



American Water Works Association
Pacific Northwest Section

WINTER 2024

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The Official Magazine of the
Pacific Northwest Section – AWWA



2025

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- ▶ Committee Reports
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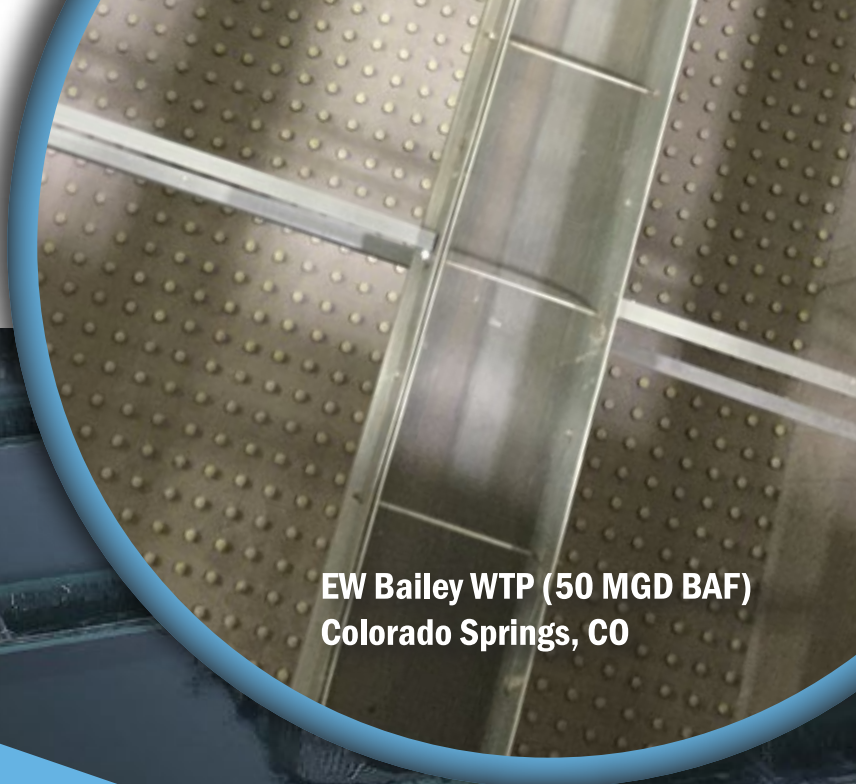


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Building a Legacy Together

As we step into a new season, I find myself again reflecting on what makes our Pacific Northwest Section of AWWA truly unique. Beyond the incredible work we each do every day, there's something more profound that binds us together – a legacy built over time by our shared dedication, vision, and commitment to service.

Each of us contributes to that legacy. Through our involvement, we're each adding our own chapter to the history of PNWS, building a stronger foundation for those who will follow. It's powerful to consider that what we do today will shape the experiences of future members and water professionals who share our passion and purpose.

Together, we're not only advancing our Section's mission but also investing in a future that benefits our communities and the industry as a whole. I am constantly inspired by how our members carry forward this legacy. It shows in how we encourage each other, support new ideas, and celebrate each other's successes.

Reflecting on our Annual Conference in Spokane earlier this year, I'm inspired by the enthusiasm and engagement I saw among all attendees. The success of that event showed how deeply our members value coming together to learn, share, and connect. This spirit of collaboration continued at our recent Fall Officer Training in my hometown of Redmond, Oregon, where leaders from our Subsections and Committees came together in a new format. This training allowed participants to gain a deeper understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities and explore ways to support one another – all to strengthen the foundation of our Section. It also fills me with anticipation

for our upcoming conference in Boise, Idaho, where I know we'll continue to build on this momentum and set new benchmarks for what our Section can achieve.

I'm also proud to work alongside our dedicated Board, including Chair-Elect Joel Cary, who shares a strong commitment to enhancing our members' experience and increasing the value we bring to each of you. Together, we're working to ensure that PNWS remains a vibrant and supportive community for all, one where everyone feels the impact of their membership. Joel and the

entire Board are steadfast in their dedication to providing meaningful opportunities, resources, and connections for our membership.

As we continue our work and look ahead, let's keep our shared purpose close. Let's collaborate, innovate, and lift each other up as we build something lasting. To everyone reading this, thank you for your role in shaping PNWS – today and for years to come. 🙌

With sincere appreciation
and best wishes for the season,
Nick Belmont
PNWS-AWWA Section Chair

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Collaborative Solutions for Sustainable Resources

As 2024 quickly draws to a close, the Association convened its Annual Council Summit in October. The event was held in Denver, Colorado, and had representatives from each of the six groups, including the International Council, Manufacturers Association, Public Affairs, Technical & Education, and the Water Utility Councils. The keynote speaker for the Summit was the Director of Charlotte Water, Angela Charles. Miss Charles spoke on Charlotte Waters' experiences while transitioning to a One Water utility under her guidance. Her presentation played well with the Council's discussions on the Water 2050 initiative and how each group can offer support.

On the international front, past AWWA President Pat Kerr and Rebecca Wheeler, Senior Manager of International Programs, attended the 3rd Annual AWWA India Conference, which had more than 200 attendees and included topics such as water quality, sustainable management, supply, and global climate change. This further emphasizes the global importance of the Water 2050 initiative in ensuring sustainable water resources for everyone in the future. Rebecca, along with the AWWA Deputy CEO, John Albert, also attended Asia International Water Week, where they participated in several panel discussions on Water 2050 along with the CEO of K-Water, who is AWWA's strategic partner in Korea.



In legislative news, AWWA and the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies filed a petition challenging the EPA's methods used to establish the contaminant levels for PFAS/PFOA. The petition does not challenge the health risk associated with PFAS/PFOA related to its presence in drinking water, only that the methods used by the EPA are not scientific and violate the

agency's own outlined procedures and practices. AWWA remains committed to leading the way in providing safe, affordable, and reliable drinking water through sustainable water management and treatment processes, as evidenced by some revisions to the Drinking Water Quality Policy Statement currently under review. The National Association will update the AWWA website as events develop through the judicial review process. Updates can be found in the Resource tab under the PFAS page on the AWWA website. I will also provide updates as information is released.

The Board of Association Directors will hold the annual winter meeting in January 2025. Among the topics of discussion will be the next phase of the Water 2050 initiative and how to effectively implement the plan. The Board will also be reviewing and selecting a candidate to fill the newly designated Young Professional

Director-at-Large position, demonstrating our commitment to developing the leaders that will guide and shape this industry into the future.

In conclusion, I want to take a moment to highlight the benefits of being a member of AWWA. Besides the journals and publications provided as part of the membership, one of the biggest values is the many volunteer opportunities offered through committee involvement. More than 250 committees combined at the Association and Section levels provide opportunities to get involved and enhance your career. If you have any questions or want to talk about committee involvement, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you in this role.  

James Dean
PNWS-AWWA Association Director

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D&I Committee

The D&I Committee aims to foster a welcoming and inclusive AWWA culture that champions meaningful institutional and individual change regarding diversity and equity in the water industry.

Welcome, New Chair Kylie Bayer!

We're excited to announce Kylie Bayer as the new chair of the D&I Committee. Kylie started this fall as former chair Gina Hortillosa passed the torch at the Committee's November meeting. From past Chair Hortillosa, "It has been an honor to have been the D&I Chair over the past two years. I am particularly proud of the transition made from the D&I Subcommittee to the full Committee. This is a testament to the Board's leadership and vision.

Kylie has spent her entire career in the public sector, working in communications, DEI, and human resources for a variety of local governments in Oregon.

The Committee's future is bright, and I am excited for the new leadership that Kylie brings."

As the Tualatin Valley Water District's Human Resources Director, Kylie infuses a healthy dose of humor and empathy into her HR practice. While she's relatively new to the water industry, Kylie has spent her

entire career in the public sector, working in communications, DEI, and human resources for a variety of local governments in Oregon. From incoming Chair Bayer, "Building committee momentum is no small feat, and I'm grateful for Gina's commitment to equity and inclusion and her leadership in our industry. The future of diversity and inclusion in our Subsection is exciting; I'm looking forward to learning from Subsection members as the D&I Committee continues to grow."

Join the Next D&I Committee Call!

Except for the occasional holiday, the D&I Committee meets virtually on the first Wednesday of each month from 11 am to 12 pm. All are welcome to attend! Please contact Kylie for meeting information at kbayer@pnws-awwa.org. The next Committee meeting will be January 8, 2025.

AWWA's D&I Standard

Building on AWWA's policy statement on Diversity and Inclusion, work is underway on developing a Diversity & Inclusion Standard. The D&I Committee has the opportunity to influence the new standard, which will be a focus for the Committee in 2025.

Watch for D&I at the 2025 PNWS Conference!

Attend the next D&I Committee meeting (or you can email Kylie directly at kbayer@pnws-awwa.org) and share your ideas on how to promote diversity and inclusion at the next Committee meeting. 📍

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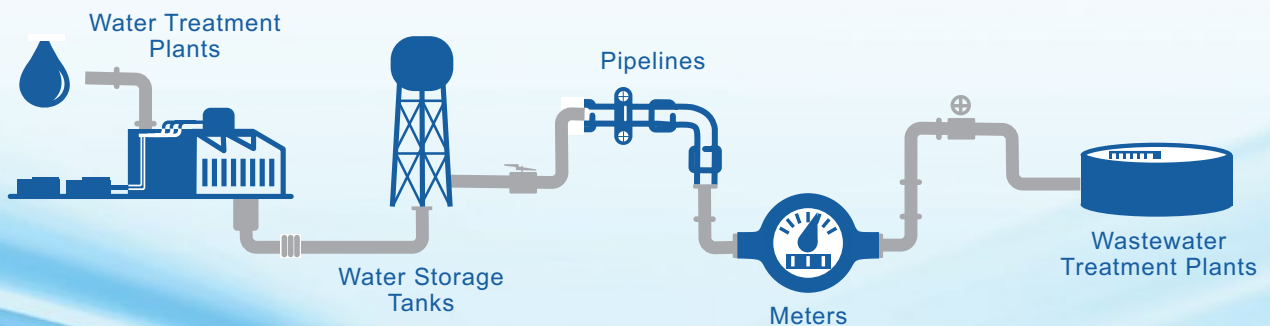
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Engineering Committee Excellence in Engineering Call for Entries

The PNWS Engineering Committee is now accepting entries for the 2025 Excellence in Engineering Awards. These awards recognize excellence in engineering for water supply, treatment, conveyance, and planning projects. Persons, agencies, consultants, contractors, and water utilities who have recently completed a water project for a water supply utility or agency in Idaho, Oregon, or Washington may apply.

Categories: Projects may be submitted in the 'Large Project' (>\$8 million construction), 'Small Project' (<\$8 million construction), or 'Engineering Planning' project categories.

Streamlined Application

Process: Electronic nominations will be limited to a three-page project narrative providing a brief description of the project and why it demonstrates 'Excellence in Engineering,' with the opportunity to submit additional supporting material as applicants see fit.



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From seismic risks to increasing droughts to significant population growth and malicious acts, utilities must prepare for a future of unpredictable and diverse threats to keep taps running.

To be considered for the 2025 Excellence in Engineering Awards, the Committee will be looking for outstanding water-related engineering projects that have shown:

- Innovative technologies or approaches
- Overcoming challenges
- Sustainability elements (includes resource sustainability or cost-effectiveness)
- System resilience considerations (seismic, flood, system redundancy, etc.)

The entry deadline for the 2024 Excellence in Engineering Awards is February 7, 2025.

The nomination form and submission requirements can be obtained by contacting Dan Shafar at dan.shafar@jacobs.com. Please nominate one of your projects or someone else's that you feel deserves an award.

Hot Topics – Risk & Resilience for Water Systems

The Pacific Northwest has a reputation for abundant rainfall and water supply; however, the region faces unique challenges in ensuring water system resilience. From seismic risks to increasing droughts to significant population growth and malicious acts, utilities must prepare for a future of unpredictable and diverse threats to keep taps running.

Utilities are taking varied approaches to prioritizing initiatives to mitigate risk and develop resilience.

These have included:

- Seismic retrofitting of pipelines, reservoirs, and treatment facilities to withstand earthquakes.
- Emergency backup power supplies and diversification of power sources.
- Upgrades to software and IT policies.
- Water source diversification through alternative water sources such as aquifer storage and recovery to water reuse for irrigation and non-potable applications.
- Asset and risk modeling using GIS-based asset management systems to identify vulnerable infrastructure and prioritize upgrades based on risk analyses.


Utilities can leverage state and federal funding to support these initiatives.

The region is leading the way in building water systems that can support growing communities with a variety of challenges.

Good Reads

What can we learn from our failures? Every mistake is an opportunity to learn, whether you're an experienced engineer or just starting out. Henry Petroski's *To Engineer is Human: The Role of Failure in Successful Design* is an insightful book that shows how failures in engineering can lead to breakthroughs and advancement.

Committee Meetings Schedule

Engineering Committee meetings are held from noon to 1 pm (PT) on the first Wednesday of each month. If you'd like to join the Committee, please reach out to Evelyn Choudhary at choudharye@bv.com. 



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Member Engagement and Development Committee (MEDC) 50 Years Golden Drop Award – Honoring Our 50 Year Members!



Dan Sander, PE

There are those who join AWWA and sit idly by for a few years, and then there are those like Dan Sander who not only stay a member for 50 years but also get

very involved. In the case of Dan Sander, his involvement is evident by the many people he has influenced and the significant awards he has received from his peers in the organization.

Although he grew up in Spokane, his schooling took him to Marquette University, where he received a Bachelor's and Master's in civil engineering. After graduating and getting married, Dan and his wife moved back to his roots in Spokane where he began working as a surveyor. While doing some inspection work on a water line project, two other influential people working on the project convinced Dan to attend an AWWA Inland Empire Subsection meeting in 1973, where he quickly joined the subsection board and worked through almost every board position there was, including being the chair.

In 1975, Dan took a job with the Washington State Department of Health, where he started as a district engineer, working his way up to regional engineer, and then took over



Honoring our 50-year members!

the Eastern office as the section manager in the mid-1980s. With WDOH, Dan found pride in working with small systems and helping to foster coordination between utilities towards coordinated planning. One of the many projects that brought Dan pride was helping Kettle Falls find a groundwater source and helping them obtain funding to move their supply off of the Columbia River to a much safer groundwater supply.

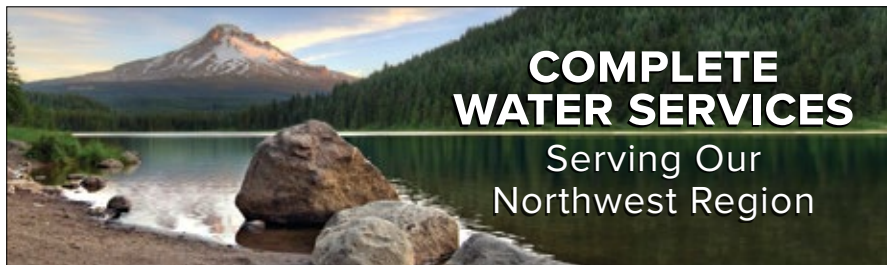
Although his career with WDOH ended after 30 years of service when he retired in 2005, his work in the water industry did not end. Dan started his own company in 2005 called Sander Enterprises, where

he has helped utilities with planning efforts and continues to this day.

Saying that Dan is passionate about education would be an understatement. In the mid-1980s, he worked alongside Bob Wubbena to create the Education and Training Fund (ENT) for the Northwest Section, where he remained involved for many years. He has been a long-standing member of the Scholarship Committee and was chair of this committee for a number of years. He is still on the committee. He was also on the Subsection Activities Committee where he was chair in the mid-1980s. Dan served on the PNWS Board of Trustees from 1987-1992 and was chair of the section from 1990-1991.

He has also been involved at the AWWA Association level as Chair of the Education Division, Youth Education Committee, Career Subcommittee, and the Education Award Committee. Dan was also on the Technical Education Council, which ultimately became the Public Affairs Council.

His passion for education and AWWA involvement have taken Dan to many places throughout the country, where he has traveled to train people on emergency planning.



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These trainings have allowed Dan to meet people from all over the country and learn from their real-life water utility experiences.

It's not by chance that Dan has been awarded some of AWWA's top awards. He has received the Sub-Section Activity Award, Powell-Lindsay Award, and George Warren Fuller Award. Dan also received an Honorary Member Award and a Life Member Award and is now receiving the Golden Drop Award.

Given Dan's vast experience, he is definitely one to seek advice from. He encourages people just starting out in the industry to "invest in yourself" and get involved with a subsection or committee. Dan states, "There may be times you have to pay your own way to attend a training or conference, but you need to think of it as investing in yourself."

Dan truly believes water people are some of the best people there are and has a saying, "If you're in an unfamiliar place with car trouble, find the local water shop because you're guaranteed to find good people working there who are willing to help."

Dan has a son, a daughter, and a 15-year-old granddaughter. He enjoys gardening and spending time at his cabin in northern Washington.

Although it is difficult to summarize a person like Dan into a short article,

on behalf of AWWA, thank you, Dan, for your years of service and dedication to the water industry.

Robert Fuller

Congratulations to Robert Fuller on his Golden Drop Award! Although we were unable to reach Robert for an interview, we want to acknowledge him for his long-term membership in AWWA. Thank you for your continued membership!

Membership Challenge 2023/2024

Each year, AWWA promotes both the attraction of new members and the retention of existing members. With AWWA updating its association-related software, the 2023/2024 membership challenge was revised to focus on the 12 months between the end of July 2023 and the same in 2024. The PNWS established a goal of 1% growth during this period, and although we did not meet our goal of 1%, we did have an overall increase in membership of 0.3%, with a total member increase of 8. Given this increase in section membership, the PNWS received a payment of \$250 from the association – great job promoting the benefits of membership to coworkers and others in the industry. Our work is never done though, so please convey the benefits of the organization to coworkers and others interested in the industry. Share the

AWWA membership link far and wide (www.awwa.org/join-awwa), and let's continue to grow!

Mentorship Program

The Pacific Northwest Section of the American Water Works Association (PNWS-AWWA) offers a Mentorship/Protégé Program that provides an excellent opportunity for career development and networking.

The Mentorship Program application period closed on October 11, 2024. Program leads have paired mentors with protégés, and pairs should be in the process of conducting their first meeting.

For more information or to apply, contact the Mentorship Program team: Kyle Wong at kyle.wong@spwater.org and Daniel Amador at damador@woodinvillewater.com.

Need help with reaching your Subsection members? Let us know! We can pull member lists specific to your subsection and renewal dates to reach specific members. Please reach out to the MEDC Chair, Doug Schlepp, dschlepp@rh2.com; Tyler Clary, MEDC Vice-Chair, tclary@clarkpud.com; Chris Young, MEDC Past-Chair chris.young@consoreng.com, or visit us at www.pnws-awwa.org/member-groups/committees/membership-committee. 📧

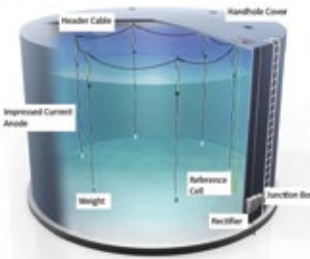
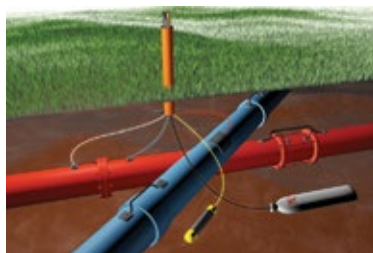


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Utility Management Committee

This year's AWWA-PNWS Utility Management Committee's annual training event is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 15, 2025, from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, at the City of Vancouver Water Resources Education Center.**

The program is dedicated to workforce development and will address our industry's growing need for utility staff across all disciplines – technicians, operators, engineers, planners, customer service, finance, managers, and other professionals.

The theme, "**Recruit, Train, Retain,**" will feature speakers from the public and private sectors, as well as academia.

Speakers have been confirmed from the City of Vancouver Water Resources Center, Clark County PUD, Sunrise Authority, West Slope Water District, Parametrix, Consor, Harris & Associates, Cascade Water Alliance, Portland Water Bureau, and STEM educators. CEUs and PDH credits for water and wastewater for WA and OR are being sought.

Registration is open and ongoing through January 10, 2025. Lunch and light snacks will be provided. To promote sustainability, please bring your own water bottle and/or coffee mug.

For more information on the Utility Management Committee, please get in touch with Ann Hajnosz at ann.hajnosz@weareharris.com. 

Speakers have been confirmed from the City of Vancouver Water Resources Center, Clark County PUD, Sunrise Authority, West Slope Water District, Parametrix, Consor, Harris & Associates, Cascade Water Alliance, Portland Water Bureau, and STEM educators."



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Water Conservation Committee

The Water Conservation Committee held our fall meeting on Thursday, November 7, 2024. Attendees heard about various turf/lawn replacement programs around the PNWS. Melissa Fatland from the City of Bend, OR, spoke on the successes of the inaugural year of their Turf Removal Rebate program (www.bendoregon.gov/government/departments/utilities/water-conservation/rebates/turf-removal-rebate). We also heard from utilities with successful, established replacement programs and the challenges that are faced as the programs progress. We heard from Cody Scoggins about Medford Water's ongoing Lawn Replacement program (www.medfordwater.org/water-efficiency/outdoor-efficiency/lawn-replacement) and from Hannah Walker, the Program Coordinator of SpokaneScape for the City of Spokane, WA (<https://my.spokanecity.org/publicworks/water/water-wise-spokane/spokanescape>). Attendees were able to ask

questions of each of our presenters, and we concluded the meeting with a roundtable of member updates.

The Water Conservation Committee selected abstracts for the Conservation Track for the 2025 PNWS Conference in Boise. We are pleased to announce there will be a half-day track in Boise dedicated to working in conservation!

During our November meeting, the Conservation Committee members provided feedback on potential topics for our 2025 meetings. Based on this feedback, we are busy planning our February meeting. Please contact Brittany Contreras to be added to our email distribution list, and stay tuned for more information on upcoming meetings!

For more information about the PNWS Conservation Committee, please get in touch with Chair Brittany Contreras at brittany.contreras@hillsboro-oregon.gov, Vice-Chair Danlyn Brennan at danlyn.brennan@hdrinc.com, or Secretary Melissa Fatland at mfatland@bendoregon.gov. 

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Water Treatment Committee Successful Water Treatment Workshop

One of the core responsibilities of the committees throughout the Section is to provide training opportunities for water professionals. To that end, the Water Treatment Committee teamed up with the Research Committee to organize a workshop on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at the Vancouver Water Resources Education Center in Vancouver, WA. The focus of the workshop was the treatment of drinking water using membranes, which was specifically geared toward operators, plant managers/superintendents, and environmental engineers. A remote option was also provided to ensure accessibility to those unable to attend in person.

The workshop was well attended, with approximately 35 attendees in person and 10 who attended remotely. Each attendee received 0.5 CEUs.

Specifically, the workshop featured presentations from a number of highly qualified professionals and included topics such as design, regulatory considerations, and operations. A special thanks go out



to our speakers – Bryan Black, Brian Rowbotham, and Danielle Phillbricks from Stantec, Dan Hugaboom and Julia Cummings from Carollo, Richard Franks from Hazen and Sawyer, Eric Hull from Wilson Engineering, Sanyukta Gokhale and Pierre Kwan from HDR, Humberto Jaramillo from Jacobs, Keith Male from the Oregon Health Authority, and Adam Smith from the City of Grants Pass. Each of them deserves recognition and gratitude for donating their time and expertise and providing a well-rounded education intended not



only for operators of membrane plants but also for anyone in the treatment industry.

We extend our gratitude to the Planning Committee, specifically Mehrin Selimgir with the City of Vancouver, Tess Young with Jacobs, Julia Cummings with Carollo, and Ben Goecke with Calgon Carbon.

Looking forward, the Water Treatment Committee is soliciting topic ideas for a future workshop to be held in the spring or fall of 2025. If you want to contribute or get involved, contact the Water Treatment Committee Chair, Ben Goecke at bgoecke@pnws-awwa.org.

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Young Professionals Committee

The Young Professionals (YP) Committee hosts events that foster valuable leadership skills, provide opportunities to grow technical knowledge to enhance careers in the water industry, and encourage networking between seasoned professionals and YPs. Young professionals have been in the water industry for less than 10 years.

The YP Committee meets virtually on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 2:00 pm (PST).

Welcome New Members!

We want to congratulate the following individuals for volunteering to serve on the YP Board and helping to grow the YP community!



Analise Bos, *Wilson Engineering*
Section Conference YP Coordinator



Luise Winslow,
Bowen Collins & Associates
Section Conference YP Coordinator



Yancee Gordon, *City of Hillsboro*
Digital Communications Coordinator

YP Liaisons – Help Spread the Word!

The YP Committee is comprised of young professionals across the PNWS. Subsection liaisons connect their local AWWA communities with the section-wide YP Committee.

We are seeking YP Liaisons for the following subsections:

- Blue Mountain
- Cascade to Coast
- Central Washington
- Eastern Oregon
- Northwest Washington

Please contact us if you are interested in representing your subsection,

supporting/hosting local events, and fostering YP outreach and involvement.


Need Funding Support?

The YP Committee's 2025 budget was designed and approved with the intention to assist the PNWS YP Community in the following:

- **Hosting YP Events** – Want to host an event? The YP Committee can provide funding to purchase food, reserve an event space, purchase prizes and other necessities, and more!
- **Awarding Scholarships** – Want to get ahead? Funding is available for leadership or training events/programs, conference attendance, etc.

For consideration, complete and submit a Funds Request Form on the YP Committee webpage!

Reach Out!

The YP Committee meets virtually every fourth Wednesday of the month, so it couldn't be easier to stop in and see what we're up to! Please email YP Chair Cole Benak at cbenak@carollo.com or YP Vice-Chair Emma Martin at emma.martin@hillsboro-oregon.gov if you have questions or are interested in joining the YP Committee in any capacity. 

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AWWA EMBRACES

WATER SECTOR LEADERSHIP IN NEW 2030 STRATEGIC PLAN

A new five-year strategic plan adopted by the American Water Works Association prioritizes member experience, best practices for the water community, and long-term sustainability.

The new 2030 Strategic Plan, which will be in effect through the end of 2029, is the guiding document for AWWA and its operations. It defines the Association's vision, mission, and core principles while laying out strategic goals and objectives. It was approved by AWWA's Board of Directors during its June meeting at the 2024 Annual Conference and Exposition (ACE24).



The plan was developed by a 16-member Strategic Planning Committee that reports to the Board's Executive Committee. Chaired by Past President David Rager and current board member Keisha Thorpe (pictured above in video), the Committee included representatives from sections, councils, service providers, manufacturers, and the AWWA Board and staff.



"The 2030 Strategic Plan continues AWWA's vision of 'A Better World Through Better Water,' stressing the importance of strong collaboration between the Association and its Sections," Rager said. "It continues to focus on the members' value experience, using transformational technology to expand the sharing of AWWA information, best practices, and innovative solutions."

Thorpe said the plan also highlights AWWA's role as a leader in the water profession. "AWWA is the authority on water," she said. "This speaks to our credibility, our professional content, and representing who we are as water professionals."

This is AWWA's first five-year strategic plan to be developed since the Association's Water 2050 initiative was introduced and is one of the building blocks in the collaborative process to shape the future of water.

"A key aspect of AWWA's strategic planning process is the effort to involve volunteers from all across North America who have different experiences, both professionally and geographically," Rager said. "They bring that knowledge to the discussion about what AWWA should be thinking about in the future, which is very valuable in developing a plan that resonates across our membership."

Setting the Framework for Strategic Priorities

AWWA CORE PRINCIPLES

- Protect public health and the environment
- Strengthen public trust
- Advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging
- Inspire innovation
- Engage globally
- Shape water's future

The 2030 Strategic Plan maintains AWWA's vision and mission statements from the previous 2025 Strategic Plan:

- **Vision:** A better world through better water
- **Mission:** Providing solutions to effectively manage water, the world's most vital resource

The plan advances four strategic goals that were carried forward from the 2025 Strategic Plan, although a goal titled 'Member Engagement & Development' changed to

'Member Experience.' The four strategic goals are:

- Member Experience
- Organizational Stewardship
- Knowledge Creation and Exchange
- Water Policy Leadership

"Having successfully come through an economically challenging time, the plan stresses maintaining AWWA's financial health and investing in the organization," Rager said.

The plan also lists six core principles, which summarize AWWA's values as an organization:


- Protect public health and the environment
- Strengthen public trust
- Advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging
- Inspire innovation
- Engage globally
- Shape water's future

The 2030 plan built on the previous framework by expanding the principle of advancing diversity and inclusion to add equity and belonging.

"Recognizing that AWWA members serve an exceptionally diverse customer base, the Strategic Plan builds upon AWWA's culture of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging to provide members with knowledge to use in serving their unique communities," Thorpe said.

Rager added, "This plan really focuses on AWWA's leadership in the future. AWWA recognizes we are the largest water organization and a leader in the water sector. The plan reflects where we want to be – not just in five years but in 10, 15, and 20 years."

Video comments are also available about the 2030 Strategic Plan's focus on AWWA's future leadership role (www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJEzbMNDRIA), key elements (www.youtube.com/watch?v=nAIXeY9oanc), and support of Water 2050 (www.youtube.com/watch?v=dhr_cuMps5M).

Photos and videos are used with permission from AWWA. 

"THE NEW 2030 STRATEGIC PLAN, WHICH WILL BE IN EFFECT THROUGH THE END OF 2029, IS THE GUIDING DOCUMENT FOR AWWA AND ITS OPERATIONS. IT DEFINES THE ASSOCIATION'S VISION, MISSION, AND CORE PRINCIPLES WHILE LAYING OUT STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES."



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EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Improvements



EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) strengthen nationwide requirements to protect children and adults from lead in drinking water.

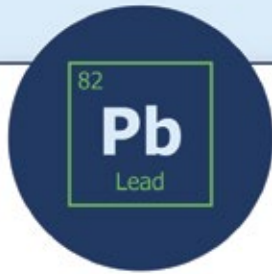


Legacy lead pipes have exposed generations of Americans to lead and will continue to do so until they are removed. The LCRI, combined with unprecedented funding and technical assistance, represents a commitment to addressing lead exposure in our communities.

What are the sources & impacts of lead?



Lead in drinking water irreparably harms children and adults and disproportionately impacts lower-income communities and communities of color



The science is clear: Lead is a potent neurotoxin and there is no safe level of exposure



Lead used to be commonly used in everyday products like gasoline and paint, and in lead pipes that carry drinking water to homes. These lead pipes are also called lead service lines



The EPA estimates that over 9 million homes are connected to water mains through lead pipes, posing an ever-present risk to people's health and wellbeing

The final rule focuses on key areas that will protect our communities



Achieving Lead Pipe Replacement Within 10 years



Locating Legacy Lead Pipes



Improving Tap Sampling



Lowering the Lead Action Level to 10 µg/L



Strengthening Protections to Reduce Exposure



Communicating Transparently and Frequently

The benefits of the LCRI exceed the costs by more than tenfold



The EPA estimates that the LCRI will **help protect millions of people across America** from exposure to lead in drinking water



The estimated annual benefits of the rule exceed the estimated annual costs by up to **13 times**

To learn more visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/lead-and-copper-rule-improvements>

King County Subsection

Looking back on 2024, it's hard to believe how quickly the year has flown by! With our 28th Annual KCSS Golf Tournament now behind us, the Board is shifting focus to events and training for 2025. Planning is underway for the 12th Annual King County Subsection Water Olympics in March 2025, featuring competitions for Best Tasting Water, Hydrant Hysteria, and the Meter Challenge. Winners of these local events will go on to participate at the Section Conference in Boise, ID, in May. Don't forget to join our email list to stay updated on educational training and social events coming up throughout the year. We look forward to seeing you in 2025!

Events

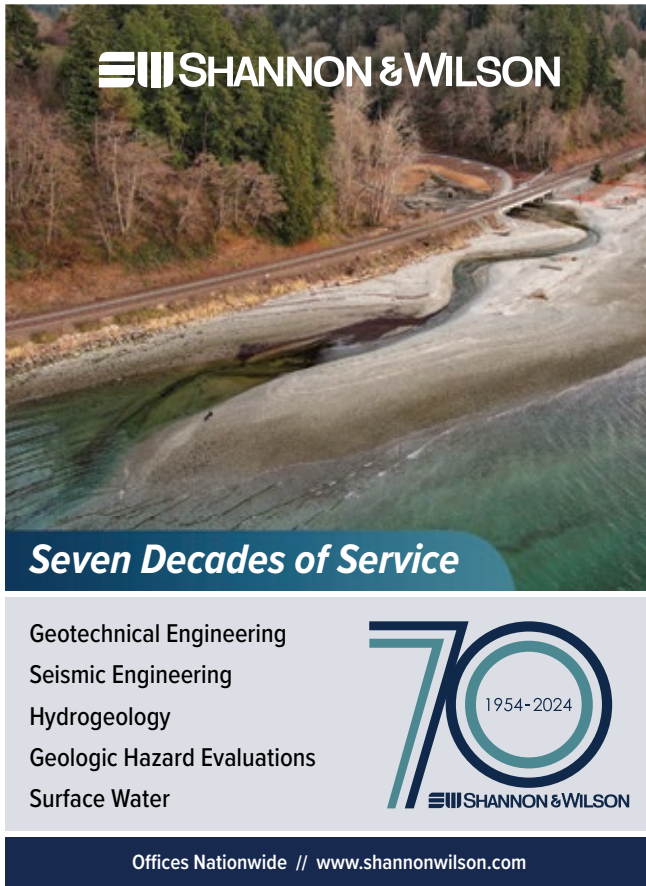
The 28th Annual KCSS Golf Tournament Is In The Books!

Following the success of our recent golf tournament, we want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible sponsors and membership support that made the event truly special. It was inspiring to see so many come together for a great

cause, enjoying a day of friendly competition while contributing to our philanthropic initiatives. We raised over \$8,500 in net proceeds, which will go directly to the PNWS-AWWA Section's charitable funds. And a special thanks to Frank Spevak as he sunsets his time as our Program-Director of Networking Events for our Subsection. His contributions have made the past few years' tournaments both fun and successful!

How to Get Involved Membership

We extend a warm welcome to all new members of the King County Subsection and invite you to connect with us! As a member, you'll gain access to valuable resources, networking opportunities, and training to enhance your professional development in the water industry. Join us for in-person quarterly socials to meet other members in our area. Are you interested in learning more? Reach out to Chris Guest at chris.guest@covingtonwater.com.



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Future Training

We're dedicated to helping our members fulfill their CEU requirements by offering up to four training classes each year. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements and registration details for our 2025 training opportunities. Have a class idea or training topic in mind? Contact our Program Director, Henry Ricca, at hricca@hazenandsawyer.com.



KCSS Board Recruitment

Are you passionate about making a difference in the water industry? This is a fantastic opportunity to shape the future of our organization, contribute to meaningful initiatives, and connect with other professionals in the field. If you want to join our Board or learn more about the responsibilities and opportunities, contact Chris Guest at chris.guest@covingtonwater.com.



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Northwest Oregon Subsection

2024 Reflection

This has been a jam-packed year for the NW Oregon Subsection, with several tours, trainings, and social events. Thank you to the cities, schools, and organizations that have graciously hosted us this year: City of West Linn, McMinnville Water and Light, City of Tigard, Tualatin Valley Water District, Willamette Water Supply Program, City of Carlton, Portland Water Bureau, Sunrise Water Authority, City of Wilsonville, City of Hillsboro, Clackamas Community College, and the Monarch Hotel.

Many of the NW Oregon Subsection officers were able to attend the PNWS trustee meeting and officer training in Redmond, OR, this fall. It was great to share our experiences with leaders from across the region and participate in some valuable trainings. One common takeaway was that if you're faced with a unique challenge in your Section or at work, there's likely someone in the region who could offer some insight.

The Subsection wants to give a special shout-out to our Young Professionals (YPs) and Emma Martin for doing a great job reaching out to the future leaders in the industry. This year, the YPs have hosted tours of the Willamette Water Treatment Plant and The Bull Run Watershed, have held many professional development and educational opportunities (YP Wednesdays), and have organized a



NW Oregon Subsection Officers at the annual budget meeting. Thanks, Summit Water Resources, for hosting!

few social events that connect younger members across the industry. If you're a YP (or know of one), make sure to check out what they have planned for 2025.

Looking Ahead

The Subsection officers are hard at work closing the books on 2024 and planning for 2025 and the calendar is filling up with plenty of fun and educational events. The first event in 2025 will be the *Meter Challenge, Top Ops, and Gimmicks and Gadgets*, so start practicing with your meters. Can anyone take down TVWD in the *Meter Challenge* this year? We'll see you in February to find out!

If your organization is interested in hosting or sponsoring a lunch meeting or other event, please get in touch with Dawn Nolan at dnolan@pnws-awwa.org.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Monarch Hotel for the annual holiday party on December 13, 2024. We'll be accepting canned food and toy donations but may need to rent a U-Haul based on the generosity from last year. See you there!

Getting Involved

Are you looking to get more involved? The Subsection is seeking volunteers! Currently, the Subsection is recruiting members to serve on the Safety & Education and the Waterworks School Committees, as well as an Incoming Officer. If you're willing to lend a hand, we will find something for you to do. Please get in touch with Andrew Wentworth at awentworth@pnws-awwa.org if you're interested in discussing ways to get more involved with the Subsection. 📧



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Oregon Water Utility Council

The Oregon Water Utility Council meets monthly on the third Thursday of each month (10 am to 1 pm) to monitor legislative efforts, public policies, and regulations on behalf of Oregon water utilities. OWUC member utilities engage with one another each month, hear from League of Oregon Cities and Special Districts Association of Oregon, and receive updates from state agency representatives from Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD). Please get in touch with Rebecca Geisen, Chair, at rebecca.geisen@portland.gov if you'd like to learn more about OWUC or get involved.

OWUC continues to track several key efforts impacting Oregon water utilities, including:

PFAS Regulations

OWUC members received monthly updates from OHA representatives regarding the new maximum contaminant levels (MCL) established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in April 2024. Final rule outcomes include:

- Public water systems must monitor for PFAS and have three years to complete initial monitoring (by 2027), followed by ongoing compliance monitoring. Beginning in 2027, water systems must also provide the public with information on the levels of these PFAS in their drinking water.
- Public water systems have five years (by 2029) to implement solutions that reduce PFAS if monitoring shows that drinking water levels exceed the new MCLs.
- Beginning in five years (2029), public water systems that have PFAS in their drinking water and violate one or more of these MCLs must take action to reduce the levels of these PFAS and notify the public of the violation.

Lead & Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR)

Public water systems must conduct an inventory of all service lines on both the water system side and the

homeowner side of the meter and submit the results to OHA–Drinking Water Services (DWS) by October 16, 2024.

Service line materials must, at a minimum, be classified as one of the following:

- Lead, where the service line is made of lead.
- Non-lead, where there is evidence to support this determination.
- Galvanized requiring replacement, where a galvanized service line is downstream of a current or former lead service line.
- Lead status unknown, where there is no documentation or evidence to classify the material type.

Groundwater Allocation Rulemaking

Oregon's Water Resources Commission adopted new groundwater allocation rules in September 2024. The updated rules clarify and update key terminology used for decision-making when issuing new groundwater rights. Under the updated rules, water is considered available if the groundwater levels are reasonably stable, the proposed groundwater pumping does not further deplete an already over-appropriated surface water source, and the aquifer can produce the water at the full amount requested. If the department is not able to make site-specific determinations based on existing data, a finding will be made that no water is available for the requested use, and the application will be denied. In practice, this means fewer new water right applications will be granted overall.

Lastly, OWUC members convened in Bend in late September for an annual meeting east of the Cascades. It was a great opportunity to connect with fellow Oregon water utilities the evening before the scheduled OWUC meeting. After the meeting, OWUC members toured the City of Bend's Water Filtration Facility. The membrane filtration facility can produce 11.8 MGD of drinking water for the Bend community. [View photo](#)





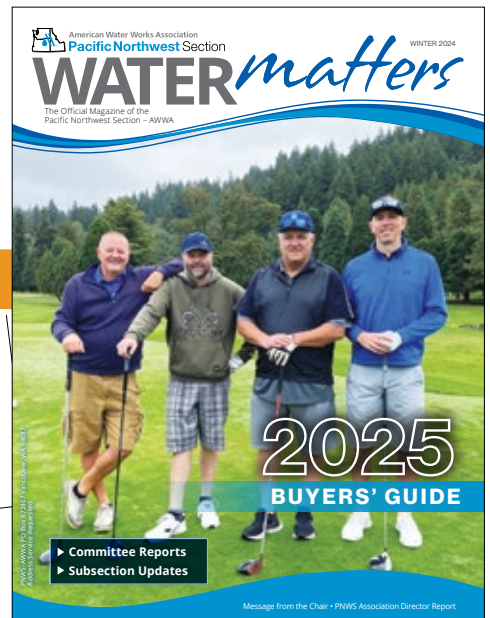
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2025

BUYERS' GUIDE

Welcome to the annual *Water Matters* Buyers' Guide.

When making purchasing decisions about products and services in the water industry throughout Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and beyond, please support the companies whose advertising makes *Water Matters* possible. You will find them quickly with our convenient, easy-to-use Buyers' Guide.

On these pages, you will find information that will help you meet your purchasing requirements throughout the year ahead. The initial section of this Buyers' Guide lists categories of products and services along with the various companies that can provide them to you. The following section provides an alphabetical listing of those companies and the contact information you will need to reach them.

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SYBIS, LLC

Activated Carbon

CEI – Carbon Enterprises, Inc.

AMR Systems and Meters/AMI Solutions

Core & Main
Neptune Technology Group, Inc.
USG Water Solutions

Asset Management & Rehabilitation

Conсор
Sauereisen
SYBIS, LLC
USG Water Solutions

Biosolids

Synagro Technologies, Inc.

Brass Valves & Fittings

The Ford Meter Box Company, Inc.

Cathodic Protection Systems

Norton Corrosion Limited, LLC

Chemical Dosing Pumps

Blue-White Industries

Chemical Feed Pumps

Blue-White Industries

Chemical Processing & Feed Systems

Blue-White Industries

Chlorine Emergency Shutoff Systems

Force Flow/Halogen Valve Systems

Coatings, Linings & Corrosion Control

Sauereisen

Contractors

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Electrical Instrumentation/ Controls/Generators

VEGA Americas, Inc.

Engineers/Consultants

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Brown and Caldwell
Carollo Engineers
Gray & Osborne, Inc.
GSI Water Solutions, Inc.
Norton Corrosion Limited, LLC
Shannon & Wilson
Wilson Engineering, LLC

Filter Media

CEI – Carbon Enterprises, Inc.
Orthos Liquid Systems, Inc.

Filtration

CEI – Carbon Enterprises, Inc.
Orthos Liquid Systems, Inc.

Flow Sensors

Blue-White Industries

GIS Services

GSI Water Solutions, Inc.

Hydrogeologic and Water Rights

GSI Water Solutions, Inc.

Information Technology

SYBIS, LLC

Inspectors/Locators

Owen Equipment Company

Land Surveying

Wilson Engineering, LLC

**Leak Detection/
Correlator Services**

Cimco-GC Systems

Level Instrumentation

VEGA Americas, Inc.

Manhole Rehabilitation

Sauereisen

Meter Data Management

Neptune Technology Group, Inc.

Meter Reading Systems

Neptune Technology Group, Inc.

Meters/Meter Testing

Neptune Technology Group, Inc.

Nutrient Removal

Orthos Liquid Systems, Inc.

Odor Control

Owen Equipment Company

Operation Services

SYBIS, LLC

Synagro Technologies, Inc.

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Core & Main

U.S. Pipe

Pipe Repair Products

The Ford Meter Box Company, Inc.

Pipe Restraint

Core & Main

The Ford Meter Box Company, Inc.

U.S. Pipe

Pipeline Couplings & Clamps

Core & Main

The Ford Meter Box Company, Inc.

Pipeline Rehabilitation

USG Water Solutions

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Conсор

U.S. Pipe

Pump Stations & Meter Vaults

VEGA Americas, Inc.

Pumps/Pump Systems

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Synagro Technologies, Inc.

SCADA – Control System Design

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VEGA Americas, Inc.

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USG Water Solutions

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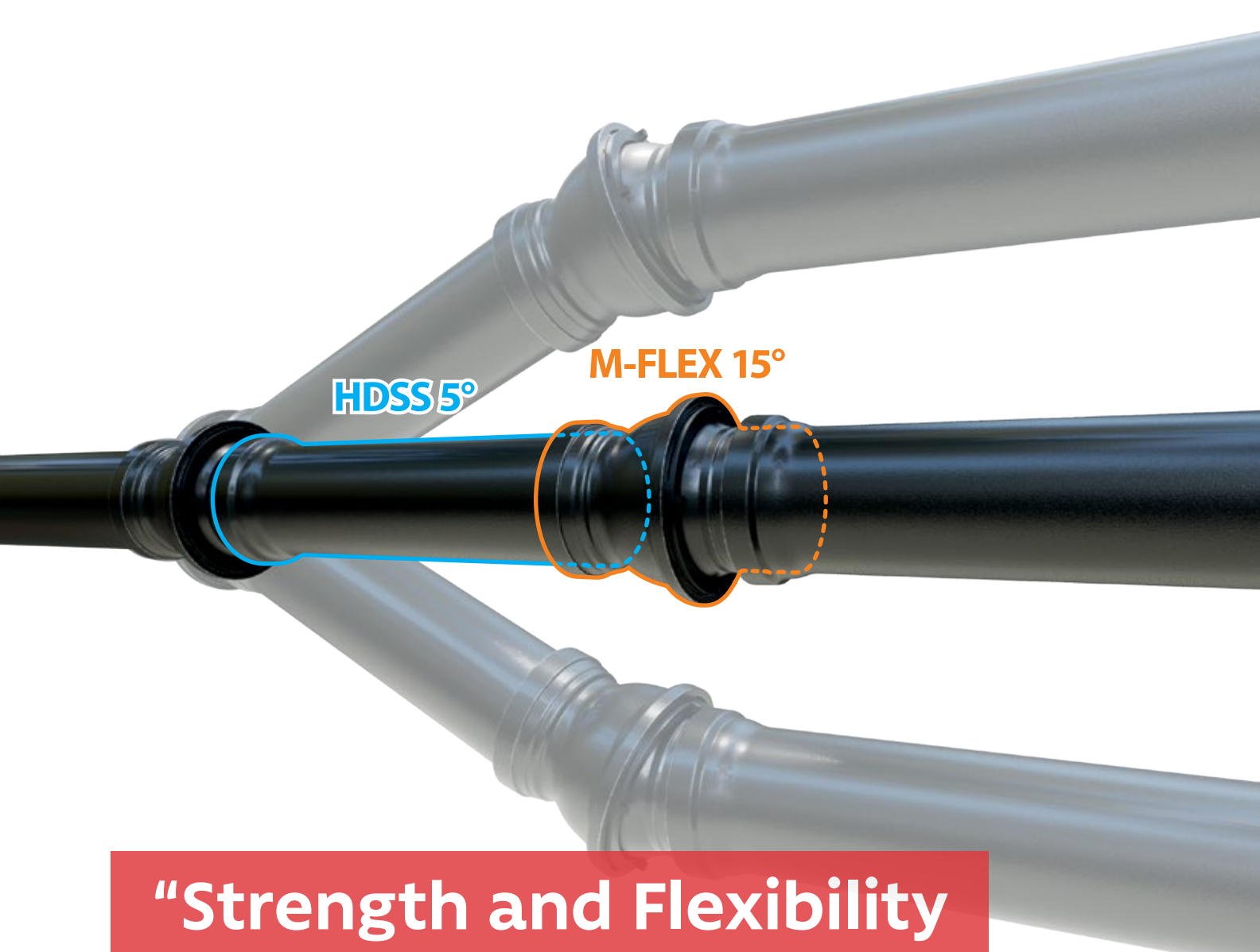
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