


Sustainable Solutions for Wastewater Treatment

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Goals of a sustainable water management

- Use of limited water resources should be sustainable
 - Water supply has the highest priority
 - Qualitative requirements
 - Quantitative requirements
 - Monetary claims
 - Sustainable implementation
 - Robust and reliable techniques
 - Minimal, if possible, no impact on the environment
 - Wastewater treatment and removal
 - For hygienic reasons wastewater must be quickly removed from settlements
 - Wastewater Treatment aims for removal (of carbon/nitrogen/phosphorus compounds) and hygienisation
 - Wastewater should not negatively affect people and environment
- 
- A photograph showing a blue and white tanker truck parked at a blue water pump structure. The truck is positioned next to a brick wall, and a large blue sign is visible on the wall above the pump. The scene is outdoors, and the truck appears to be collecting water from the pump.



Challenges for sustainable water management

- Water resources are often extensively used in water scarcity regions (consumption >> supply)
 - Exploited sources are groundwater and surface water
- Many different users and actors are involved
 - Consumers
 - Stakeholders
 - Nature & environment



- Planning processes often have to be carried out based on insufficient data basis

Tools & methods for achieving the goals

- Which data is required and available for planning?
- Which potential users for reclaimed water are available?
- What water qualities are required?
- Which technology can clean wastewater and transform it into reclaimed water?



Which water qualities are required?

- Drinking water quality:
 - mainly in residential areas,
 - in (food) processing industry,
 - industry in general
- Irrigation water:
 - mainly for agriculture,
 - nurseries,
 - city/community,
 - environmental system services,
 - private properties
- Effluent of WWTP:
 - water bodies such as rivers, lakes, sea
- Service water quality:
 - mainly from industry & commerce, the requirements must be considered case-specifically → is not considered here...



What wastewater qualities are due?

- Municipal wastewater

- mixture of blackwater (faeces, urine, rinsing water) and greywater (from kitchen, bathroom)
- Wastewater from small businesses, handicrafts, public administration
- Wastewater from processed (small) businesses, e.g. slaughterhouses, bakeries, etc.



- Industrial wastewater

- Wastewater from administration, toilets, etc.
- Cooling water
- Rinsing and cleaning water
- Production wastewater (differs greatly from each other)



Which data is required and available for planning?

- The more, the better...
- 1st Priority: Check the Site!
- 2nd Priority: Measure yourself!
 - Old data can be outdated due to significant changes
 - Data quality can differ
 - How were the samples taken? Who took the samples?
- 3rd Priority: Fill in the gaps!
 - Only if data is not available or cannot be measured
 - Try to make a reasonable assumption



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Comparison of data quality: grab samples vs. 2h mixed samples

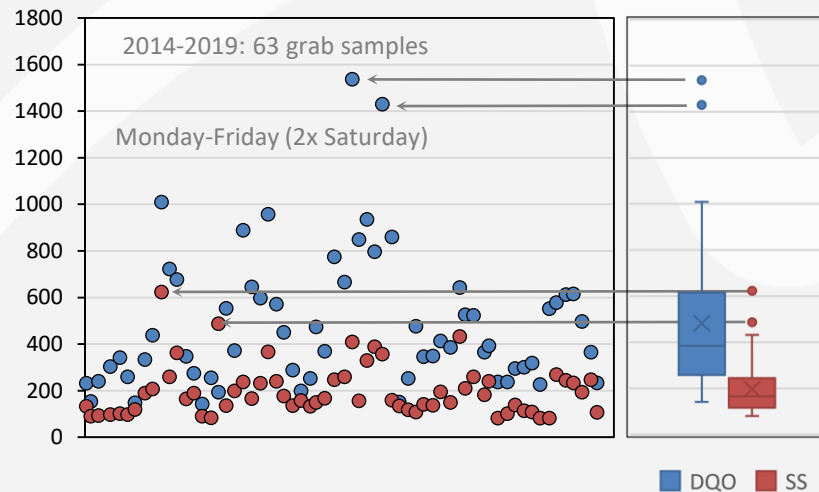
Grab samples

- Only taken once
- No statement about daily fluctuations
- Depending on the WWTP size hydraulic retention of wastewater is less than 24 h.

2h mixed samples

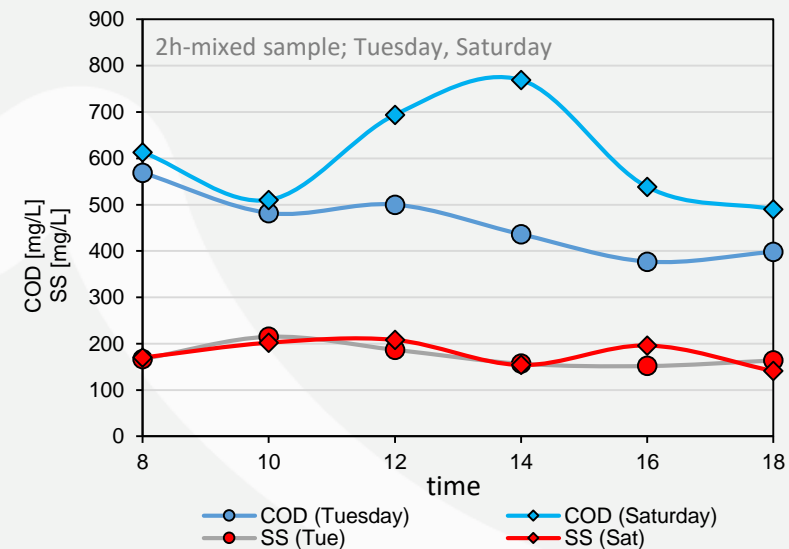
- 5 samples within 2h equally mixed
- no statement about seasonal fluctuations

Comparison: Data quality of grab samples vs. 2h mixed samples



DQO (85%): 758 mg/L; SS (85%): 265 mg/L
DQO (avrg.): 482 mg/L; SS (avrg.): 198 mg/L

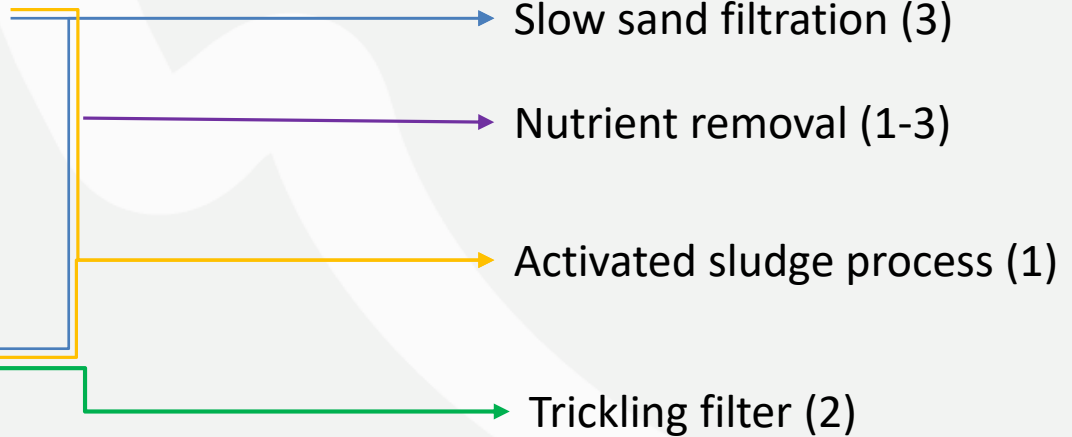
Shock load? Daily variation?



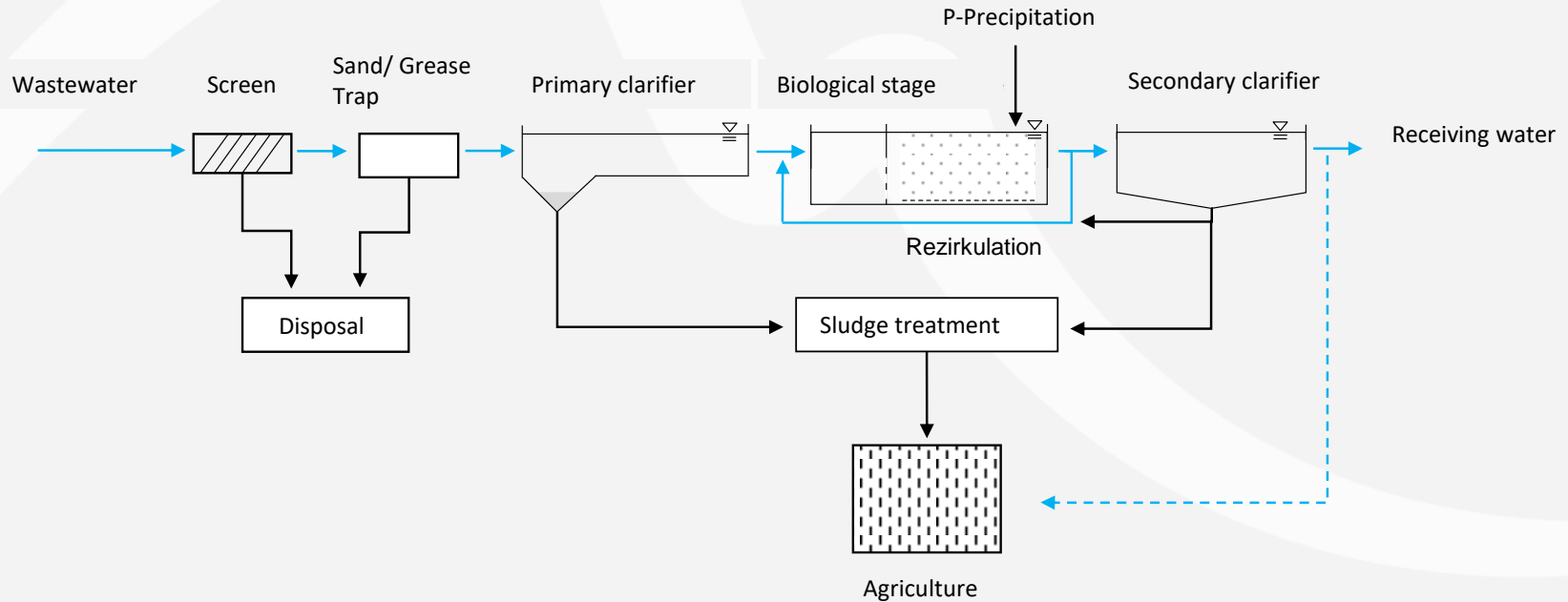
DQO (85%): 713 mg/L; SS (85%): 204 mg/L
Shock load DQO: Factor 1,3

Which technology can clean wastewater and transform it into reclaimed water? – technical suggestions

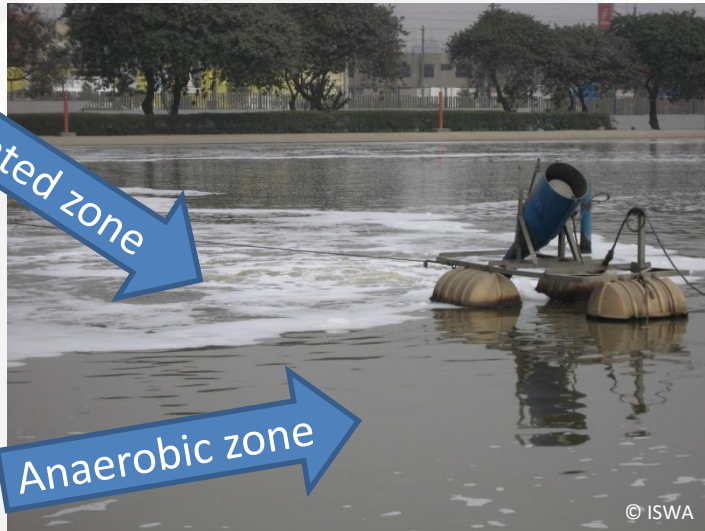
- Physical cleaning processes
 - Screening, sedimentation, flotation
- Chemical cleaning processes
 - Precipitation/flocculation,
 - Oxidation, reduction
- Biological cleaning processes
 - plants
 - bacteria
 - algae
 - fungi
 -



(1) Activated sludge process



(1) Biological treatment with aerated ponds



insufficient oxygen supply due too few aerators; $O_2 < 2 \text{ mg/L}$

(1) Biological Treatment with activated sludge system

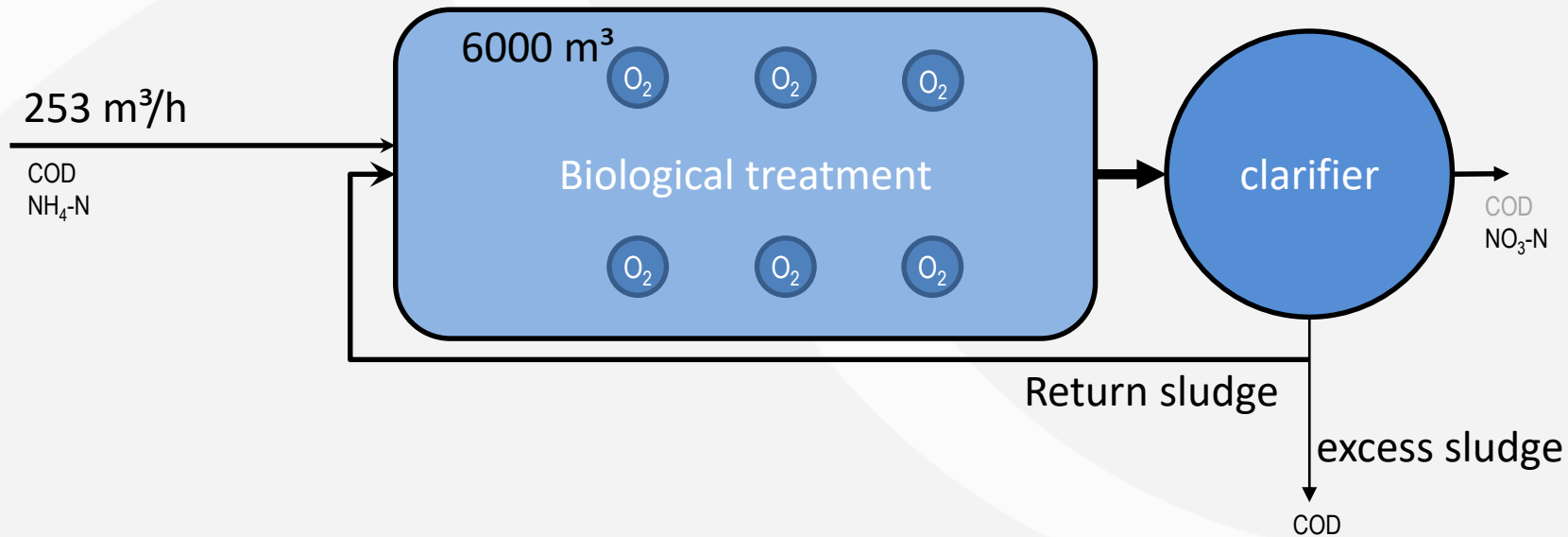


oxygen supply with diffusers; $O_2 > 4 \text{ mg/L}$

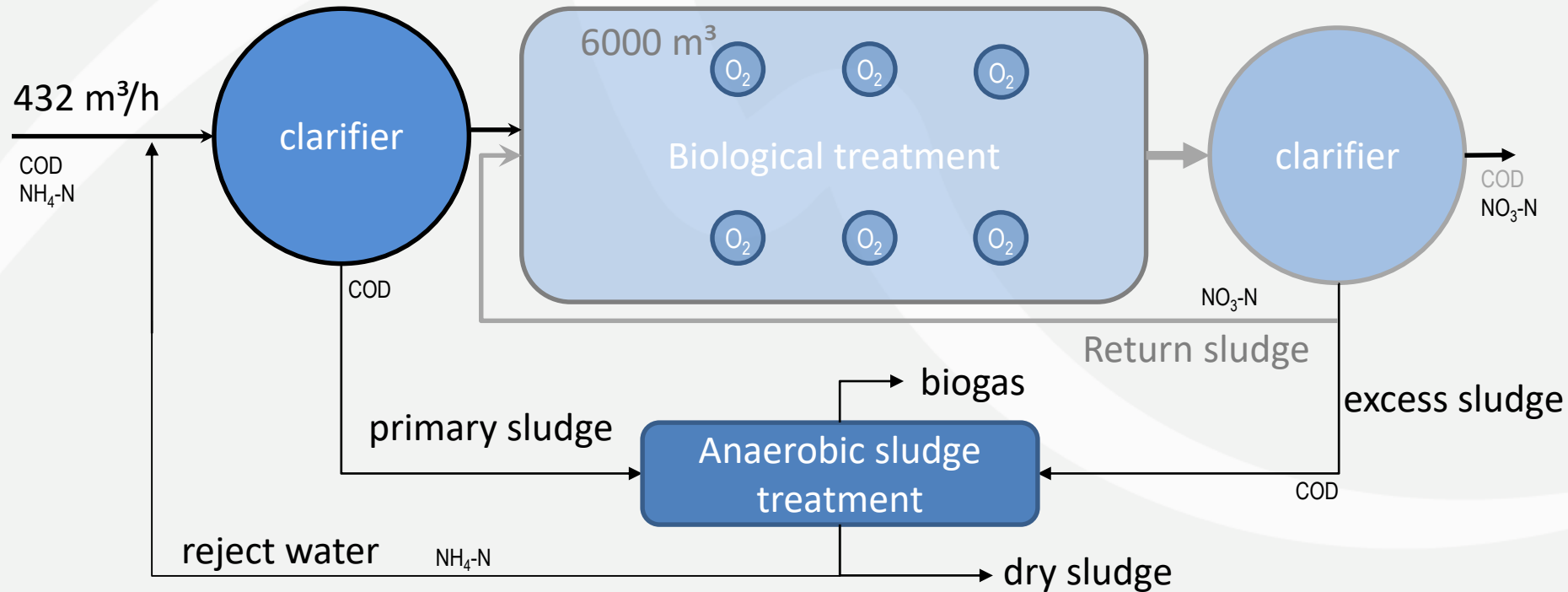
Improving the performance of WWTP

- Primary clarifier:
 - separation of primary sludge (50% COD removal; 50% SS removal);
 - utilisation in anaerobic digester for biogas production (~50% of energy demand can be covered)
- Using membrane diffusers for oxygen supply:
 - better performance in terms of oxygen dissolution
- Denitrification:
 - use nitrate for COD-removal (recycle nitrate to pre-denitrification)

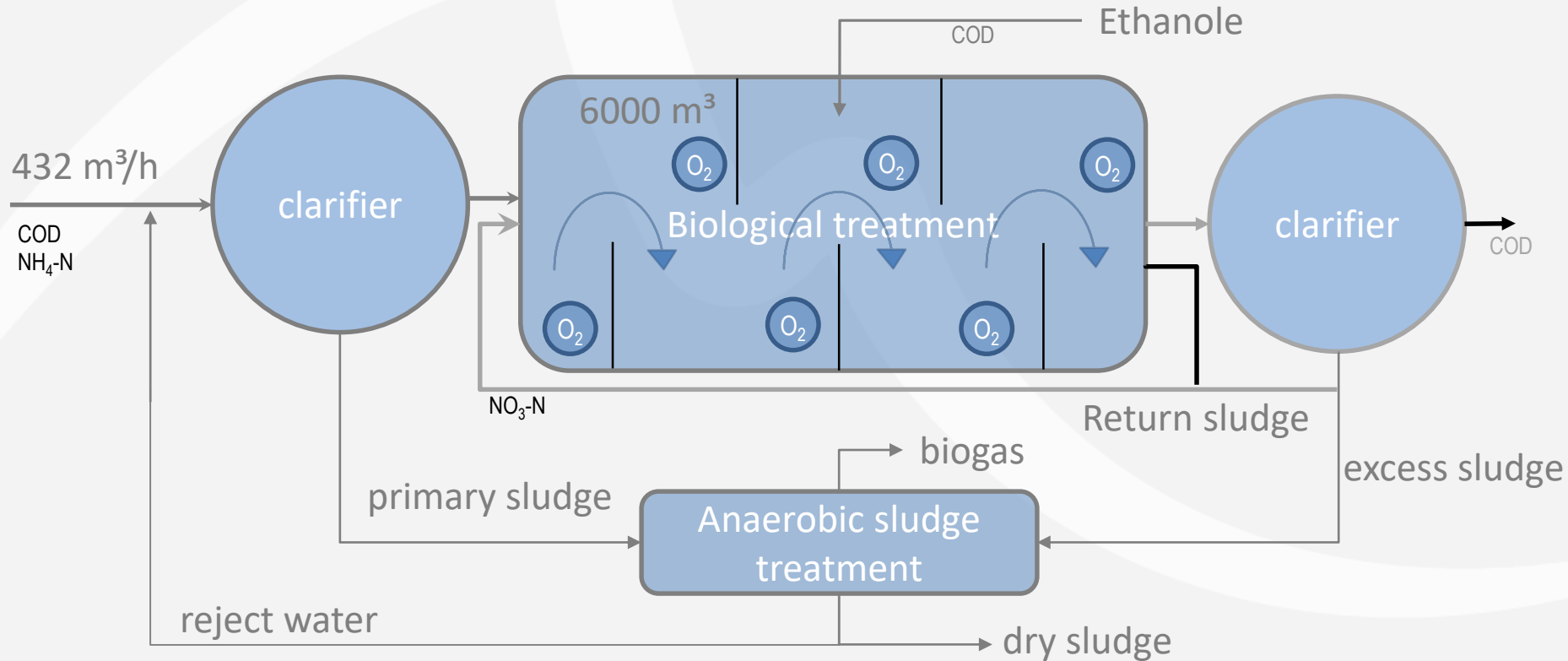
Case Study: Upgrading an existing WWTP



Upgrade I: primary clarifier + anaerobic sludge treatment



Upgrade II: denitrification + (indirect) re-use options



Expected effluent quality

Parameters*	Influent	Influent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent
	Measured by ISWA	Grab samples (n = 63)	existing WWTP (according to german design rules – A131)	Upgrade I: Primary clarifier + anaerobic sludge treatment	Upgrade II: Nutrient removal + reuseability
Q_in [L/s]	70,3	77	70,3	120	120
COD [mg/L]	713	758	50	50	50
SS [mg/L]	204	265	<l.o.d.	<l.o.d.	<l.o.d.
TN [mg/L]	76	-	57	69,6	6,8
NO ₃ -N [mg/L]	-	-	55	67,6	~27 (6,8**)
P [mg/L]	8	-	4,4	4,7	0,5
V_biological treatment [m ³]	-	6000	1200	1500	5000
Oxygen demand [kg O ₂ /d]	-	-	1760	5000	4600 (+ 0,8 m ³ Ethanole)
Primary sludge/secondary sluge [kg oTS/d]			- / 2000	1040/2550	1040/2200
Energy (biogas, 60% CH ₄) [m ³ /d]				~1400	~1300

* 85-percentile; ** with additional Ethanole

(2) Concept: Tricklingfilter



Filter material:

Lava rocks,
Plastic profiles etc.

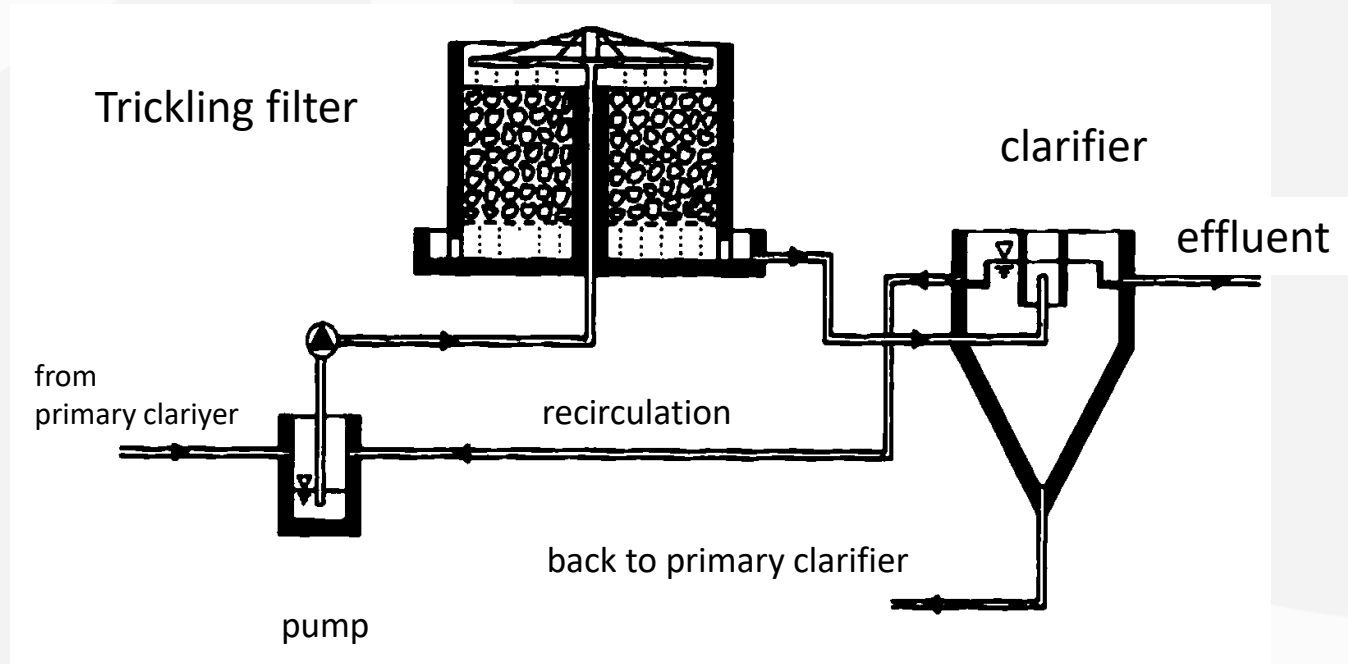


Topview of a trickling filter filled with lava rocks (Sindelfingen, Germany)



Topview of a trickling filter with plastic profiles

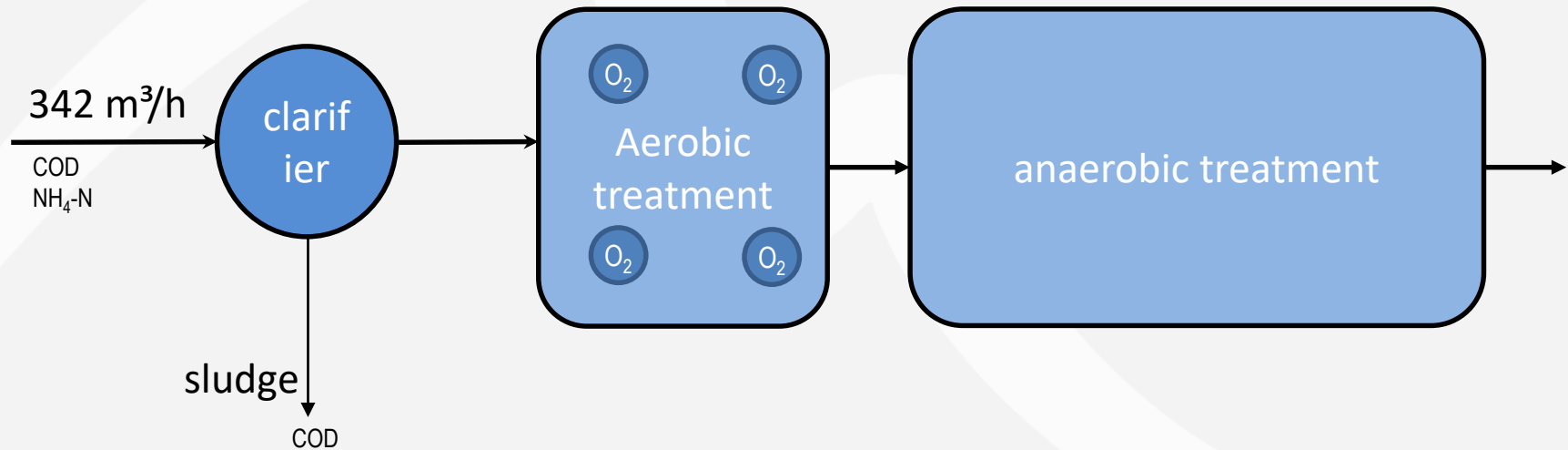
(2) Concept: Tricklingfilter



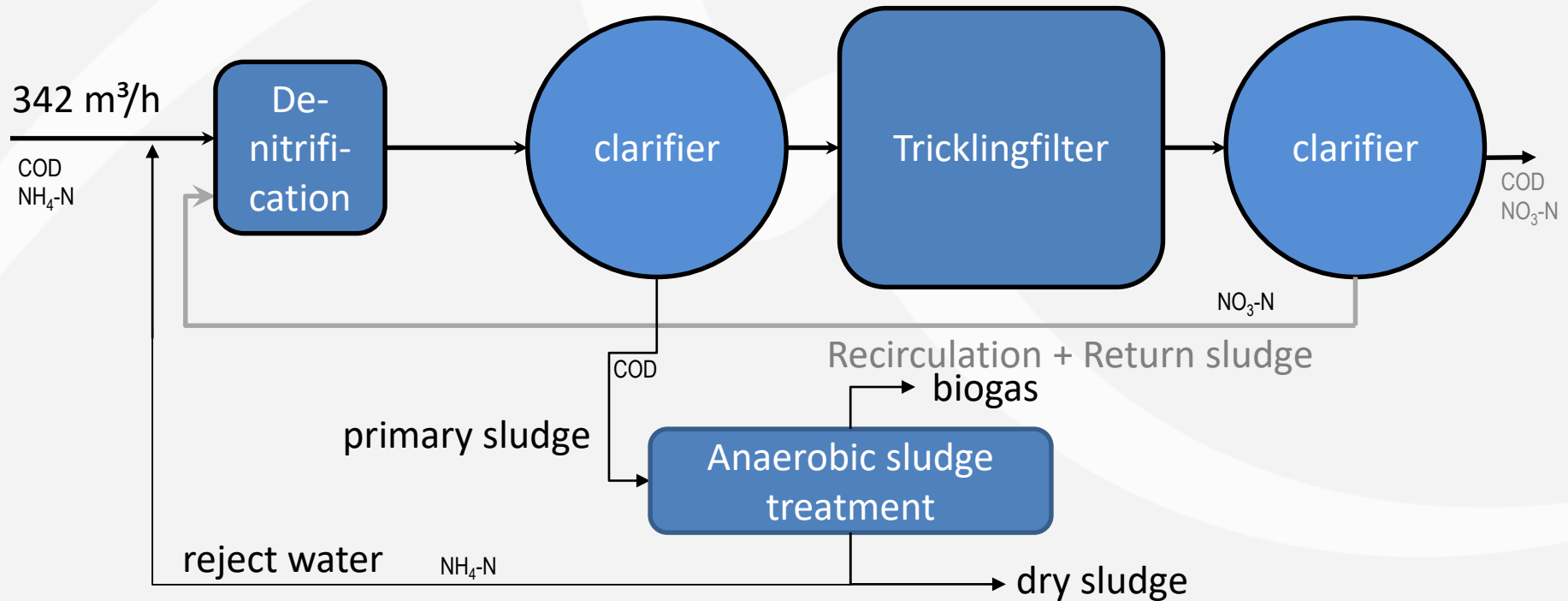
Mudrack und Kunst (2003): „Biologie der Abwasserreinigung“

© ISWA

Case Study: Upgrading an existing WWTP



New process design:



Expected effluent quality

Parameters*	Influent	Influent	Influent	Effluent
	Measured by ISWA	Grab samples (n = 38)	Design values for Trickling Filter	
Q_in [L/s]	90	64,4	90	90
COD [mg/L]	713	1394	1394	85
SS [mg/L]	566	582	582	<l.o.d.
TN [mg/L]	161	-	161	6
NO ₃ -N [mg/L]	-	-	-	4
P [mg/L]	8	-	8	2
V_Trickling filter [m ³]				8300
Recirculation factor				7,9 (=90 L/s x 7,9 = 711 L/s)
Primary sludge/ secondary sludge [kg oTS/d]				2700 / 2500
Energy (biogas, 60% CH ₄) [m ³ /d]				~2100

- V_DN = 3200 m³
- V_PC = 3200 m³
- V_SC = 3200 m³
- 4 Trickling filters (23 m diameter, 5 m height)

Drawback:

To achieve the effluent quality a lot of wastewater has to be recirculated (711 L/s + 90 L/s inflow).

(3) Slow Sand filtration: polishing reclaimed water



©Dr. Stauder

Slow Sand filters in India



©Dr. Stauder

Expected effluent quality of slow sand filters

Parameters	Influent	Effluent
Measured by iswa		
Q_in [L/(m² h)]	300	300
NH ₄ -N [mg/L]	0,30	0,01
NO ₃ -N [mg/L]	11,1	11,6
NO ₂ -N [mg/L]	0,14	0,06
COD [mg/L]	15	12
Turbidity [NTU]	0,55	0,15
Coli. Bacteria [MPN/100mL]	119	1
Clostridium perfringens [CBU/100mL]	10	0
Somat. Coliphages [PFU/100mL]	2	1

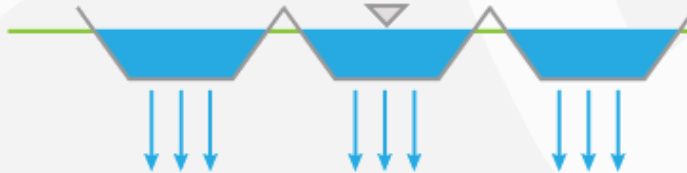
Possibilities of infiltration

*Low requirements for the
quality of infiltrate*

100 L/s ~ 10.000 m³

1.

Recharge Basin



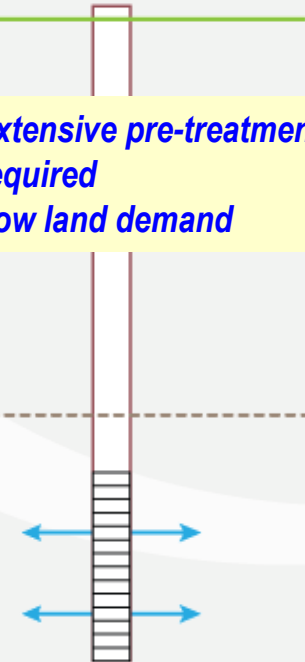
2.

Vadose Zone
Infiltration channel



3.

Direct
Injection Well



*Extensive pre-treatment
required
Low land demand*

4.

River management



No land demand

Proposal: Quality for aquifer recharge

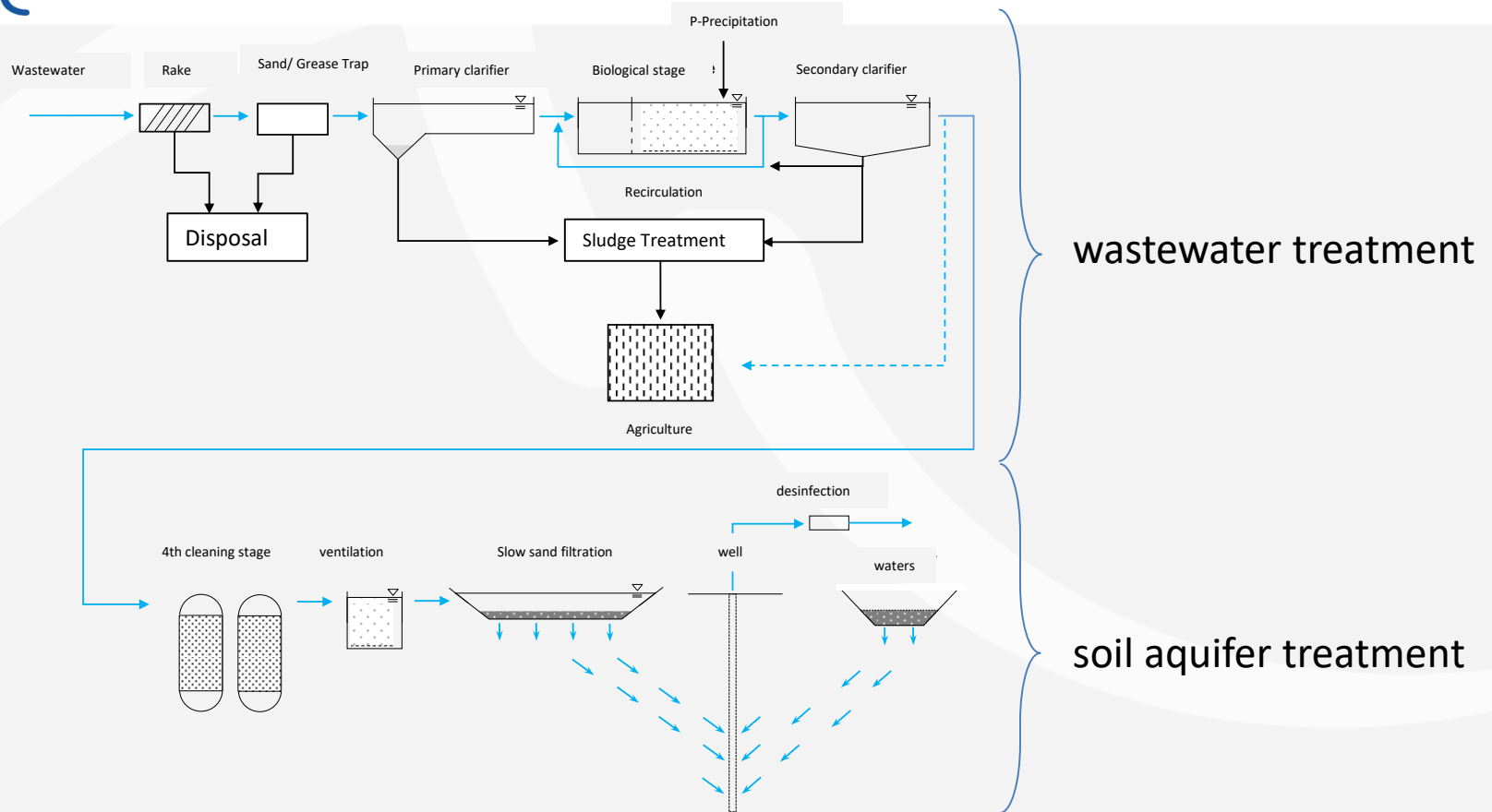
Parameter Unit

		injection	recharge well	recharge basins	
Turbidity	NTU		0.1	2	US EPA 2012
Escherichia coli	KBE/100 ml		0	1000	Vilanova et al. 2013
TOC	mg/l		1	10	Vilanova et al. 2013
Nitrogene, total	mg/l		10	10	EU UWWTD 1991
Sulfate	mg/l		150	150	Vilanova et al. 2013
Lead	mg/l		0.0012	0.0012	LAWA 2016
Biozides, total	mg/l		0.0005	0.0005	LAWA 2016

Injection wells:
Water quality requirements
rather high. Advanced
treatment (e.g. RO, O₃/BAC)
necessary

Recharge basins:
„Conventional“ waste water
treatment sufficient

Overall process



Summary & Conclusion

- Water is a limited and (over-)exploited commodity. Many different users demand different water qualities → reclaimed water can be a solution.
- Sufficient data for planning is often scarce. → check the site, measure yourself, fill the gaps
- Wastewater treatment must be done with suitable technologies, e.g.
 - Primary sedimentation tanks (solids removal)
 - Activated sludge process
 - Tricklingfilter process
 - Desinfection (e.g. by slow sand filtration)
 - Sludge treatment e.g. by anaerobic treatment
- Treated wastewater (reclaimed water) is a valuable commodity



**Thank you very
much!**

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