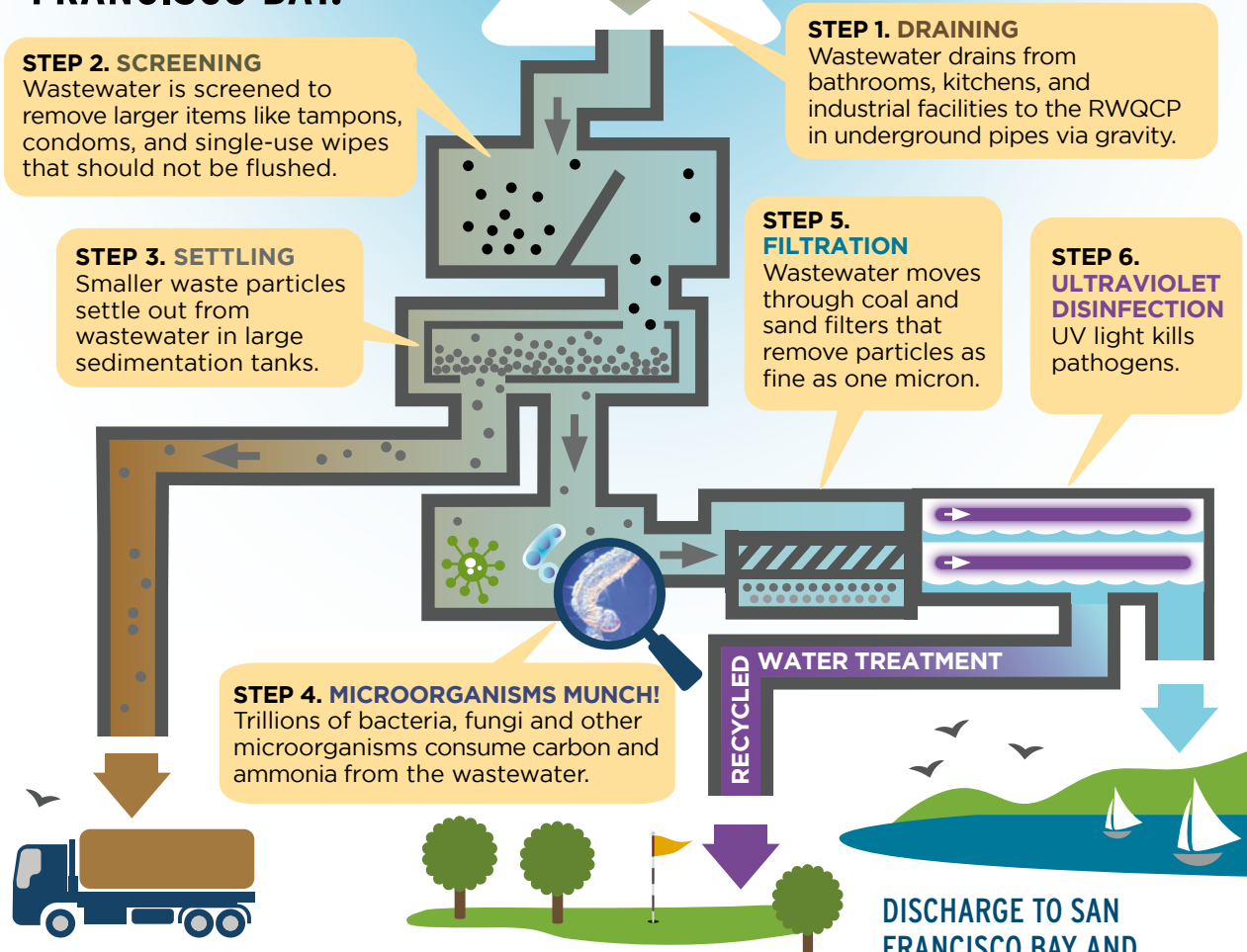
THE CITY OF PALO ALTO REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLANT CLEANS

20 MILLION GALLONS

OF WASTEWATER EVERY DAY TO PROTECT SAN FRANCISCO BAY.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER IT'S FLUSHED?

Without modern wastewater treatment, the Bay's fish, birds, mammals and plant life could not survive and the Bay would be unsafe for people to enjoy. Here's how wastewater treatment works:



STEP 1. DRAINING
Wastewater drains from bathrooms, kitchens, and industrial facilities to the RWQCP in underground pipes via gravity.

STEP 2. SCREENING
Wastewater is screened to remove larger items like tampons, condoms, and single-use wipes that should not be flushed.

STEP 3. SETTLING
Smaller waste particles settle out from wastewater in large sedimentation tanks.

STEP 4. MICROORGANISMS MUNCH!
Trillions of bacteria, fungi and other microorganisms consume carbon and ammonia from the wastewater.

STEP 5. FILTRATION
Wastewater moves through coal and sand filters that remove particles as fine as one micron.

STEP 6. ULTRAVIOLET DISINFECTION
UV light kills pathogens.

SOLIDS DEWATERING AND HAULING

Biosolids are dewatered and hauled to offsite facilities where they are treated prior to being reused as compost and fertilizer.

RECYCLED WATER

1 million gallons of recycled water are generated daily for irrigation on golf courses and landscaping. Recycled water receives additional filtration and chlorine treatment before use.

DISCHARGE TO SAN FRANCISCO BAY AND RENZEL MARSH

20 hours after the process starts, more than 99% of the pollutants from human waste have been removed. The treated water is released to Palo Alto Baylands.

Visit cleanbay.org for a short video of the wastewater treatment process and to learn about other efforts to protect San Francisco Bay.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLANT

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04/23 ♻ Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper, bleached without chlorine.