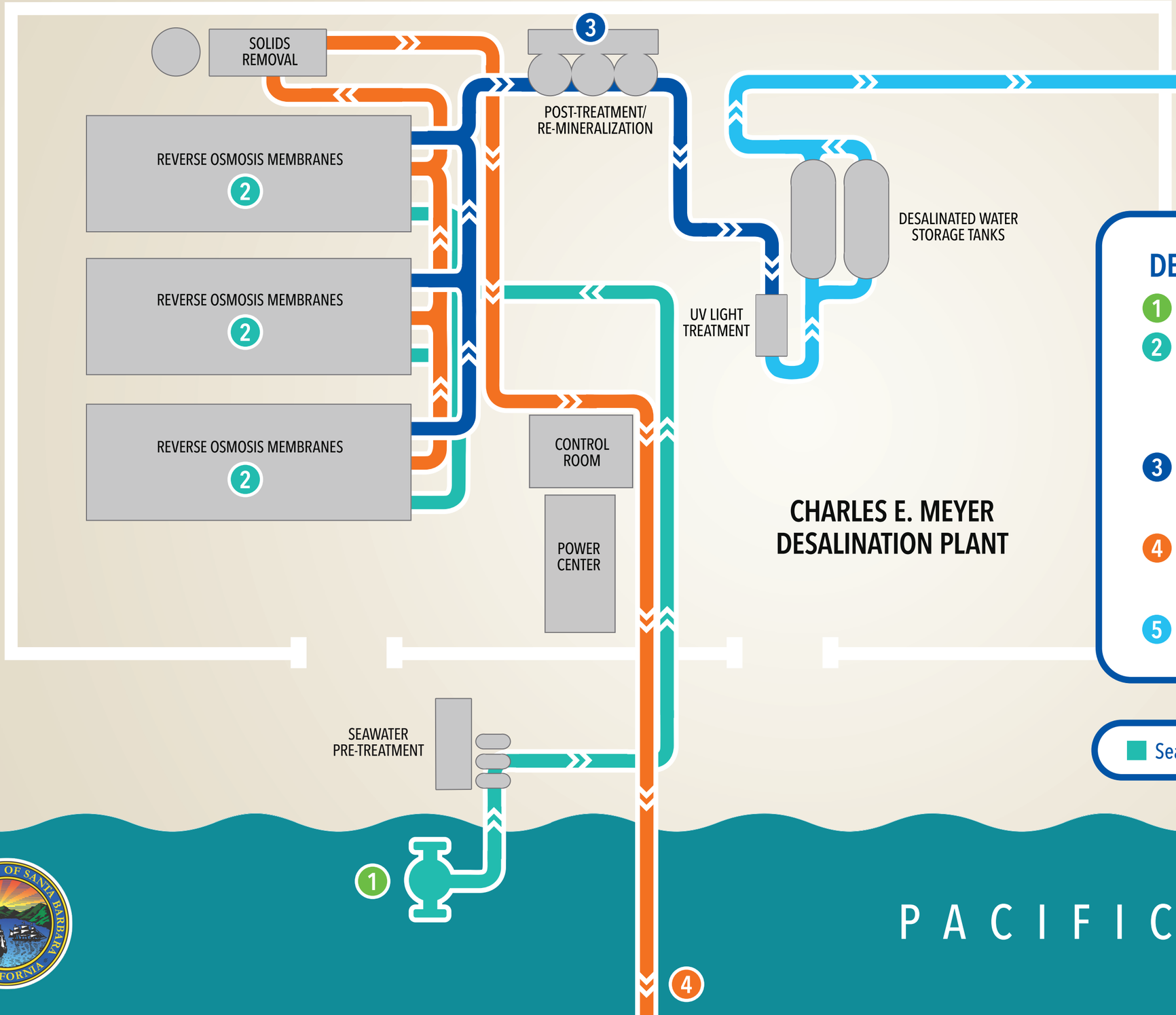
How Does Santa Barbara's Desalination Plant Work?



DESALINATION PROCESS:

1. **Seawater Intake from Pacific Ocean**
2. **Seawater Filtration**
   Seawater is first filtered through a sand and gravel media filter. It is then forced through reverse osmosis membranes that inhibit the passage of minerals (including salts) while permitting only water to pass through.
3. **Post-treatment Re-Mineralization**
   Desalinated water is adjusted for pH (salinity/alkalinity) and natural minerals are added.
4. **Brine Release to Ocean**
   Brine is mixed with City's treated wastewater and then released over a mile and a half offshore.
5. **Distribution to Water Customers**

Seawater | Brine | Desalinated Water