STEP

1

The treatment process begins as raw wastewater passes through a bar screen to remove roots, rags, plastic, and other large items.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLANT

STEP

2

The wastewater is pumped into sedimentation tanks, where floating material such as hair and grease are skimmed off. The thick sludge settles to the bottom. Both the sludge and floating material are pumped to blend tanks for processing.

STEP

3

The water trickles through two-story towers called fixed film reactors. Inside the towers, microorganisms, forming a film on a plastic honeycomb, eat the organic matter in the wastewater.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLANT

STEP

4

Air bubbles up through the wastewater in aeration basins like giant aquariums. The air supports microorganisms that remove the remaining dissolved solids and ammonia, a chemical toxic to fish.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLANT

STEP

5

The water becomes clearer, or clarified, as the microorganisms fall to the bottom of the settling basins.

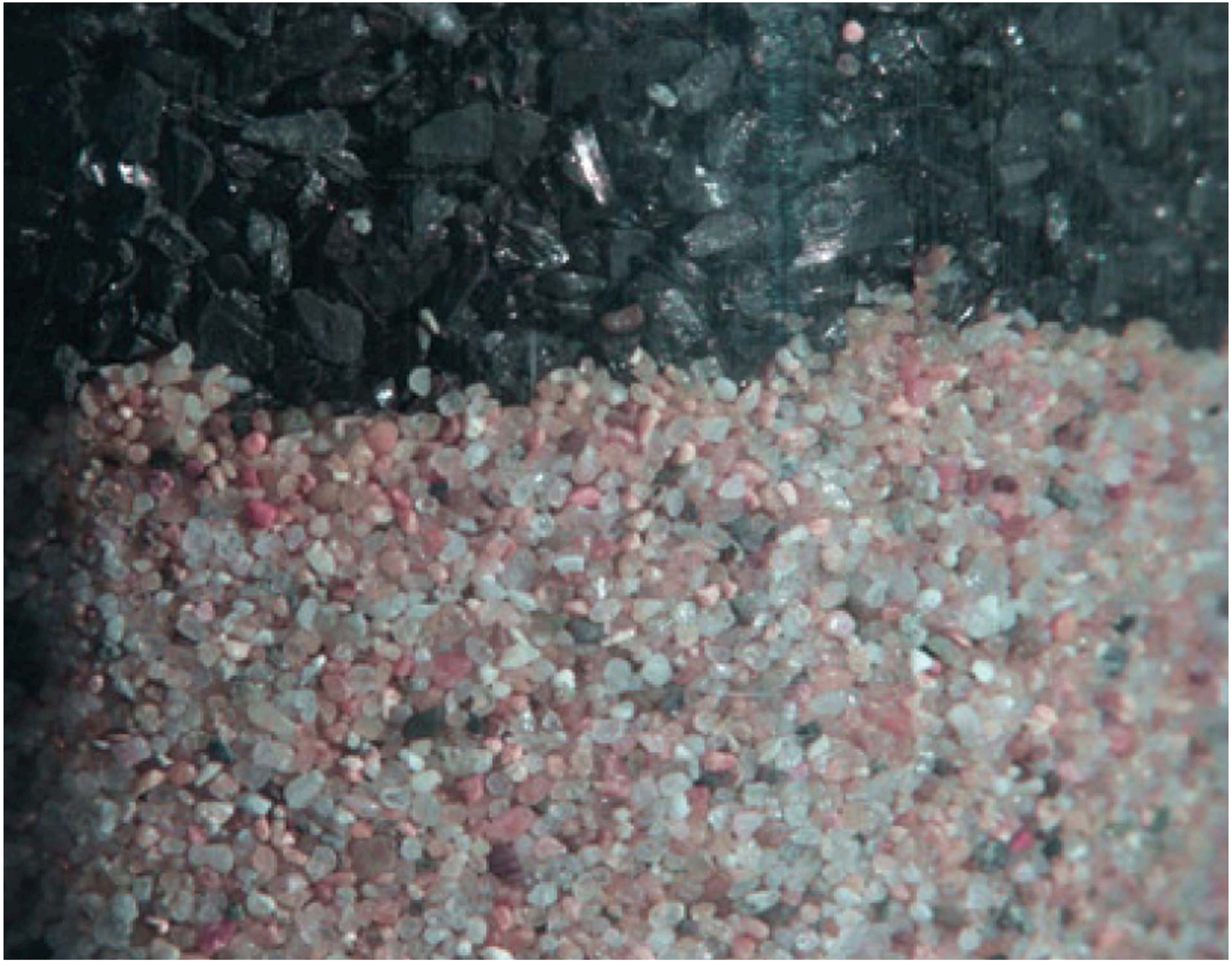
The settled organisms are pumped to the blend tank or the aeration basins for reuse.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLANT

STEP

6

The clarified water flows through filter beds made from layers of anthracite coal and sand to remove small particles.

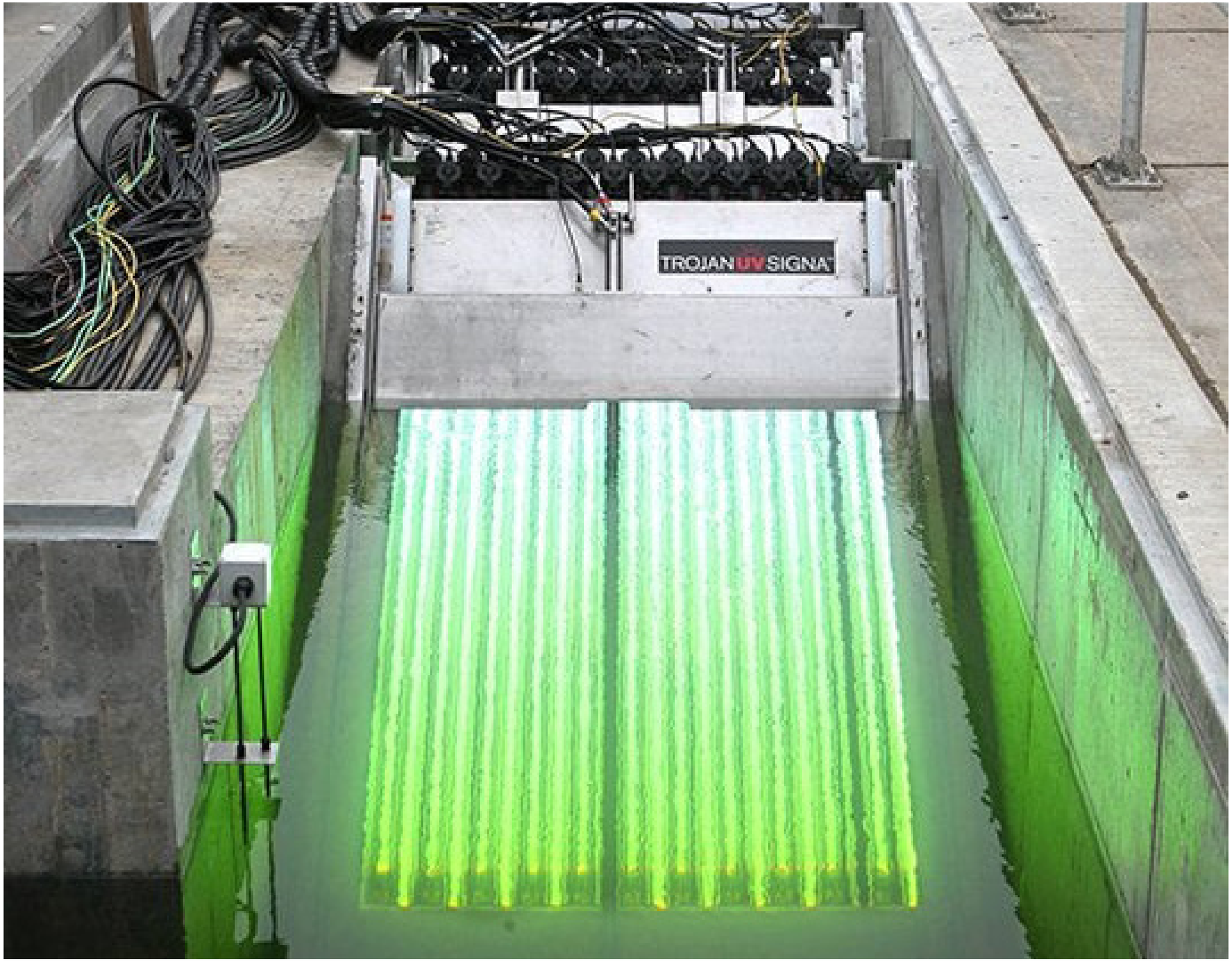


REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLANT

STEP 7

Ultraviolet light disinfection cleans the water by damaging the DNA of bacteria and other microorgamisms, eliminating their ability to reproduce.

This step is only done for water that we release into the Bay.



REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLANT

Quality Assurance is emphasized at each step in the process. We conduct chemical and biological analyses to ensure that the cleaning processes are successful.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLANT

STEP 8

The treated wastewater is released to the Baylands or some is used to water plants in our City.

The treated waste water is 99% clean.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLANT