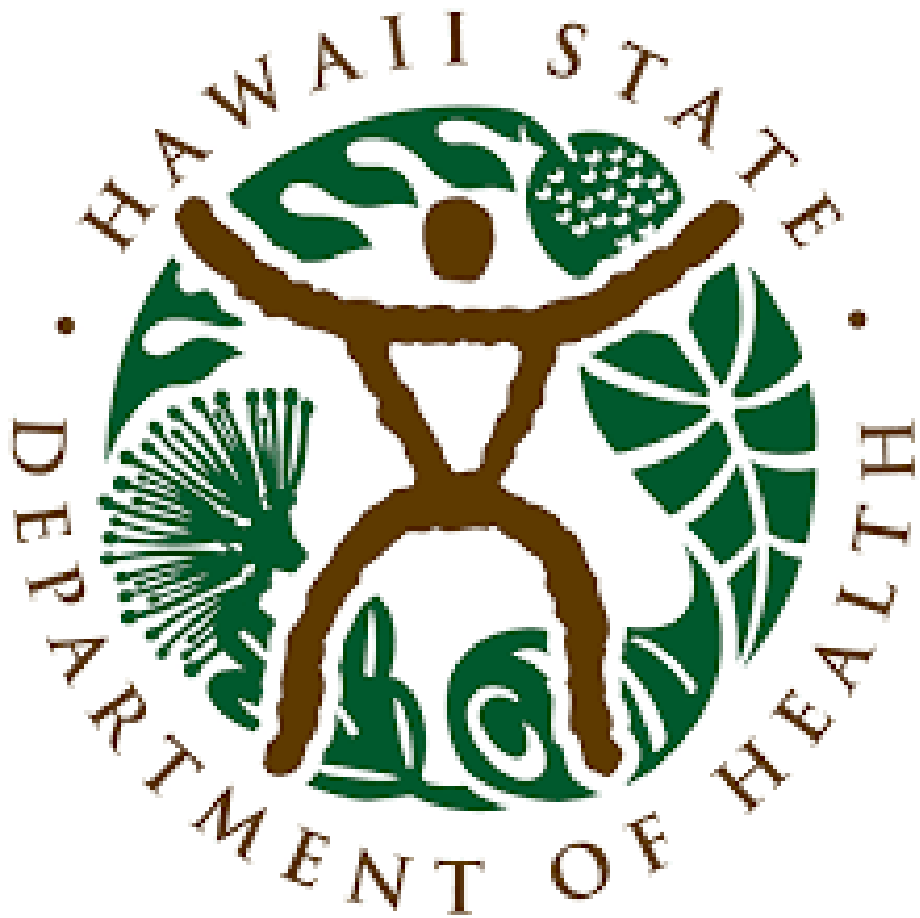
- Arsenic
 - Nitrate, Ammonia
 - Perchlorate
 - Chromium/Metals
 - Selenium
 - Radium
 - Uranium
 - Iron/Manganese
 - Barium
 - And more...
- Organics
 - VOCs
 - PCE
 - BTEX
 - MTBE
 - DCA
 - 1,4-Dioxane
 - NDMA
 - PCPPs
 - EDCs



Envirogen's Proprietary Treatment Offerings

- Envirogen Technologies' Proprietary Systems for Potable and Industrial Water Treatment
 - **Regenerable Ion Exchange**
 - Fluidized Bed Bioreactors
 - Advanced Metals Removal Systems (AMRS)
 - Nanofiltration Membrane Systems





Environmental Issue in Hawai'i

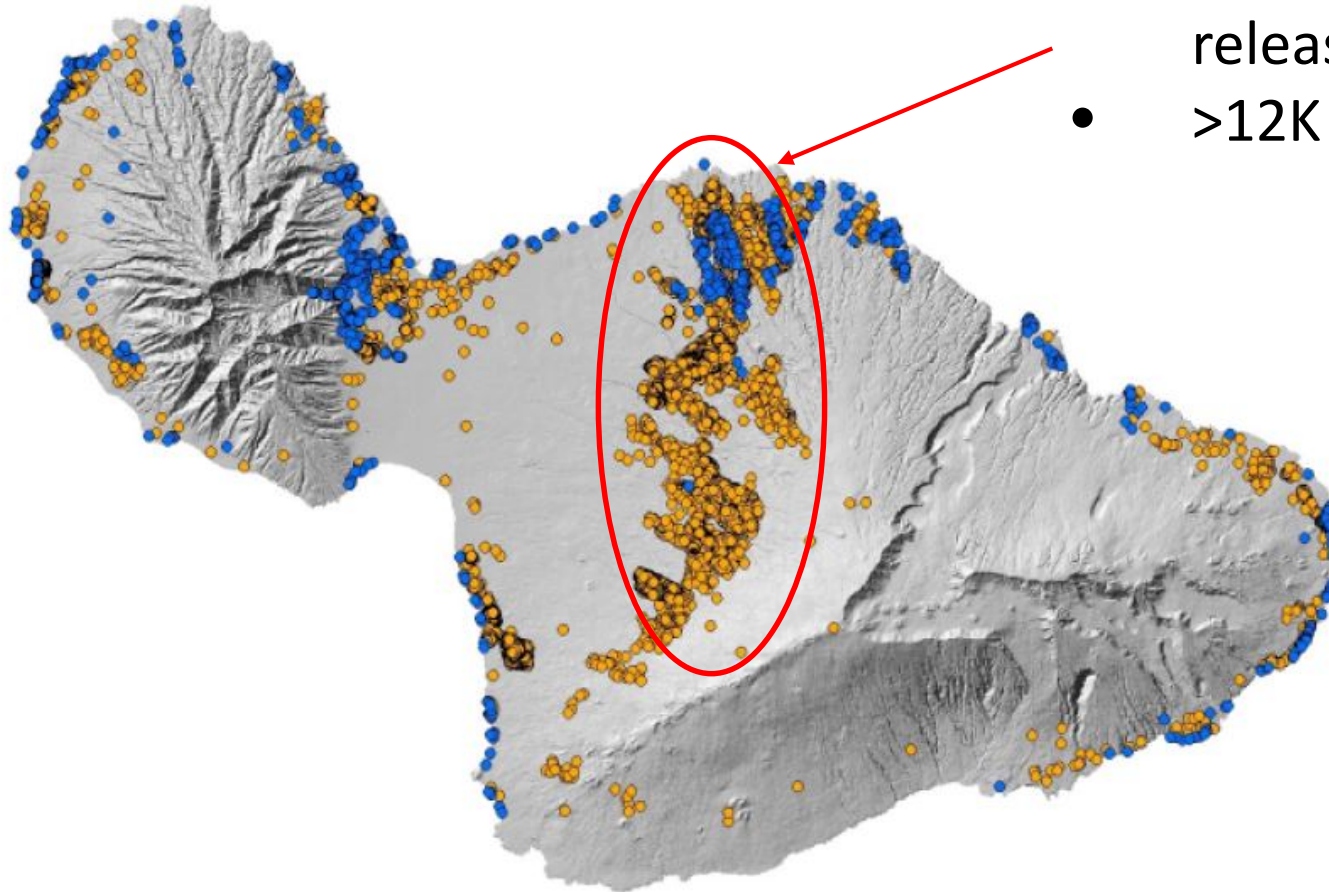
Cesspool Issue Across Hawai'i

- In 2016, the State of Hawaii banned the construction of new cesspools and in 2017 passed a law requiring all cesspools be converted by the year 2050 (Act 125).
- As of 2018, Hawaii had 88,000 cesspools across all islands, depositing up to 53 million gallons of raw sewage into the ground every day.
- In Keaau on the Big Island, there are over 9,400 cesspools, with 25% of drinking water wells in the area testing positive for fecal indicator bacteria.
- More than 90% of the state's drinking water comes from groundwater wells.
- These cesspools also contribute to nitrate contamination of these groundwater wells.

• *Source: Hawaii Department of Health, Safe Drinking Water Branch, 2018.*



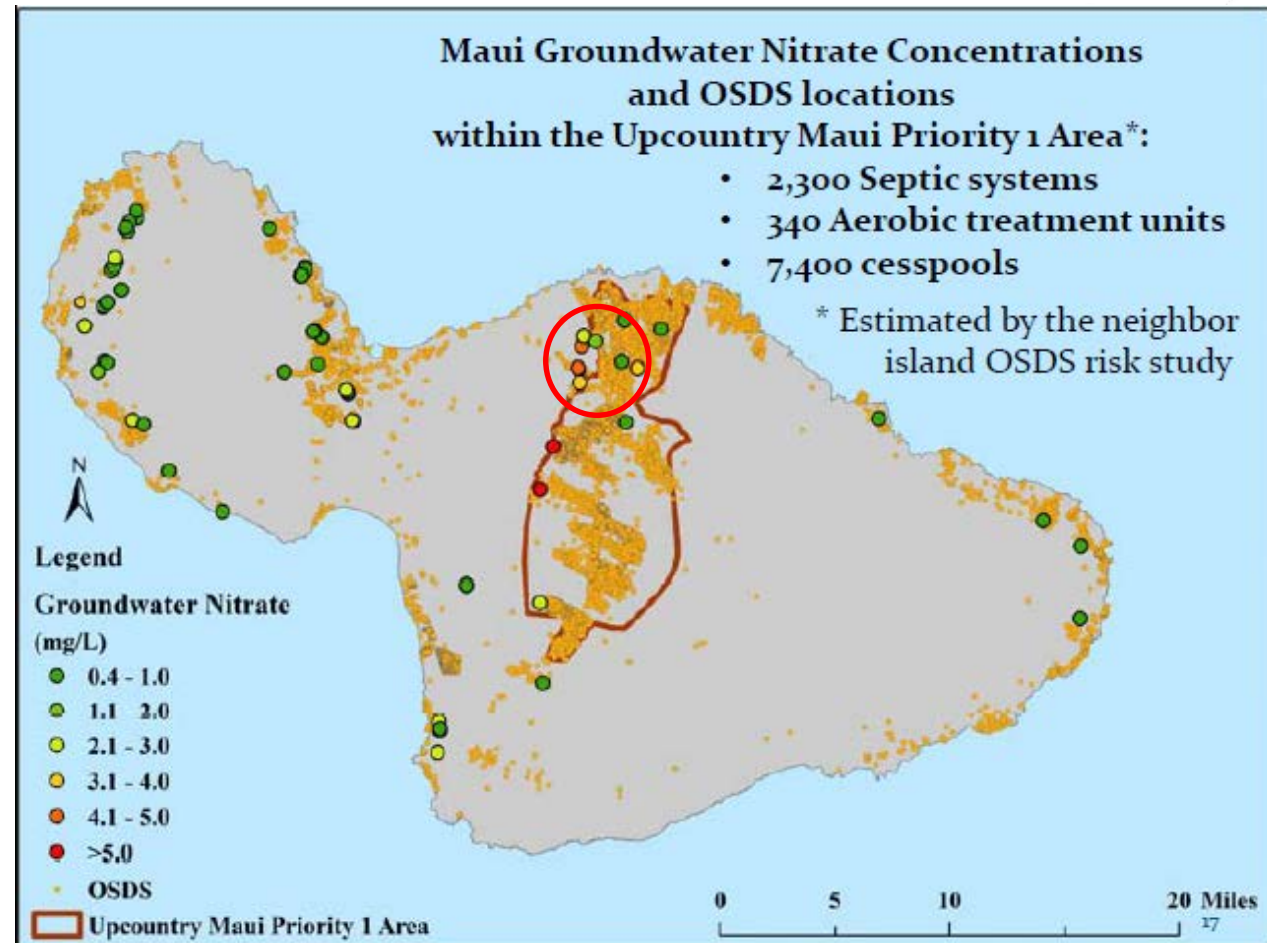
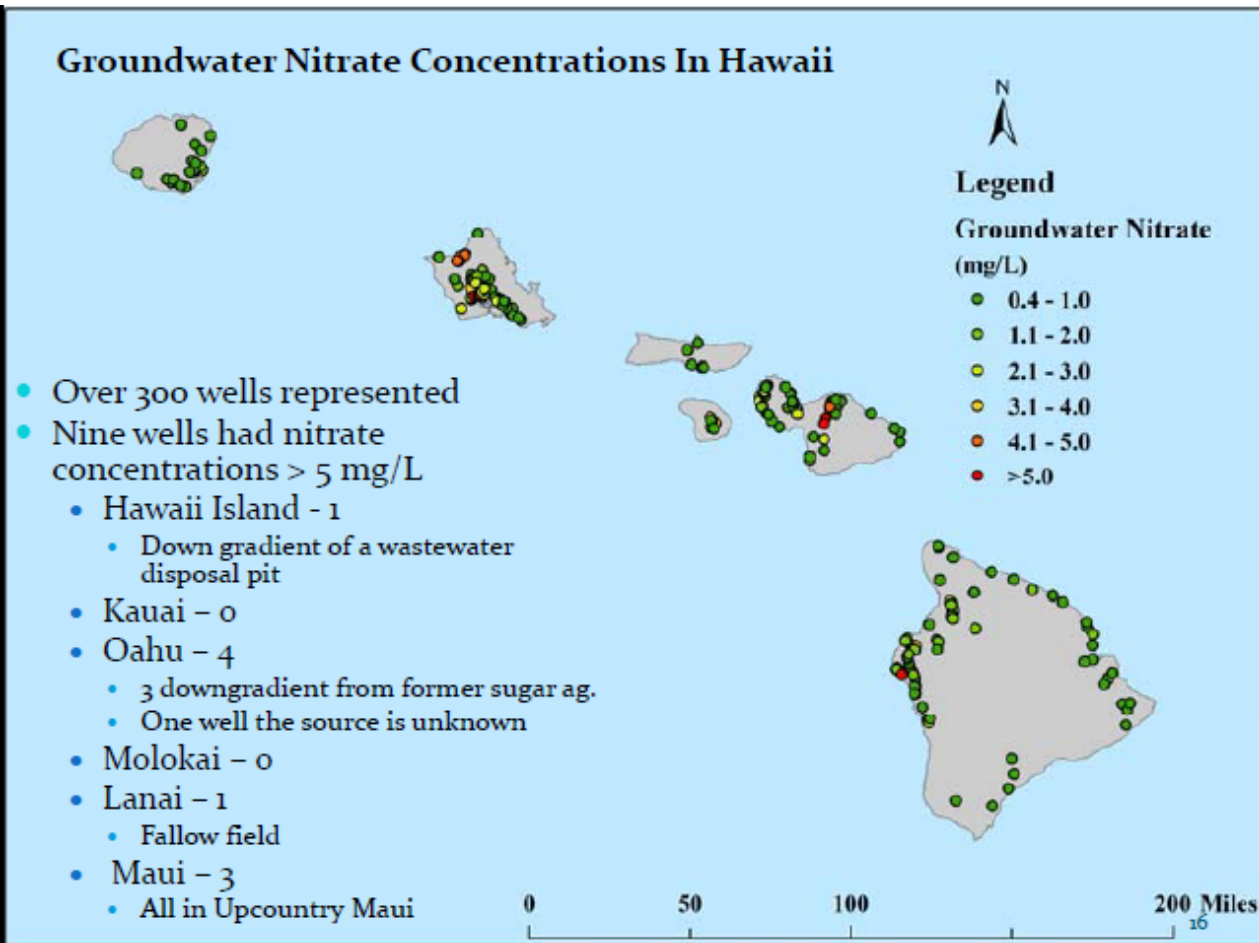
Cesspools in Maui



- 7.9 M gallons of effluent released/day
- >12K cesspools in the area

• *Source: Maui County- <http://www.mauicounty.us/cesspools/>*

Groundwater Nitrate in Hawai'i



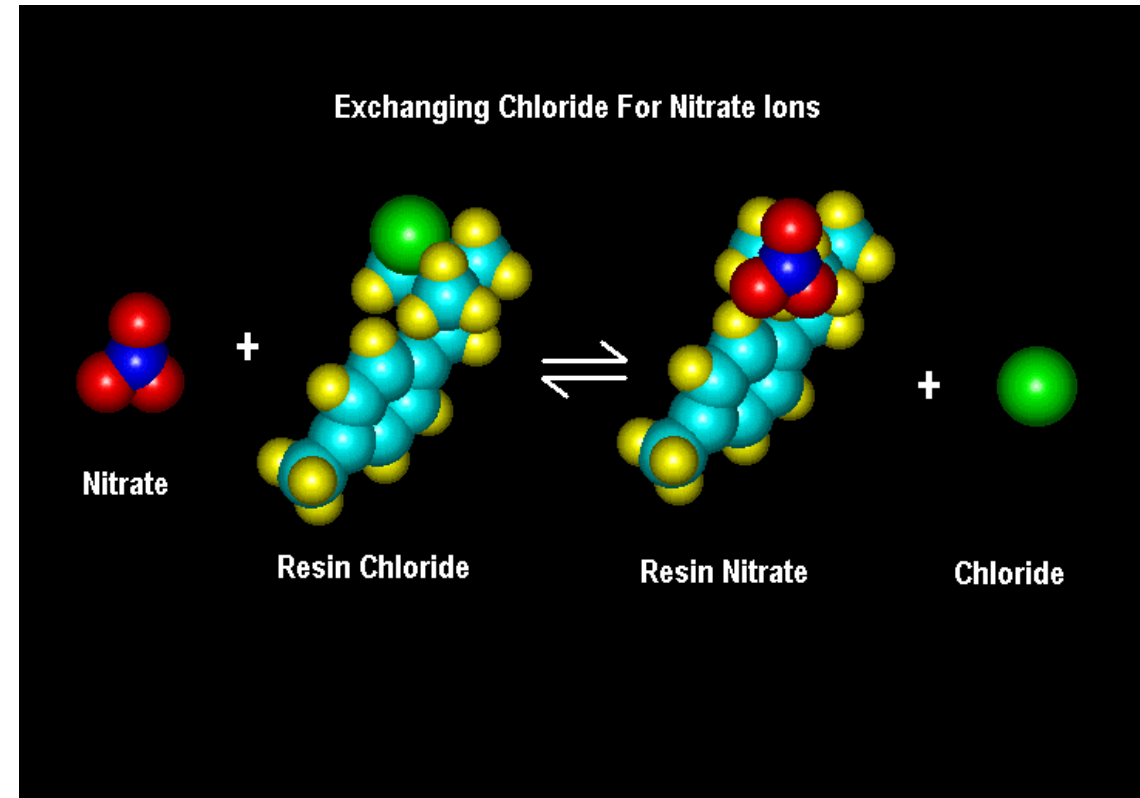
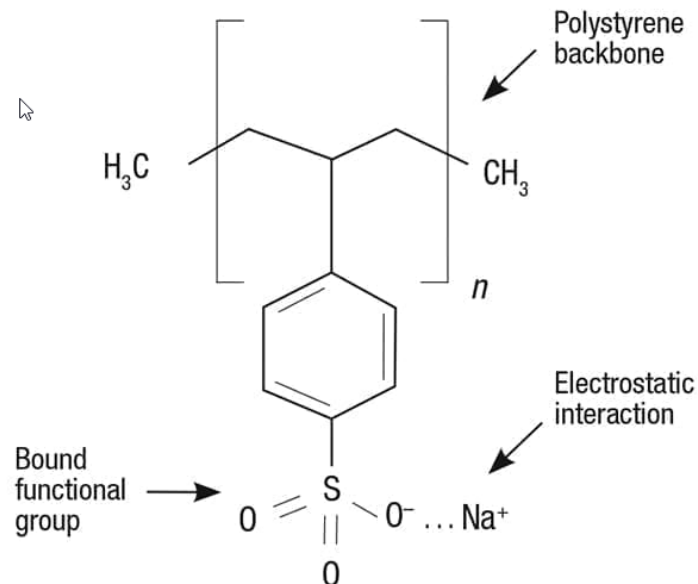
• Source: Upcountry Maui Groundwater Nitrate Investigation, Hawaii Department of Health, Safe Drinking Water Branch, 2018.



Regenerable Ion Exchange Summary

Ion Exchange

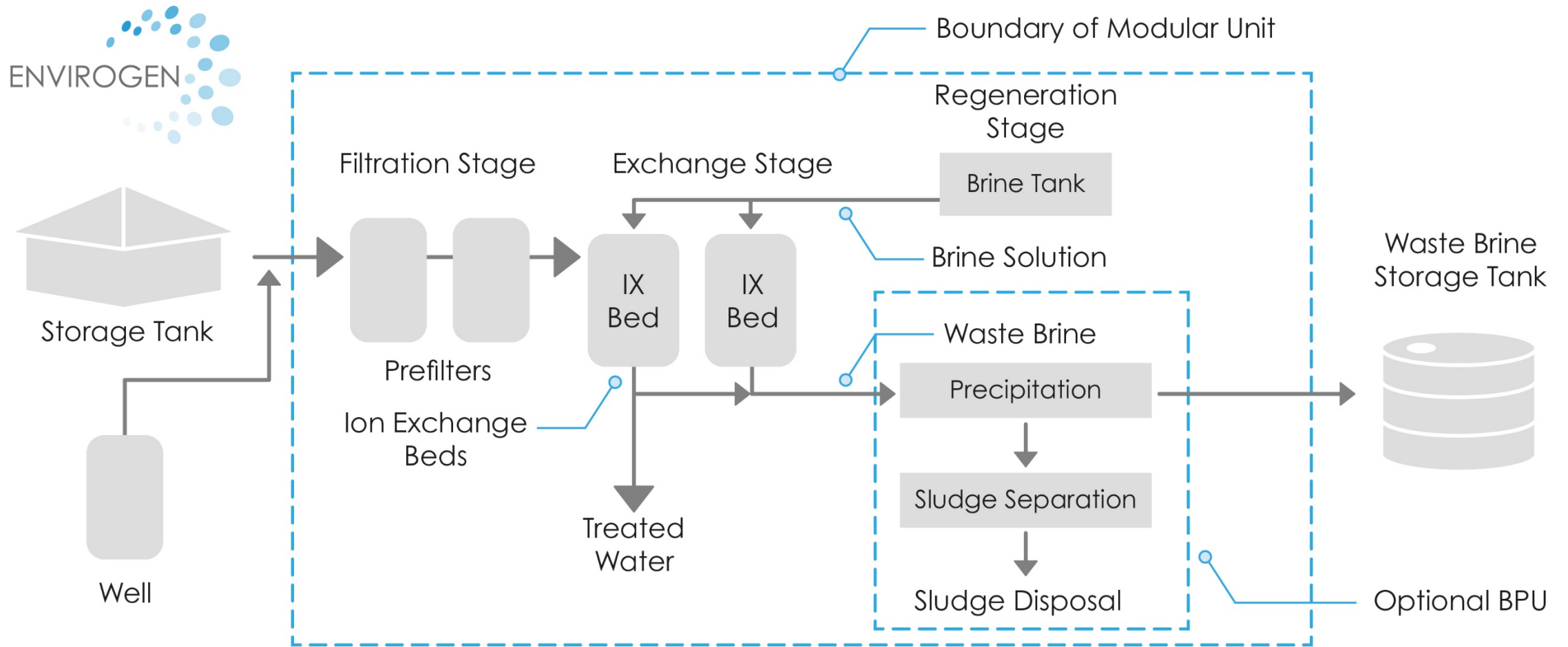
- Process where ions are transferred from a solid to a liquid phase (or vice versa). The driving force for the exchange is an electrical/chemical potential, i.e., a positively charged surface “attracts” a negatively charged ion.
- Ion exchange systems involve reversible chemical reactions
- Targeted ions are captured electrostatically and replaced by other ions of similar charge
- The key component of the IX system is the ion exchange resin
 - Crosslinked organic polymers shaped into small beads
 - Polystyrene with divinylbenzene crosslinks.



Selectivity of Strong Base Anionic Resin



How it is accomplished...



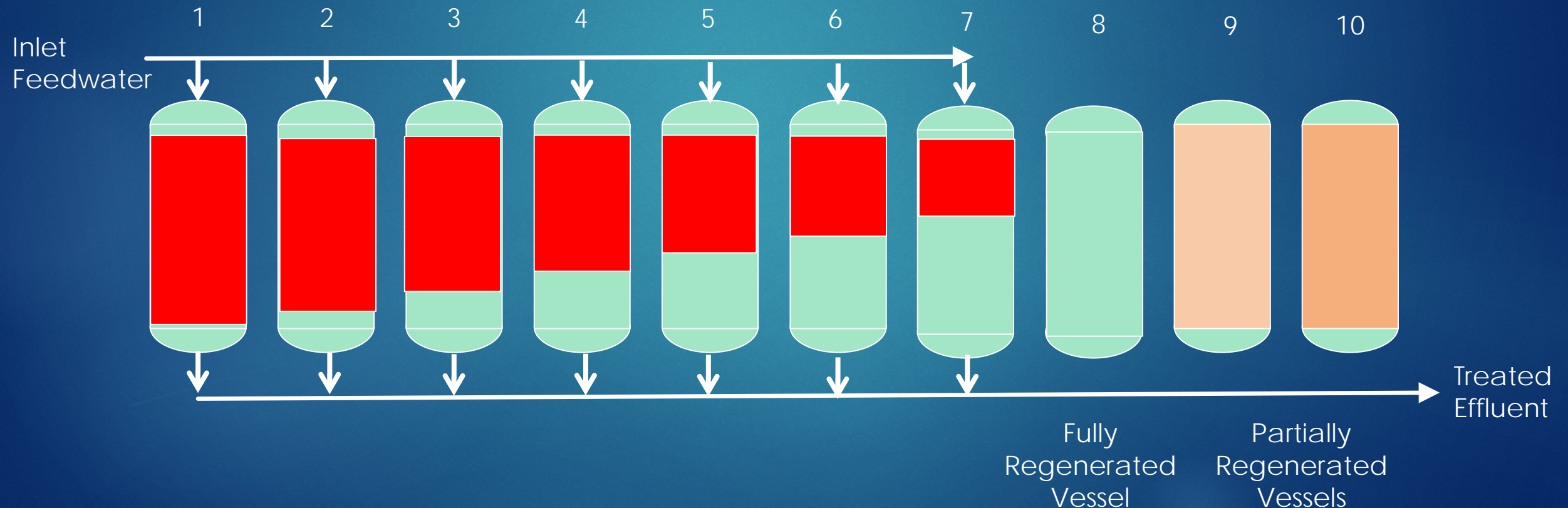
SimPACK Ion Exchange



- ▶ Simulated Staggered Packed Bed design
- ▶ N+3 design with staggered beds allows for (N = number of beds to meet pump flow):
 - ▶ Full utilization of each vessel maximizing throughput
 - ▶ Consistent blending of effluent
 - ▶ Minimization of brine waste
 - ▶ Cascading regeneration
 - ▶ Reuse of rinse water
 - ▶ Reuse of Brine
 - ▶ Reduced lbs of salt used
- ▶ Containerized or in a building
- ▶ PLC fully process controlled

Staggered Bed Design

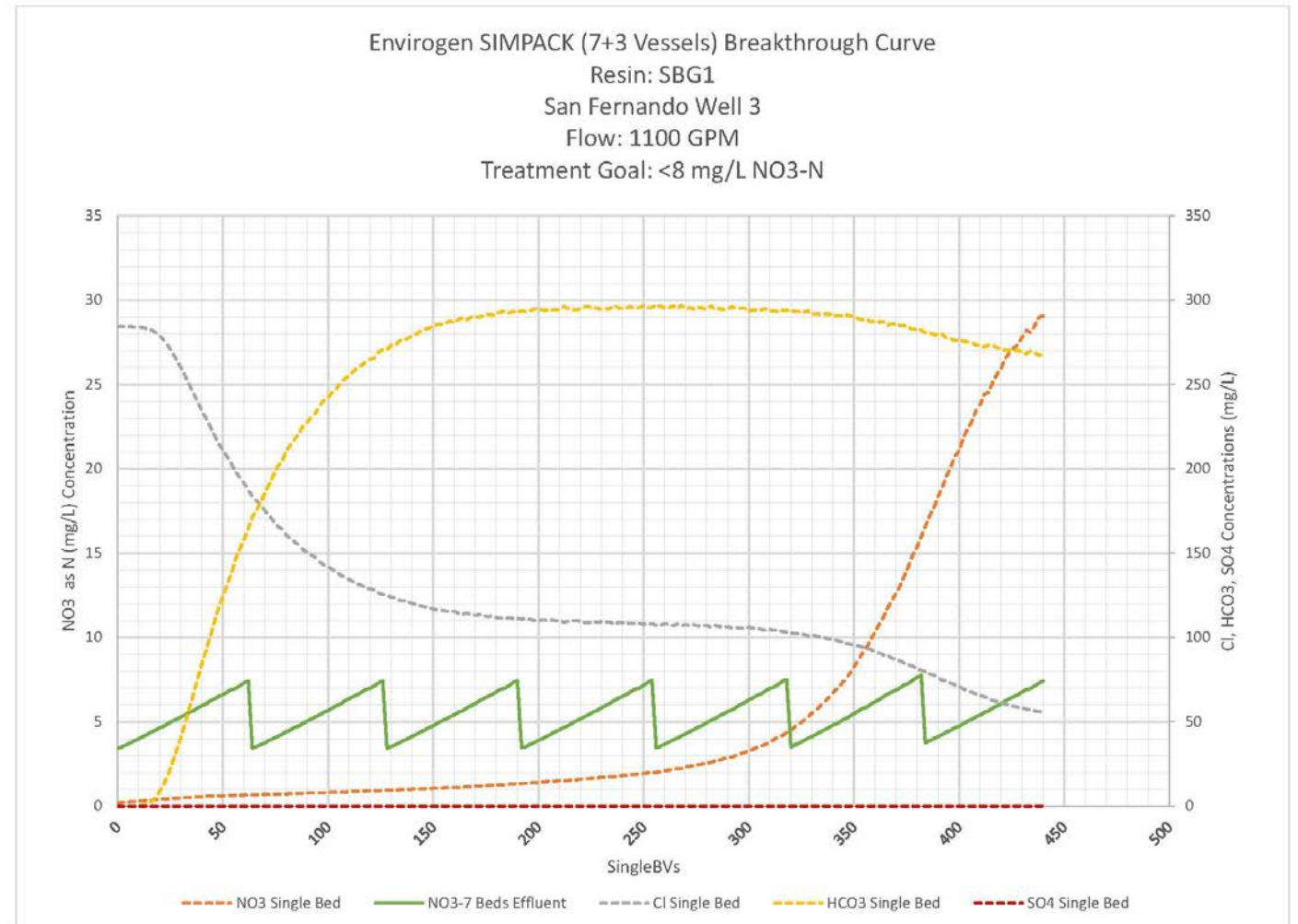
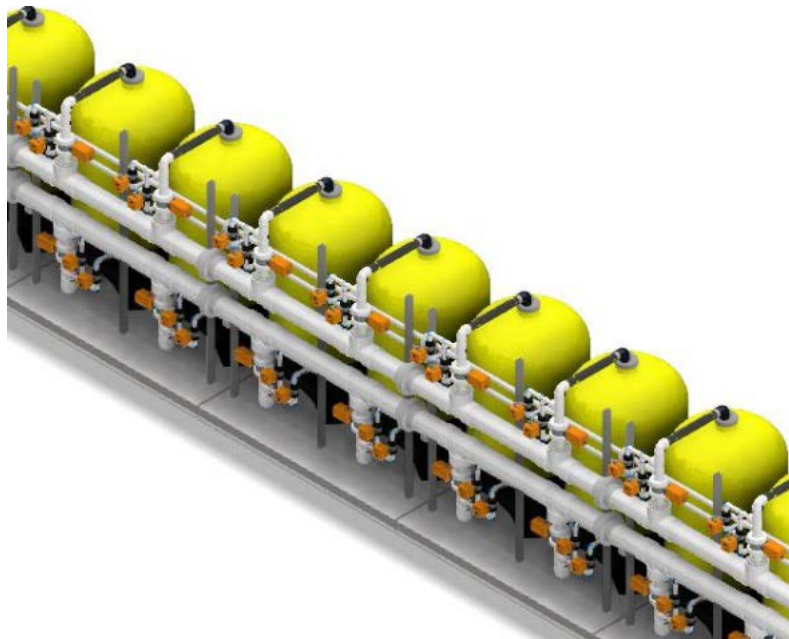
- ▶ N+3 Design- Seven vessels in operation with one in stand-by and two being regenerated.
- ▶ Influent to beds 1-7, with all beds at different levels of breakthrough (some overloaded).
- ▶ Combined effluent ensures that effluent of the overloaded beds is diluted by the effluent of the other beds.
- ▶ Cascade regeneration- Reuse of water, reuse of brine



How do we size?

- **Model**

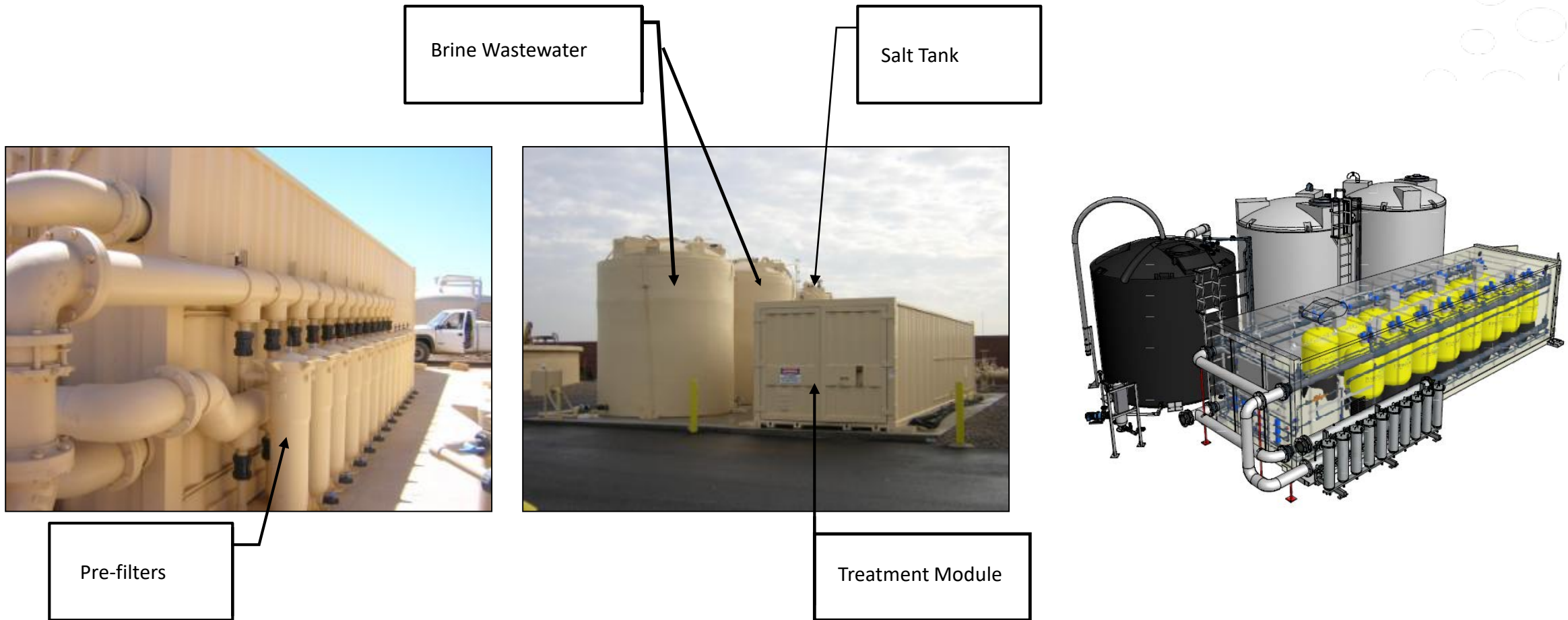
- **Flowrate**
- **Water chemistry**
- **Treatment objectives**
- **Run-time**
- **Salt usage, waste rates**



Legacy Design



System Components



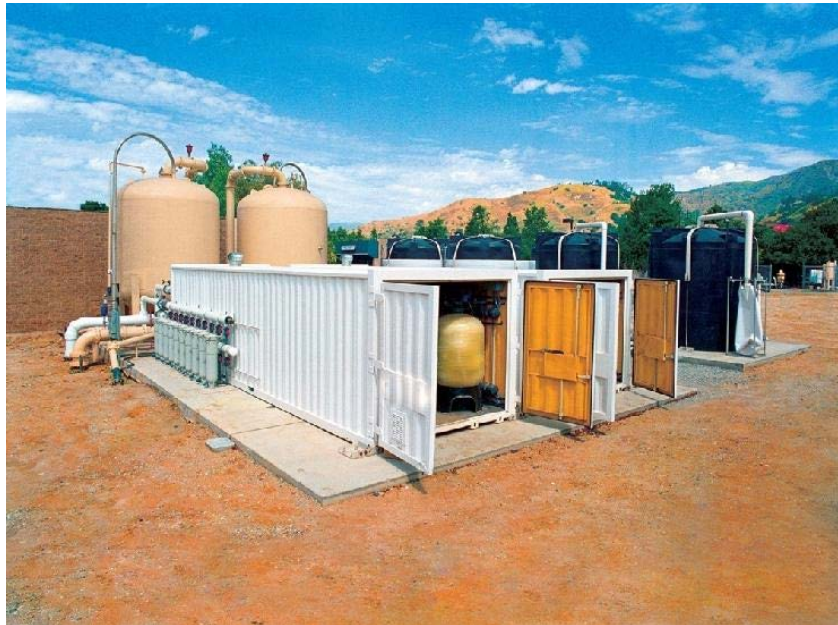
Nitrate, Perchlorate, Uranium Removal Systems



1,000-GPM Uranium Removal System - California



1,000-GPM Nitrate Removal System - California



2,000-GPM Perchlorate Removal System - California

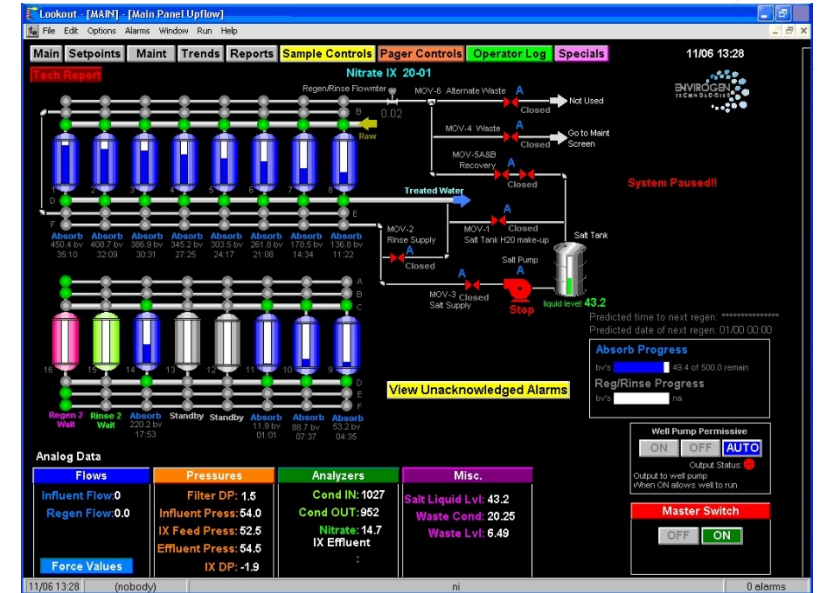
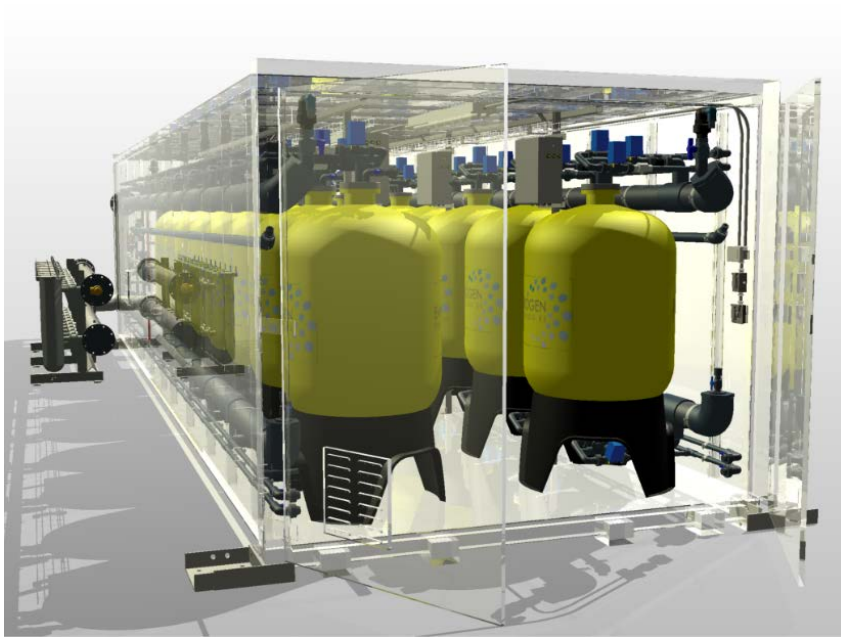


300-GPM Uranium Removal System - California

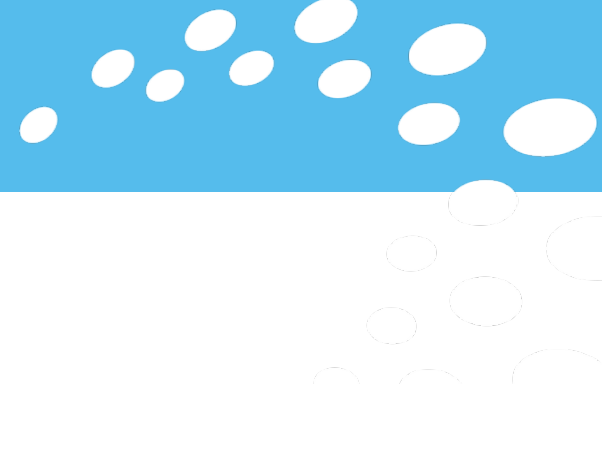


1,000-GPM Perchlorate Removal System - California

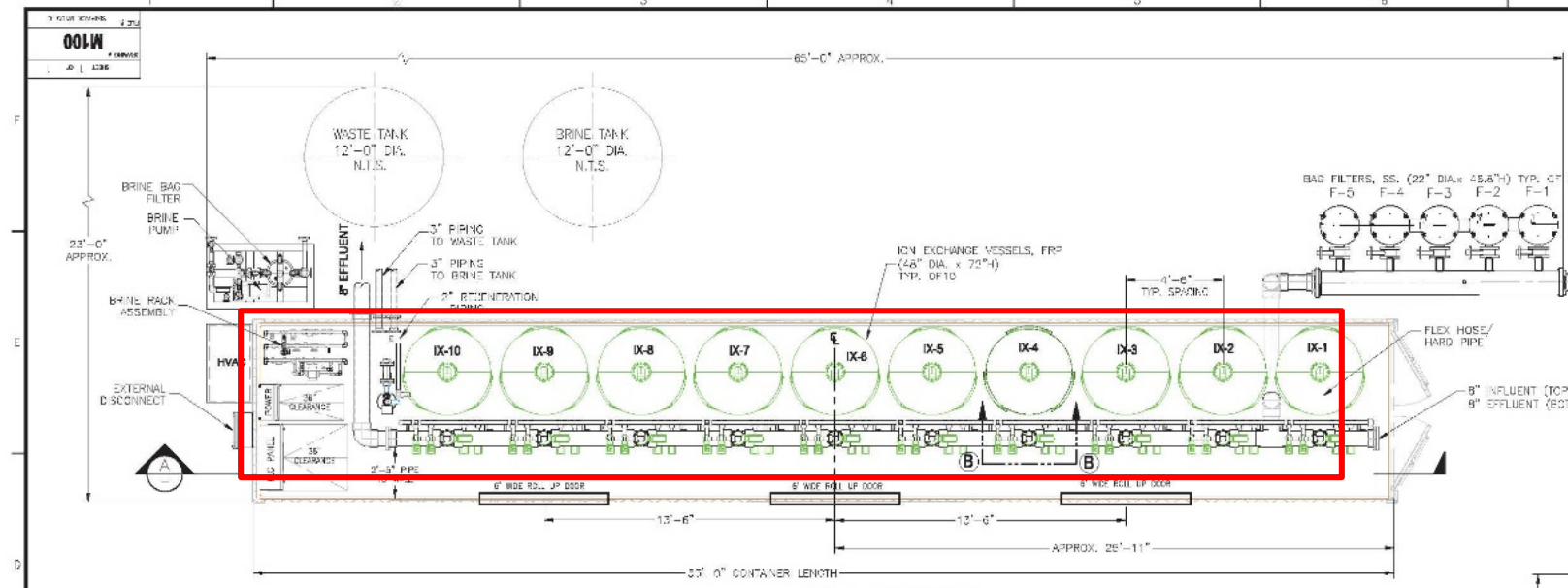
Containerized System



- Concerns
 - Containerization
 - Accessibility inside
 - Operational maintenance
 - Reduce salt use/waste rates

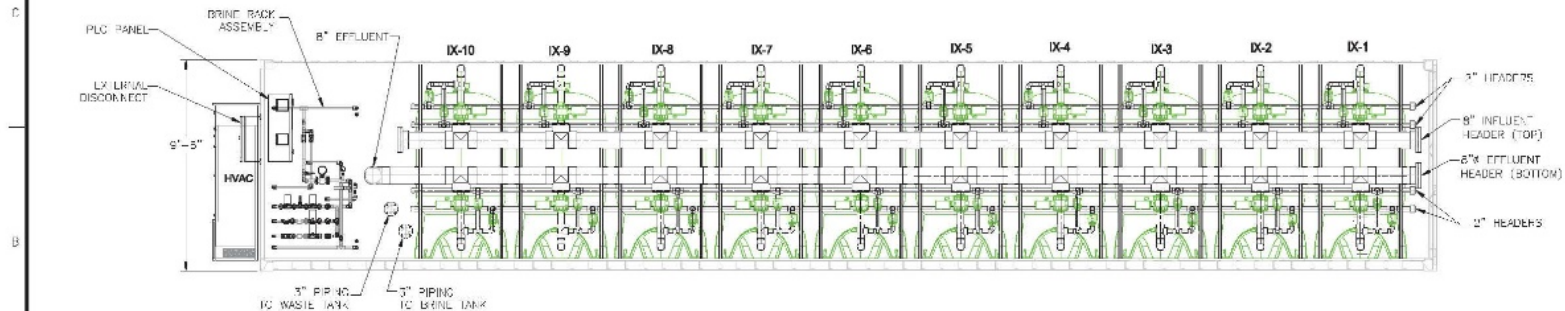


New Design

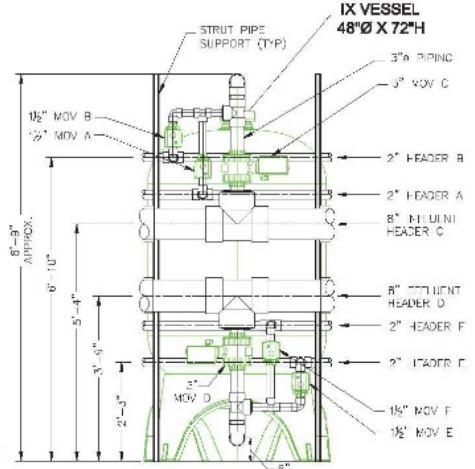


- GENERAL NOTES:**
- THE SITE LAYOUT IS A PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT OF EQUIPMENT, VESSELS AND PIPING.
 - OVERALL SITE DIMENSIONS ARE APPROXIMATE.
 - BRINE PUMP & BAG FILTER SKID CAN BE HOUSED INSIDE SEPARATE ENCLOSURE IF REQUIRED.

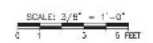
PLAN VIEW
SimPACK CONTAINER SYSTEM LAYOUT
 SCALE: 3/8" = 1'-0"



ELEVATION (CONTAINER) - SECTION A
 SCALE: 3/8" = 1'-0"



IX VESSEL CONNECTIONS
SECTION B
 SCALE: 3/4" = 1'-0"



COVERED BY ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING U.S. PATENTS:



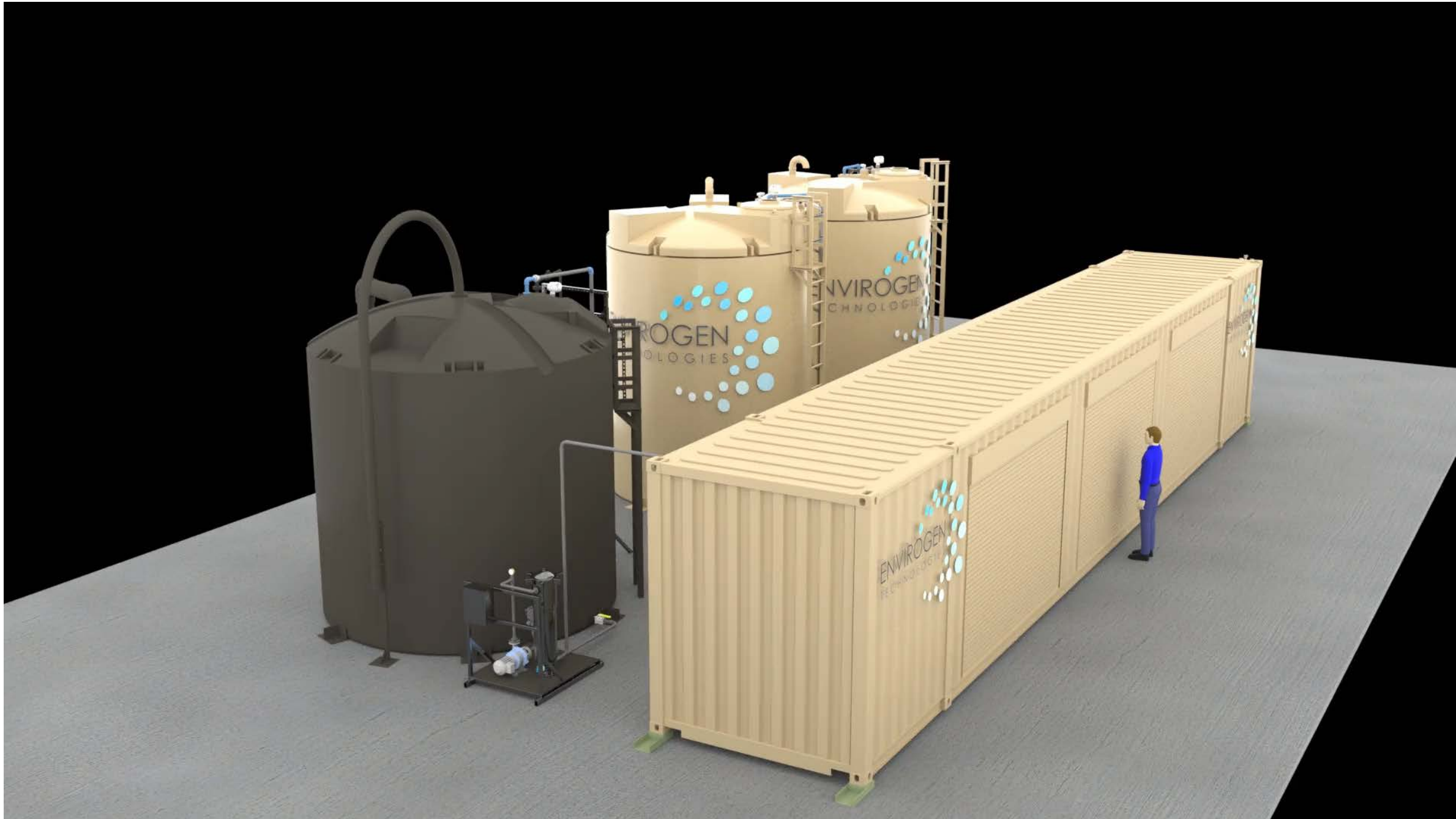
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REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION OF REVISION	BY	CHKD	DATE
1	11-19-20	ISSUED FOR REVIEW (L1 LEFT 10-15 DESIGN)	ENV	ENV	AS NOTED
2	12-28-20	ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION REVIEW (L2/300 REVISED)	ENV	ENV	RL CB-03-20
3	1-15-21	ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION REVIEW	ENV	ENV	ENVIRONMENTAL
4	3-11-21	ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION REVIEW	ENV	ENV	MAY 11 19 21

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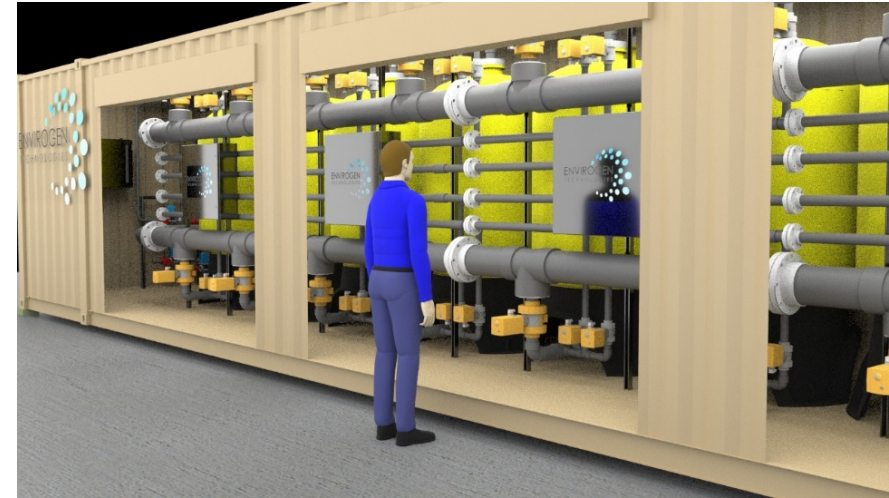
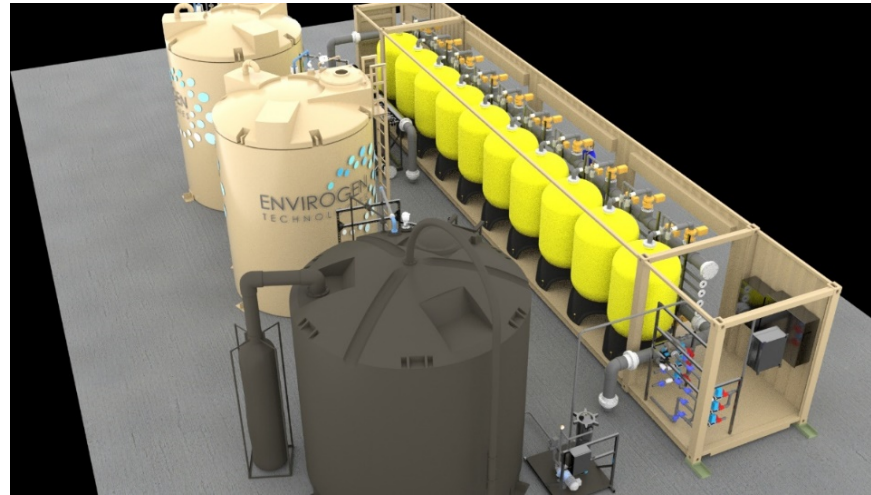
ENVIROGEN TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
 IX PACKAGE CONTAINER ZED
 SimPACK SYSTEM ARRANGEMENT

SCALE: 1" = 1'-0"
 SHEET 1 OF 1
SimPACK
 THE SIMPACK LOGO IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF ENVIROGEN TECHNOLOGIES, INC.



- **Improvements in Design**

- **N+3 with ten (10) vessels**
- **53-foot container**
- **Compact site- 60'x40'**
- **All valves front-facing**
- **Roll-up access doors**





MinX for Smaller Flows

MinX Ion Exchange Treatment System

- **Alternative regenerable ion exchange system**
 - Applied to low flow and/ or low volume applications
 - Lower capital, but slightly higher waste rates
 - Ion exchange and regeneration process similar to SimPACK
 - Typically installed in building or container next to well pump equipment
 - Process control and monitoring similar to SimPACK
- **External brine recovery/ reuse tank**
- **N+1 design (N = number of IX vessels required on line)**
- **Space requirements**
 - Smaller footprint
 - Modular design

MinX Controls

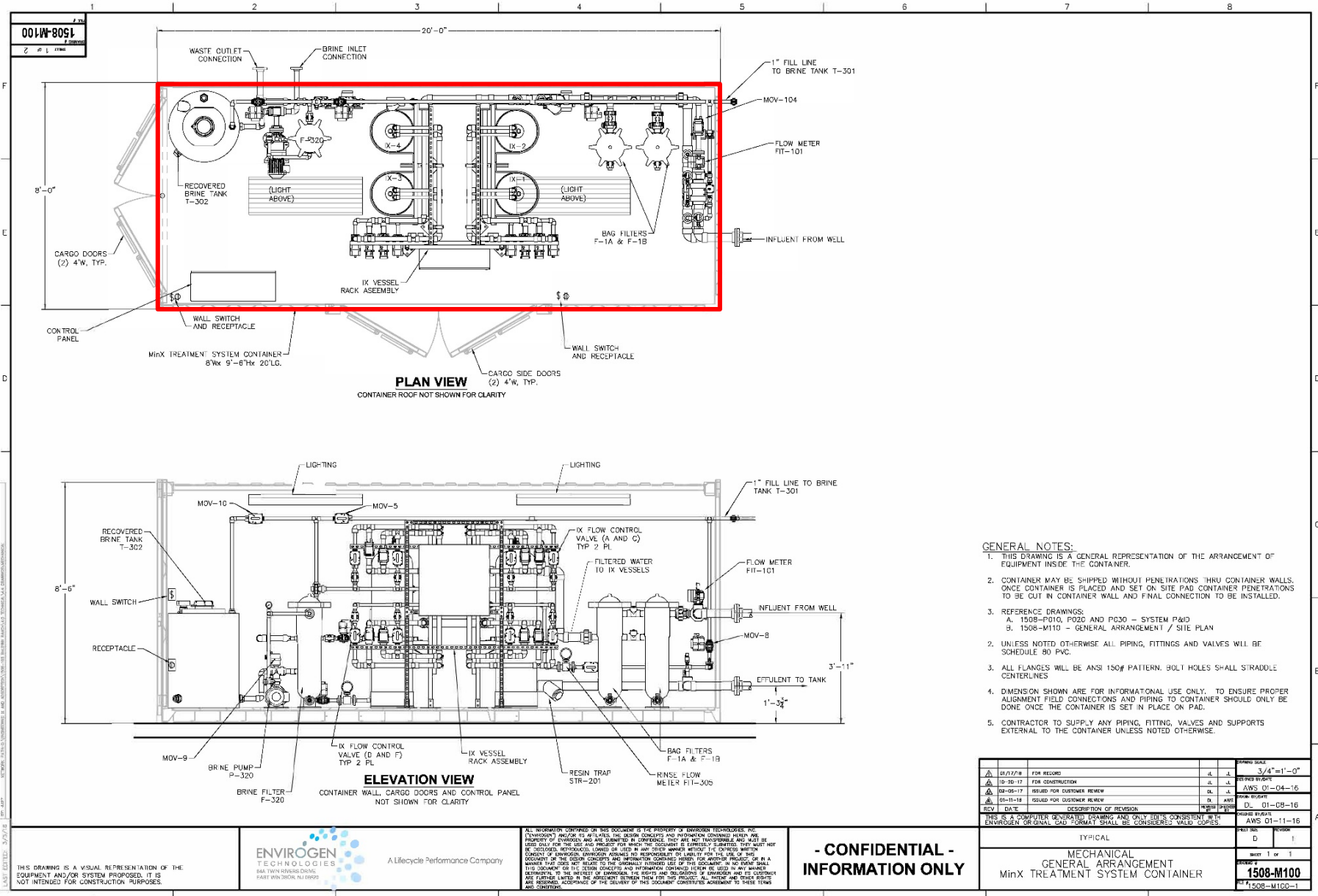
The screenshot displays the 'Envirogen MinX' control interface. At the top, there is a menu bar with 'File', 'Edit', 'Options', 'Alarms', 'Window', and 'Run Help'. Below the menu is a navigation bar with 'Main', 'Setpoints', 'Trends', 'Reporting', and 'Maint' tabs. The main area features a process flow diagram with four 'Absorb' tanks, a 'Waste Tank', 'Conc Brine' and 'Recov Brine' tanks, and a 'Salt Pump'. Various control valves (MOV4 through MOV10) and flow streams (Influent, Effluent) are shown. A 'Master BVs: 0.00' indicator is present. Below the diagram is a data panel with three columns: 'Flows', 'Pressures', and 'Signals'. The 'Flows' column shows Influent Flow, Waste Flow, and Regen Flow, all at 0.00. The 'Pressures' column shows Bag DP, Vessel DP, and Pressure OUT, all at 0.00. The 'Signals' column shows Nitrate AI, Conc. Brine, Recov. Brine, and Cond OUT, all at 0.00. To the right of the data panel is a 'Well Pump Permissive' section with 'OFF' and 'ON' indicators, and a 'Master Switch' section with 'View Shutdown Alarm' button. The bottom status bar shows the date '04/11 10:28', the user 'Administrator', the location 'NI', and '3 alarms'.

Flows	Pressures	Signals
Influent Flow: 0.00	Bag DP: 0.00	Nitrate AI: 0.00
Waste Flow: 0.00	Vessel DP: 0.00	Conc. Brine: 0.00
Regen Flow: 0.00	Pressure OUT: 0.00	Recov. Brine: 0.00
		Cond OUT: 0.00

Well Pump Permissive: OFF
Output Status:
Master Switch:
View Shutdown Alarm

04/11 10:28 Administrator NI 3 alarms

MINX Design



- GENERAL NOTES:**
- THIS DRAWING IS A GENERAL REPRESENTATION OF THE ARRANGEMENT OF EQUIPMENT INSIDE THE CONTAINER.
 - CONTAINER MAY BE SHIPPED WITHOUT PENETRATIONS THRU CONTAINER WALLS. ONCE CONTAINER IS PLACED AND SET ON SITE PAD CONTAINER PENETRATIONS TO BE CUT IN CONTAINER WALL AND FINAL CONNECTION TO BE INSTALLED.
 - REFERENCE DRAWINGS:
A. 1508-P010, P020 AND P030 - SYSTEM P&ID
B. 1508-M110 - GENERAL ARRANGEMENT / SITE PLAN
 - UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE ALL PIPING, FITTINGS AND VALVES WILL BE SCHEDULE 80 PVC.
 - ALL FLANGES WILL BE ANSI 150# PATTERN. BOLT HOLES SHALL STRADDLE CENTERLINES.
 - DIMENSIONS SHOWN ARE FOR INFORMATIONAL USE ONLY. TO ENSURE PROPER ALIGNMENT FIELD CONNECTIONS AND PIPING TO CONTAINER SHOULD ONLY BE DONE ONCE THE CONTAINER IS SET IN PLACE ON PAD.
 - CONTRACTOR TO SUPPLY ANY PIPING, FITTING, VALVES AND SUPPORTS EXTERNAL TO THE CONTAINER UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.

REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION OF REVISION	BY	APP'D
1	01-11-18	ISSUED FOR CUSTOMER REVIEW	DL	AWJ
2	01-11-18	ISSUED FOR CUSTOMER REVIEW	DL	AWJ
3	01-11-18	ISSUED FOR CUSTOMER REVIEW	DL	AWJ

SCALE	DATE	BY	APP'D
3/4"=1'-0"	01-11-18	DL	AWJ

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AWJ
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1
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1508-M100
1508-M100-1

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INFORMATION ONLY**

MECHANICAL
GENERAL ARRANGEMENT
MinX TREATMENT SYSTEM CONTAINER

MinX Systems in Maui

- **2019: Baldwin Ranch Estates in Haliʻimaile**
 - 50 gpm feed, 35% uptime operation (8.5 hr/day)
 - Effectively was treating nitrate-N levels from 9.0 to ≤ 2.0 mg/L of $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$
 - Elevated nitrate level has come down over the years to same levels of neighboring subdivisions
 - Unique design features:
 - Discharge of produced brine to evaporation ponds
 - First nitrate treatment system permitted in the State of Hawaiʻi
 - Owner quoted *“We’re really stoked with our system... the subdivision HOA water association is extremely pleased that we can basically remove any traces of nitrates thanks to our ion exchange process.”*
- **2023: Confidential Client in Haliʻimaile**
 - 110 gpm, 24/7 uptime
 - Designed to treat nitrate-N levels from 10.0 to ≤ 2.0 mg/L of $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$
 - To be installed, Summer, 2023

Baldwin Ranch Estates- Water Quality Model Assumption and Results

Parameter	Values
Feed Water Flow	50 gpm
Feed Nitrate Concentration	≤9 mg/L (as N)
Treated Water Nitrate Concentration	≤ 2 mg/L (as N)
Other Feed Anions	
Sulfate	≤100 mg/L
Chloride	≤60 mg/L
Bicarbonate (asHCO ₃)	≤67 mg/L
Chrome (as Cr VI)	<1.0 µg/L
Arsenic (Total)	<1.0 µg/L
Selenium	<0.5 µg/L
Other Physical Chemistry Concentrations	
Feed TDS	≤250 mg/L
Hardness (as CaCO₃)	≤140 mg/L
Feed TSS	< 1.0 mg/L
pH	6.0 -8.5
Other Water Quality Parameters	
Iron	≤50 µg/L
Manganese	≤5.0 µg/L
TOC	< 5.0 mg/L

At 35% utilization of the well:

Brine Waste Volumes	Salt Consumption
145 gallons per day	100 pounds per day
1,866 gallons of brine produced per acre-foot water treated	1,286.9 pounds of salt used per acre foot water treated

50 GPM MinX System Design (Maui, HI)



Confidential Maui Client- Water Quality Model Assumption and Results

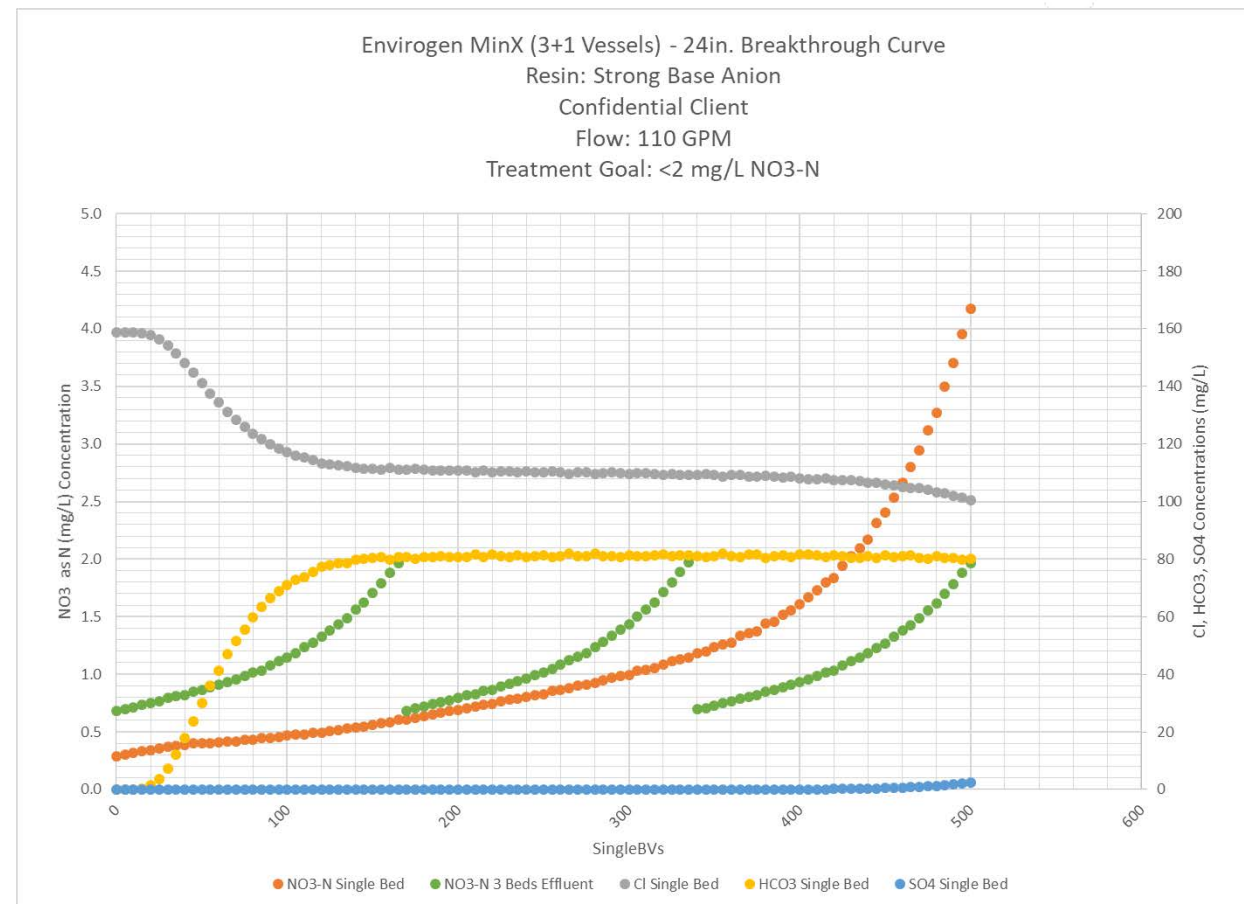
Influent and Target Effluent Flow

Analyte	Units	Influent Target	Effluent Target
Flow Rate	gpm	110	110
Nitrate (as N)	mg/L	≤10	≤2

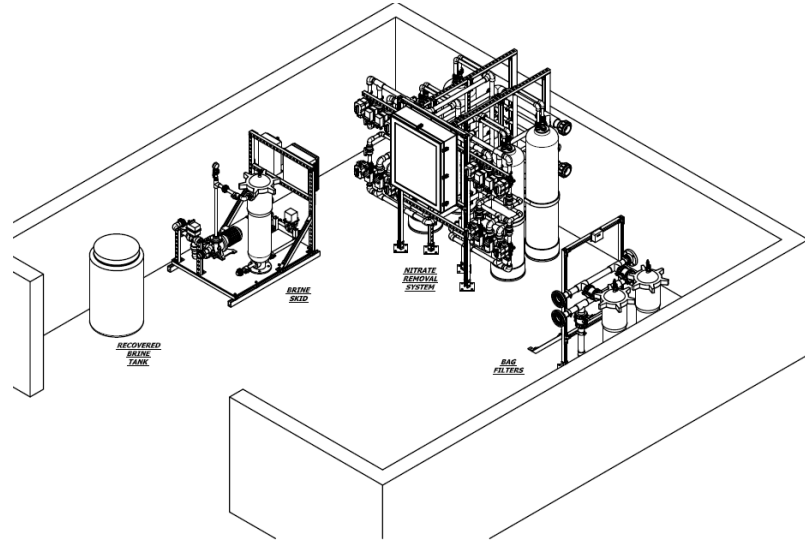
Influent Water Modeling Assumptions

Analyte	Units	Influent Range
Sulfate	mg/L	≤37
Chloride	mg/L	≤64
Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	mg/L	≤62
pH	SU	7.6-8.0

The modeling effort has predicted, in operating the MinX unit 24 hours/7 days per week at 110 gpm, the waste rate is calculated to be at 0.50% and the salt usage at 0.23 tons/day.



40 GPM MinX System Design (Lake Morena, CA)



CleanPoint ion exchange treatment system

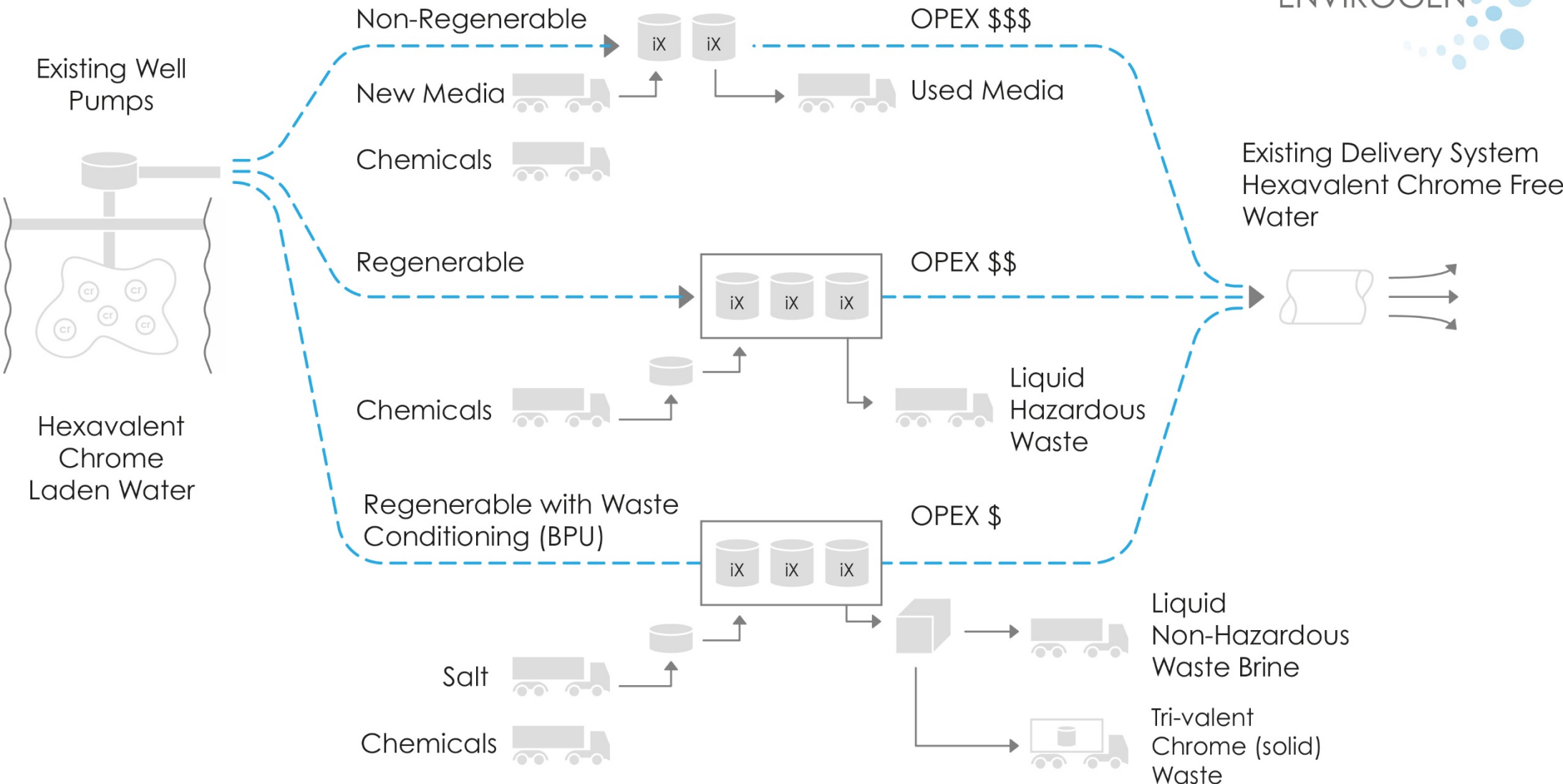
- **Replaceable resin ion exchange system**
 - Applied to low flow applications
 - Low capital cost
 - Point of Entry (POE) applications
 - Process monitoring with local alarms
- **Unit major components**
 - Pre-filtration
 - Lead-lag vessel
 - Post- Chlorinator
 - 500 gallon internal storage tank, delivery pump with pressure accumulator
- **Options- Environmental control, telemetry, external feed tank, 3rd iX vessel polisher**
- **Space requirements**
 - 10' x 10'
 - Modular design





Contaminant Treatment

Metals



Existing Well Pumps

Non-Regenerable

OPEX \$\$\$

New Media



Used Media

Chemicals

Existing Delivery System
Hexavalent Chrome Free Water

Regenerable

OPEX \$\$

Chemicals

Liquid Hazardous Waste

Regenerable with Waste Conditioning (BPU)

OPEX \$

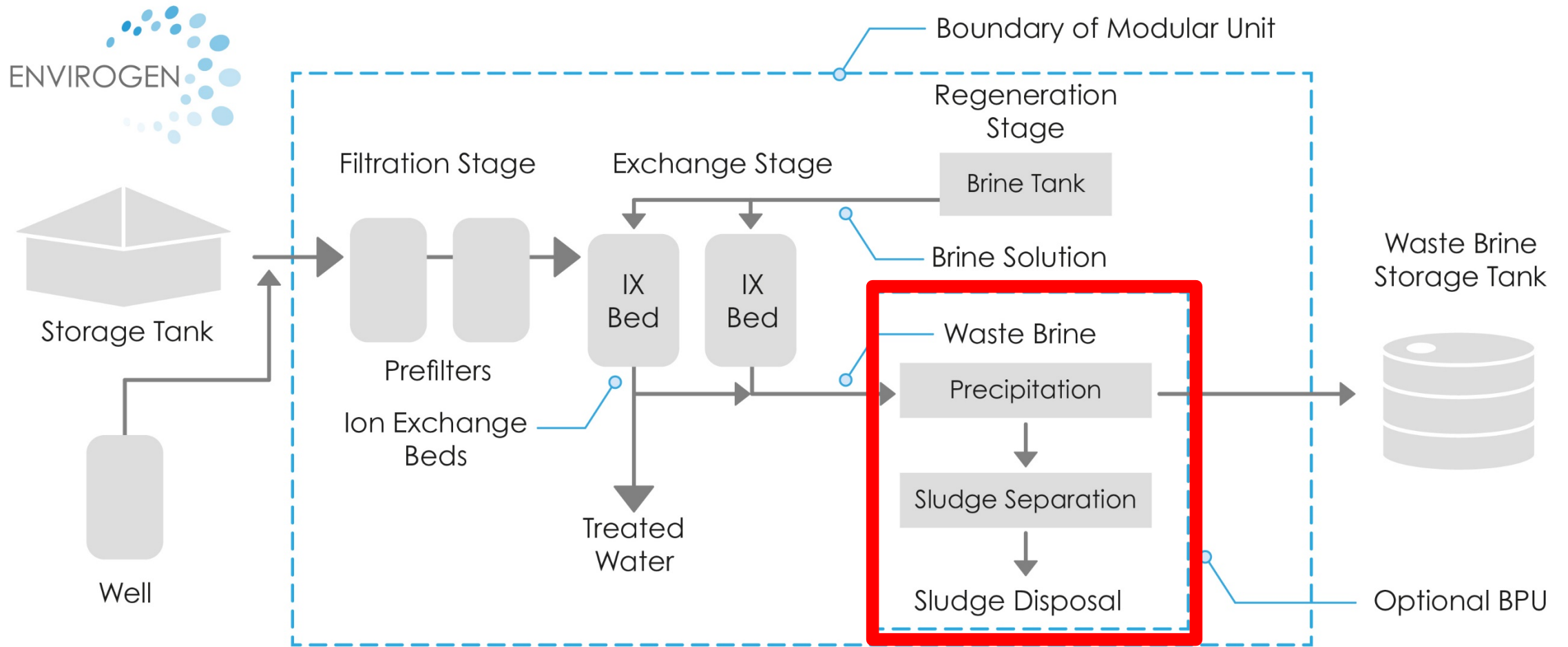
Salt

Chemicals

Liquid Non-Hazardous Waste Brine

Tri-valent Chrome (solid) Waste

Key Requirement



California Permitted Hexavalent Chrome Treatment Plants



Wells 203/303, Salinas, CA





Life-Cycle Cost Information

Life-Cycle Cost Considerations

- **Capital Costs**
 - Flow dependent
 - Containerized or in a building
 - Base cost for core infrastructure (i.e., engineering, controls, PLC, fabrication, etc.)
 - Resin type-Water chemistry dependent
- **Operational Costs**
 - Water chemistry dependent
 - Site specifics
 - Haul off waste
 - Direct pumping to a POTW
 - Direct pumping to a brine line (to ocean)
 - Deep well injection, drying/evaporation ponds, others
 - Operated continuously or via an on-needed basis
 - Level of monitoring required
 - On-site personnel requirements

Life-Cycle Cost Considerations

- **Capital Costs**
 - **SimPACK: Equipment is \$1.5K/gpm of treatment capacity (economy-of-scale above 1000 gpm)**
 - **MinX: Equipment is ~\$0.5M (25-150 gpm)**
 - **Volatile cost**
 - **Resin-\$250+/ft³ depending on resin type, manufacturers, availability, etc.**
- **Operational Costs**
 - **Salt costs: \$150/ton including freight**
 - **Disposal of non-hazardous brine**
 - **Haul off waste of non-hazardous brine-\$0.35/gallon**
 - **Direct pumping to a POTW- Variable and site specific**
 - **Direct pumping to a brine line-Variable and site specific**
 - **Evaporation ponds-Variable and site specific**
 - **On-site personnel-3x per week**
 - **Dependent on the operational usage and the regulator requirements**



IX Innovation

Regenerable IX Process Improvements

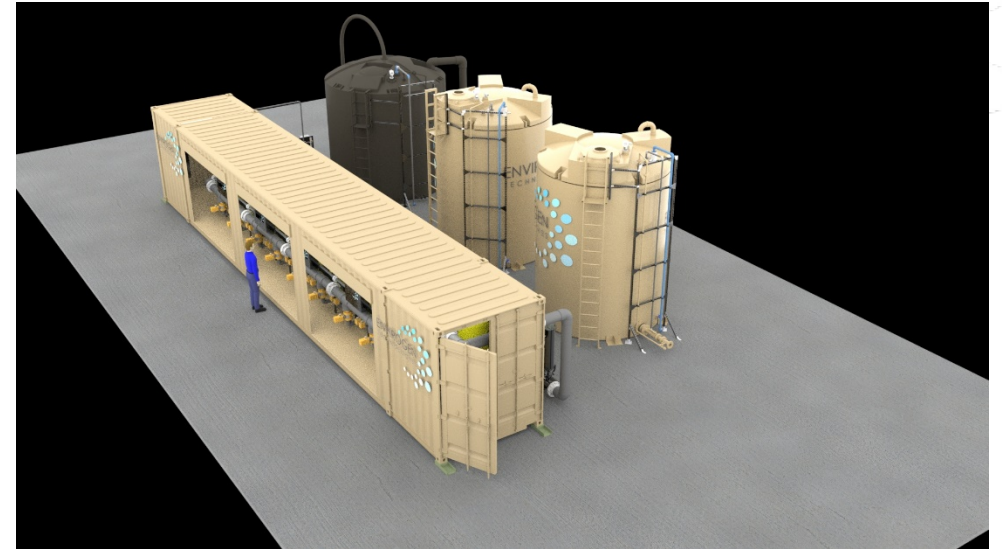
- **Goals**
 - Waste reduction 35%
 - Salt usage reduction 25%
 - Mass balances and process simulations indicate goals achievable
- **Evaluation areas**
 - BPU integration work critical
 - Secondary technologies at lower flowrates to reduce waste volume further
 - Nanofiltration/Reverse Osmosis
 - Low Temperature Distillation
 - Electrodialysis
 - Chemical Treatment
 - Waste stream segregation using existing advanced regeneration controls
 - Conductivity measurement used for rinse control
- **Demonstration Tests: Pilot- and Full-Scale Systems**
 - City of San Fernando
 - Quiet Oaks Mobile Home Park



Conclusions

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- The SimPACK and MinX regenerable IX designs have proven cost-effective for nitrate and metals water treatment for two decades.
- Several improvements in the past five years have resulted in even more efficient and simpler to operate systems.
- The life-cycle costs are site specific, highly dependent on flowrate, type of operation, and water chemistry.
- One nitrate treatment plant in Maui has been successfully operating continuously since 2019, and another is coming on line in the Summer, 2023.
- Innovations are continually being developed to reduce salt usage and waste brine production.





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QUESTIONS?/MAHALO