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**To:** aelshani@cityofmelrose.org <aelshani@cityofmelrose.org>



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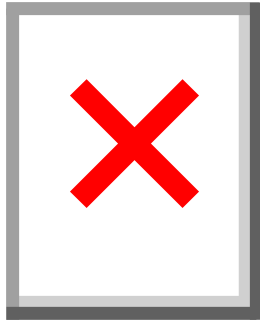
August 14, 2025



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## Today's News

### **EPA adopts new tools to speed up Superfund cleanups**

The Environmental Protection Agency is using new tools such as presumptive remedies and removal actions to accelerate Superfund cleanups. Under the Trump administration, the EPA has addressed 701,803 cubic yards of contaminated soil and water. "Addressing these sites cannot be a years-long effort before we even dig a shovel into the dirt," said Deputy Administrator David Fotouhi.

**Full Story:** [Bloomberg Law](#) (8/13)



## Building a Reuse Master Plan for Your Needs

Watch CDM Smith's on-demand webinar on reuse master planning and explore how communities and organizations can strategically evaluate both non-potable and potable reuse options. Earn 1 PDH for free when you finish.

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## Environmental Protection

### Puerto Rico developers ordered to halt water pollution

The Environmental Protection Agency has ordered Desarrolladora Yahir and A & M Group to stop discharging sediment-laden runoff from a residential construction site in Rincon, Puerto Rico, into nearby waterways. The EPA says the companies have violated a general construction permit by allowing uncontrolled stormwater runoff to flow into Piletas Creek and the Caribbean Sea, and the order will force the companies to install erosion and sediment controls and submit compliance reports.

**Full Story:** [Underground Infrastructure](#) (8/2025)



### Boil-water order lifted in Calif. communities

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has lifted a boil-water order for Granada Hills and Porter Ranch after declaring tap water safe to drink. The order affected more than 9,200 customers after a valve broke during repair work, and the LADWP distributed more than 1 million bottles of water during the outage.

**Full Story:** [KABC-TV \(Los Angeles\)](#) (8/12)



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## Circular Water Economy

### Utah DWR approves \$195M for \$1.3B water reuse project

The Utah Division of Water Resources has approved \$195 million in initial funding for a \$1.3 billion regional water reuse system in Washington County. The project, 20 years in the making, includes more than 60 miles of pipeline, four reservoirs, expanded water reclamation facilities

and an advanced purification facility. The system aims to treat and reuse water for parks, schools, agriculture and residential areas, with potential for future drinking water use.

**Full Story:** [KTVX-TV/KUCW-TV \(Salt Lake City\)](#) (8/11)

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## Featured Content

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## Infrastructure Watch

### **EPA reverses plan to use AI for water project compliance**

The Environmental Protection Agency has decided not to use an artificial intelligence tool to evaluate whether water infrastructure projects approved by Congress comply with President Donald Trump's executive orders. The tool, which was labeled "AI Prompt for EO Compliance Review," flagged phrases such as "climate crisis," "energy efficiency" and "environmental justice."

**Full Story:** [E&E News](#) (8/12)

### **Engineer proposes concrete dams in Texas Hill Country**

Retired civil engineer Henry Burke has proposed constructing two large roller-compacted concrete dams, each 60 feet high, near the headwaters of the Guadalupe River's north and south forks to mitigate future flooding in Texas Hill Country. These dams would be designed with floodgates and spillways to store and control floodwater, releasing it gradually to prevent

downstream surges. Additional dam sites, including one on Cypress Creek, are also recommended as part of a broader strategy to protect lives along the river.

**Full Story:** [Engineering News-Record \(tiered subscription model\)](#) (8/11)



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## Water Environment Research

Read more from Water Environment Research (WER) [here](#).



- **Comparative Analysis of Commercial and Novel High-Pressure Membranes for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Removal (8/13)**
- **Covalent Binding of Sodium Dodecyl Sulfate as C12 Hydrocarbon Chain to Silica Coated Magnetite Under Microwave Irradiation for Removal and Enrichment of Brilliant Green Dye Spiked Environmental Water Samples (8/12)**
- **Phosphorus Recovery From Wastewater Through Anaerobic Digestion Under Sub-Supersaturation Conditions (8/12)**

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## Funding and Financing

### **\$204M allocated to improve N.C. water infrastructure**

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality has allocated \$204 million for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure improvements. Greensboro, Winston-Salem and Graham are among the beneficiaries, with Greensboro receiving \$500,000 for a Mitchell Water Treatment

Plant upgrade, Winston-Salem getting \$2 million for lead pipe replacement and Graham receiving \$3 million for upgrades at the Graham-Mebane Water Treatment Plant.

**Full Story:** [Underground Infrastructure](#) (8/2025)



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## Stormwater

### **Va. DEQ to resume control of county's stormwater program**

The Washington County Board of Supervisors in Virginia has decided to return control of the county's stormwater management program to the state Department of Environmental Quality, citing the unsustainable burden of managing the program at the local level. "After more than a decade of administering this program locally, it has become clear that continuing in this capacity places an unsustainable burden on county operations and finances," says County Administrator Jason Berry.

**Full Story:** [WJHL-TV \(Johnson City, Tenn.\)](#) (8/13)



### **Barriers divert glacial floodwaters away from Alaska capital**

Alaska's capital, Juneau, was spared the impact of flooding from the Mendenhall Glacier thanks to the installation of emergency barriers. Residents who evacuated have been allowed to return home after the Mendenhall River's water level fell and floodwaters receded from roads.

**Full Story:** [USA Today](#) (8/14)



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## Research, Innovation & Technology

### **Blue water in Galveston is safe, data scientist says**

The water off Galveston, Texas, has turned blue again, sparking curiosity and a surge in tourism. The change is due to light winds and seasonal currents that reduce sediment, says Hal Needham, a data scientist. "It's interesting, the water color really has no bearing or correlation with the safety of the water. A lot of times people think if the water is brown or murky, it's polluted or contaminated, but that's not really the case," said Needham.

**Full Story:** [Houston Chronicle \(tiered subscription model\)](#) (8/13)



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## Workforce

### **Use the "5 laugh languages" to build a better culture**



Even if you think you're not funny, finding ways to bring humor to the office can foster trust, build relationships and create a sense of safety for your teams, writes Adam Christing, a keynote speaker and humor expert. Use the five "laugh languages" to develop a culture of fun through unexpected but funny surprises, using puns or other wordplay, poking fun at yourself and creating office in-jokes, such as picking silly names for the office scanner,

(Hill Street Studios/Getty Images)

such as "Scan Solo," Christing suggests.

**Full Story:** [SmartBrief/Leadership](#) (8/13)



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## Question of the Day

**How would you rate your facility's ability to attract new talent to the workforce?**

☐ **Strong -- people want to work here.**

☐ **Moderate -- some interest, but not consistent.**

☐ **Weak -- hard to fill open roles.**

☐ **Unsure -- not involved in hiring.**

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## Today at WEF

### Water sector's go-to financial guidance manual



The 5th edition of *Financing and Charges for Wastewater Systems* (MOP 27) is the water sector's go-to manual for utility rate setting and cost recovery. With real-world examples, cost-recovery frameworks and guidance for navigating public communication, the manual is a must-have for anyone responsible for utility finance. Download the first chapter for free. [Learn more!](#)

(WEF)



## Read "Taking the Fast Path" in WE&T



In California's Central Valley, where more than 250 crops grow across 52,000 km<sup>2</sup> (20,000 miles<sup>2</sup>), the future of farming depends increasingly on water battles now being fought underground. [Read "Taking the Fast Path" in the August edition of WE&T](#) for details on a research team's quest to identify promising recharge zones, where surface water can seep quickly into aquifers and speed up natural recharge.

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### In Case You Missed It

- **FEMA flood map inaccuracies continue to pose concerns**  
[NBC News](#) (8/12), [The Texas Tribune](#) (8/13)
- **Glacial outburst sparks severe flooding in Juneau**  
[CBS News](#) (8/13)
- **Subsea desalination holds potential for water reliability**  
[Scientific American](#) (8/11)

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### Note From the Editor



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