CASE STUDY - AUBURN LAKES SEWER SYSTEM

Confluence Rivers acquired the Auburn Lakes wastewater system in May 2019, along with the neighborhood's drinking water system. Its extended aeration treatment plant was built in the mid-2000s with enough capacity for about 900 people, sized for a 182-lot subdivision that stalled when the housing downturn halted construction. By 2018, only a handful of homes had been built, leaving the plant operating far below capacity. Today the system serves 67 connections and approximately 168 residents, with additional homes being added each year. At acquisition, key equipment needed attention. The aeration blowers, which are essential to the biological treatment process and to meeting discharge permit limits, required repair, and the collection system had sewer main and service line issues that needed to be addressed to protect residents and the environment.

The first priority was keeping treatment reliable and protecting the tributary of Big Creek that receives the plant's treated effluent. The plant's blowers were rebuilt and replaced over several years, including a new blower installed in early 2026, ensuring the consistent aeration needed for effective treatment. Crews also repaired sewer mains and service lines throughout the neighborhood, reducing the risk of leaks and backups for residents.

Confluence Rivers has invested over $157,000 in the Auburn Lakes wastewater system through acquisition, system improvements, and ongoing operations. Remote monitoring, alarms, and flow metering are planned for the plant, giving operators real-time visibility into system performance. With capacity already in place for every planned home, the plant is positioned to provide safe, reliable service through the neighborhood's full build-out without major expansion.

Facility at Acquisition



Treatment plant overview



Original aeration blowers, showing corrosion and wear