From: Wednesday Water SmartBrief on behalf of Wednesday Water SmartBrief <wcda@smartbrief.com>
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TOP STORY

Navigating the complexity of design-build with empathy

Design-build projects in the architecture, engineering and construction sector are inherently complex, requiring seamless collaboration under tight deadlines and budgets. Michael Mack of Burns & McDonnell highlights the importance of empathy in these projects, noting that it improves communication, reduces stress and enhances productivity. Mack suggests strategies such as active listening, creating genuine connections and overcoming biases to foster an empathetic work culture.**Full Story:** Civil + Structural Engineer (9/23)

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Ayer's PFAS Treatment: Built to Protect

Explore how CDM Smith's innovative PFAS treatment systems were delivered through precise engineering and construction to protect Ayer's drinking water. Learn how cutting-edge solutions like GAC and AIX were rapidly deployed to meet stringent regulatory standards.

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PROJECTS AND PROCUREMENT

Progressive design-build sewer project underway in Ore.

A $26 million sewer infrastructure project has advanced in Bend, Ore., to support growth in the southeastern part of the city. The progressive design-build project includes the construction of a pump station and pipelines, with completion expected in October 2025.**Full Story:** Daily Journal of Commerce (Portland, Ore.) (9/24)

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AECOM to lead expansion of Texas wastewater facility

AECOM has been named the prime consultant for an expansion of the Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in Austin, Texas, a project to increase daily capacity to 100 million gallons from 75 million gallons. The project includes the construction of a treatment train and a flood protection wall.**Full Story:** Zacks Investment Research (9/24)

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Water infrastructure construction begins at Idaho AFB

Construction has begun on a $100 million water treatment plant and pump station at Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho, officials announced. The 28,000-square foot plant along with the pump station and a pipeline will allow the base to draw water from the Snake River rather than rely on a diminishing aquifer.**Full Story:** The Construction Broadsheet (9/19)

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Mich. EGLE directs $267M toward water infrastructure

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy has directed $267 million in grants toward water main replacements, lead service line projects and other water infrastructure improvements in communities across the state. The initiative aligns with the MI Clean Water Plan, which aims to help communities address contamination and outdated water infrastructure.**Full Story:** WDIV-TV (Detroit) (9/20)

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$3B needed by 2027 to upgrade Tenn.'s water systems

Aging water infrastructure and a decentralized approach to water management is weighing on Tennessee and the state will need to invest $3 billion in water infrastructure by 2027 as systems continue to decline and population surges, reports the state Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Affairs. "Without a proper plan, wastewater systems may struggle to maintain compliance with state rules and regulations, secure adequate funding for capital improvements, and address customer needs," said the report.**Full Story:** Tennessee Lookout (Nashville) (9/19)

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BUSINESS STRATEGY

NYC officials tout design-build to accelerate projects

New York City is taking a holistic approach to a 10-year, $160 billion capital plan, integrating resilience and multifunctionality into projects, says Alison Landry, chief infrastructure officer in the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Operations. The city Department of Design and Construction is piloting progressive design-build to improve project delivery, aiming to become a state authority for greater flexibility, says Eric McFarlane, the department's first deputy commissioner.**Full Story:** Engineering News-Record (tiered subscription model) (9/18)

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How weather affects sewer systems, project management

Weather can significantly affect sewer systems and project management, with heavy rainfall causing backups and structural damage, freezing temperatures leading to ice-related issues and droughts resulting in sediment buildup and odors. Sewer professionals should regularly inspect and maintain systems, assess soil conditions during bidding and incorporate flexibility and preventive measures during project execution to mitigate these

challenges, writes Anthony Pacilla of McVehil Plumbing.**Full Story:** Dig Different (9/18)

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POLICY AND REGULATORY UPDATES

House bill aims to boost Calif. water recycling project

The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on Wednesday voted 57-7 to advance the Ocean Pollution Reduction Act II, a measure that would update permit requirements for the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant in San Diego and potentially make it easier for the city to advance its Pure Water recycling project. "Water recycling is an integral part of San Diego's solution to water shortages and continued prosperity," said sponsor Rep. Scott Peters, D-Calif.**Full Story:** Times of San Diego (9/18)

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National wipes labeling standard closer to reality

The June passage of the WIPPES Act by the House of Representatives paves the way for the creation of a unified national standard on "Do Not Flush" labeling for non-flushable wipes to reduce sewer clogs and associated costs. Now awaiting Senate consideration, the bipartisan bill builds on state-level efforts and has strong support from both the wipes industry and wastewater operators.**Full Story:** Nonwovens Industry online (9/12)

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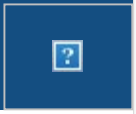
I have seen that every one forgives much in themselves that they find unpardonable in other people.

Amelia E. Barr,
writer, educator



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