RDCO Westside Wastewater Update

Regional District of Central Okanagan Presentation

2025

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Regional District of Central Okanagan
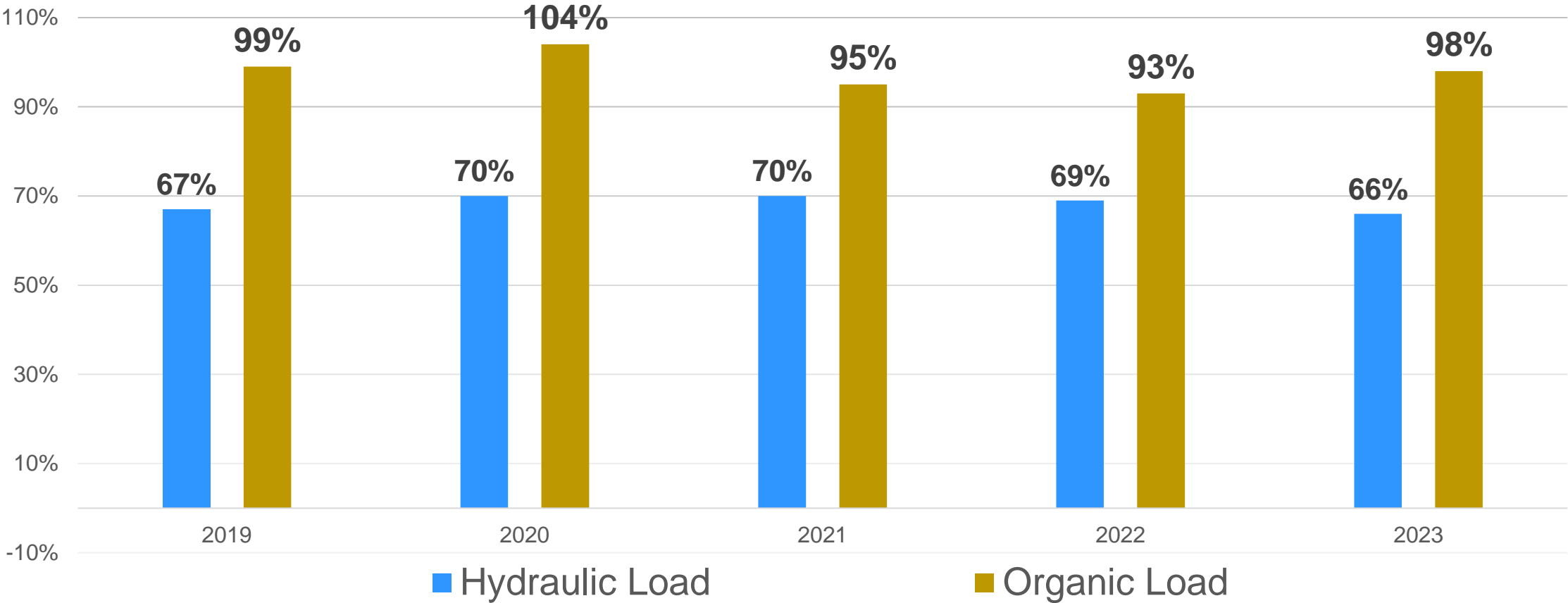
Background

- RDCO Bylaw 1315
  - Regulates all wastewater entering the Westside Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (WRWTP)
- Issue:
  - High strength wastewater released from businesses
  - Bylaw 1315 requires pre-treatment
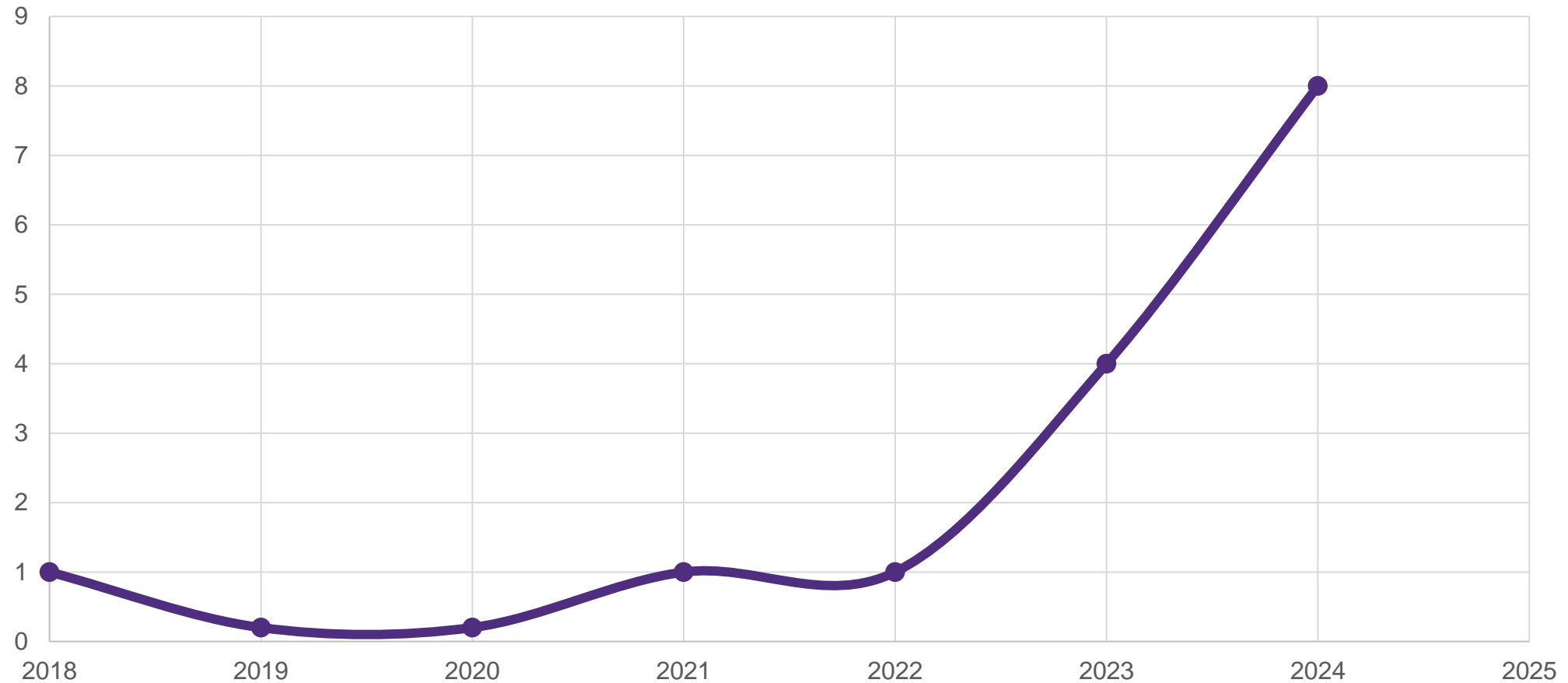 - Lack of pre-treatment -> Downstream impacts

Background

PLANT LOADING CAPACITY

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Hydraulic Load	67%	70%	70%	69%	66%
Organic Load	99%	104%	95%	93%	98%

■ Hydraulic Load ■ Organic Load

Background – Plant Performance

- WRWTP - Performance Challenges
  - Associated with nutrient removal
  - Likely causes:
    - Chemicals
    - Concentrated wastes from business & industry
    - Process limitations

Background - Regulatory exceedances (2018-2025)

Background – Actions Taken

- Source Control:
  - Site inspections, sampling, and compliance orders
  - Education focused efforts – fines only when necessary

- Plant Performance:
  - Investigated wastewater
  - Engaged WRWTP design engineer
  - Engaged consultants for additional support
  - Adjusting operating procedures and process controls
  - Piloting temporary measures

Next Steps – Bylaw Enforcement

- RDCO has already:
  - Led with engagement and warnings
  - Provided ample time for compliance
  - Established a cross-jurisdiction staff working group

- Next steps:
  - Adjust RDCO bylaw to enable maximum financial penalties
    - "Ensure penalties are high enough so this doesn't become part of normal business"
  - Continue to collaborate with Municipal and First Nation partners

Bylaw Penalties

- Apply financial penalties to non-compliant users
  - $50,000 long form
  - $3,000 tickets, per day, per offence

All fines and penalties collected will go into Westside Wastewater Reserves to offset operating and capital expenses

What if we can't fix it?

- Regulatory obligations must be met on an ongoing basis

- 2025 will be an important year:
  - If we resolve the issues, maintain ~2032 upgrade date for WWTP.
    - Additional time to build reserves & prepare for grants
  - If issues persist, fast track upgrades to ~2027/2028 ($30M)
    - Reserve will not be sufficient, grants may not be available

Thank you