

The Official Magazine of the Pacific Northwest Section – AWWA

MEET THE NEW Diversity & Inclusion SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR, Cina Hortillosa!



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Subsection Updates

Message from the Chair • PNWS Association Director Report

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Features

COMMUNICATIONS EFFORTS	
RECOGNIZED BY AWARDS PROGRAM	16
2023 PNWS-AWWA DIRECTORY	22
2023 PNWS-AWWA BUYERS' GUIDE	31





Departments

Message from the Chair	6
PNWS Association Director Report	8
Committee Reports	10
Subsection Updates	18
Advertiser Product & Service Center	38





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Settings Goals for the New Year

y the time this gets published, we'll all be five pounds heavier from Thanksgiving dinner, Auburn will have fired Bryan Harsin, and Alabama will have lost to LSU and is now ranked 10th. I'm guessing the college football fans out there are thrilled about Alabama's current ranking, as am I. However, those extra five pounds have resulted in all-day yoga or sweatpants. For those of us still working from home, it's just another day in comfy pants. It will be a sad day when I must put on work britches five days a week.

This last quarter of the year always flies by. It's that time of year when I'm already over the rain, and I am dreaming of a vacation on a warm, sunny beach. It's also that time of year when I start thinking about goals for the new year. It supposedly takes 30 days to turn something into a habit, but I usually don't make it past day three. I always give myself an 'A' for effort, though.

Speaking of setting goals, I have a challenge for you, but first, a little background. During the first week of November, I had the privilege of meeting with leaders from multiple west coast utilities to discuss challenges and shared experiences. We met in Las Vegas at Southern Nevada Water Authority's (SNWA) office and also got a tour of SNWA's 600 million-gallon per day (MGD) ozone facility, new low-level intake, pump station and pipeline, and wait for it – a hard hat tour of Hoover Dam. These two days in Vegas (I didn't even get to set foot on the Vegas Strip) were a sobering reminder of the challenges facing us as water providers - but also another great reminder of the cool and truly awesome work we do as water professionals. The tours were definitely a highlight, but one of our discussion items was getting utilities more involved in one of the Association's many Standards Committees to provide input on utility needs. This leads me back to setting goals. My 2023 challenge for each of you, whether you are a utility member, consultant, or vendor/manufacturer, is to get more involved with your local Subsection, or you can also get involved in an Association level committee. Committee participation is one of the most rewarding experiences I've had as an AWWA member. Committees and Subsections are the workhorses of our Section and keep us moving forward. They also build leadership skills and provide the opportunity to guide the future of our Section. You can find more information on our Section's committees and Subsections on our website. Do a little research or ask around to find out which committee is most interesting to you.



I know whatever you choose, they'll be glad to have you! For those of you that are already members and/or officers of a Subsection or committee, thank you!

We lost two of our long-time members in October – Dan Bradley and Noel Groshong. I think I first met Dan when pursuing a project for South Fork Water Board and Noel when pursuing a project for Umpqua Basin Water District. Both Dan and Noel influenced my participation in our Section. I haven't seen either of them in years, but they will be missed. We are all sending their families, friends, and coworkers our sympathy.

Here are a few other updates and reminders:

- Competitions return to our Section in 2023! Get your teams together and start practicing!
- There's still time to recruit new or reinstated members for our Section membership challenge.
 The winning Subsection will get a free lunch catered for their next Subsection meeting.
- If you haven't done so already, please vote in our Section elections. The polls close on December 31!

That's it for this issue of *Water Matters*. Happy holidays y'all! I hope 2023 is your best year ever, both personally and professionally! Thanks for your hard work and for being a part of the PNWS-AWWA family!

Michelle Cheek PNWS Section Chair

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AWWA – A Leader in International Partnerships

WWA national recently completed the 2022 Council Summit, which was held in Denver, Colorado. This year's summit had a focus on the Water 2050 initiative and international partnerships.

The guest speaker for the summit was John Young. John is a 20-year executive who has served as COO & President of American Water Service Company and, most recently, as the architect of the solutions for Flint, Michigan. He is now working with Jackson, Mississippi. John did an outstanding presentation on water leadership today and shared his thoughts about leadership in 2050.

Also, AWWA CEO David LaFrance presented on the association's international expansion during the summit. AWWA has strong partnerships with Korea Water & Wastewater Association, Korea Water Partnership, Korea Water Resources Corporation, and the Korea Institute for Water Technology Certification. These partnerships resulted in over 100 Korean attendees at ACE 2022, a K-Water USA office being opened in Washington, DC, a Smart Water City visit in Busan, and a water standard seminar being developed through the Korean Institute for Water Technology.

AWWA's participation with ANSI led to trips to Africa and India for educational outreach. AWWA Utility Management Standards virtual workshop trainings were held in both India and Africa throughout the year, and in-person sessions are scheduled for December in India, and for January and April of 2023 in Africa.

I also want to give kudos to all of the PNWS members who have been reaching out to potential new members. Through your efforts, the Association is nearing its goal of having 50,000 members. PNWS is certainly one of the leaders in the effort, having reached just over 93% of our new member goal. It is truly an honor to be able to represent this section and the great work that each of you do. To help



show appreciation for your service, the Section, for the first time since 2016, will be hosting a Section Meet and Greet at ACE 2023, held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Information about the event can be found on the Section's website.

Lastly, I want to encourage everyone to review the Operators Meritorious Service Award. This is a national award that is presented annually from the Association level to the unsung heroes of our industry, the operators. Applications are submitted to the Association, and our Section is allowed two recipients. This is a great opportunity to recognize the hard work and dedication that an operator puts in every day to help deliver the most precious resource on the planet.

Thank you all again for allowing me the opportunity to represent this outstanding section. Wishing you all a happy and joyous holiday season. Enjoy your time with family and friends.

James Dean PNWS-AWWA Association Director



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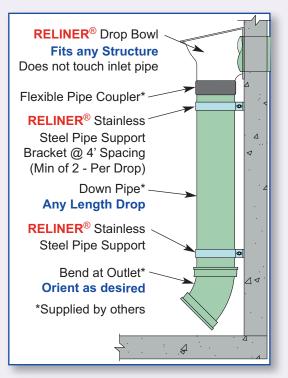
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Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Subcommittee

The D&I Subcommittee 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 Gina Hortillosa!

We're excited to announce Gina Hortillosa as the new Chair of the D&I Subcommittee. Gina started in September, leading the Subcommittee through the first meeting as Chair. Gina comes to the D&I Subcommittee as a PNWS scholarship recipient and is passionate about creating more inclusive workplaces and communities. Gina is a project manager with KBA, Inc., a local



construction management firm leading public street, infrastructure, and water projects in the northwest.

Join Us for Our Monthly D&I Call

The D&I Subcommittee meets monthly on the first Wednesday of every month from 11 am to 12 pm virtually. These calls are for us to get to know each other, plan out the Committee's activities, and set priorities. We always start the meeting with an opportunity to share and meet other committee members, so don't feel you need to come with any specific background. All are welcome to join in the conversation. Contact Chair Gina Hortillosa for the meeting information at *ghortillosa@pnws-awwa.org*.

D&I, as a Part of the PNWS Mission

This past month, at the Fall 2022 Board meeting, the PNWS Board officially adopted new language for the Board Mission Statement to set a priority for diversity and inclusion, with the change "Advance a diverse and inclusive network of professionals to provide opportunities and leadership to the water industry in the Pacific Northwest." Also, at the association level, AWWA made a change to include "Advance Diversity and Inclusion" as a core priority. These two institutional changes are a statement of the support and priority for the work of the Subcommittee and align with the Subcommittee's mission and vision for the PNWS. Additionally, in the Fall 2022 Section Training, the group was asked to respond to what diversity and inclusion means to them. A word graphic of the responses was generated and provided here, with the size of the word indicating how many times a word was repeated.





D&I Conference Track 2023 – Planning Underway

The D&I Subcommittee is excited to be planning a special panel for the PNWS 2023 conference on 'Retention and Recruitment.' The panel will include two sessions with speakers from the PNWS. The first panel will focus on recruitment and discuss the path to creating a more diverse workforce to promote a growing industry with representation from various sectors. Speakers will discuss topics such as the benefits of internships/apprenticeships, volunteering, and community outreach, using resources like local programs, partnerships, social media, etc. On the flip side of recruitment is retention. The second panel on retention will discuss the challenges of retaining diverse talent in the water industry and the paths to sustain an inclusive workforce. Panelists from various sectors will discuss topics such as DEI workplace training, employee affinity groups, workplace culture, mentorship programs, etc. If you are interested in attending or participating as a panelist, please reach out to Benedicte Diakubama at benedicte.diakubama@jacobs.com for the Retention Panel and Asa Reyes-Chavez at areyeschavez@parametrix.com for the Recruitment Panel. 🔼

The group was asked to respond to what diversity and inclusion means to them. A word graphic of the responses was generated and provided here, with the size of the word indicating how many times a word was repeated.

Engineering Committee

Excellence in Engineering Call for Entries

The PNWS Engineering Committee has opened the call for entries for the 2023 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' (>\$5M construction), 'Small Project' (<\$5M 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

To be considered for the 2023 Awards, the Committee will be looking for outstanding water-related engineering projects which have shown:

- Innovative technologies or approaches
- Overcoming difficult challenges

applicants see fit.

- Sustainability elements (includes resource sustainability or cost-effectiveness)
- System resiliency considerations (seismic, flood, system redundancy, etc.)

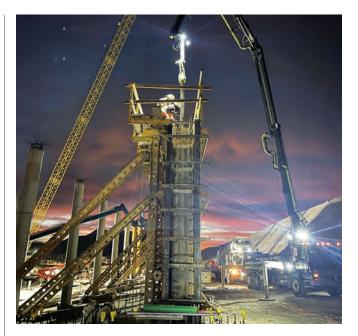
The entry deadline for the 2023 Excellence in Engineering Awards is January 6, 2023.

The nomination form and submission requirements can be obtained by contacting Erika Murphy at *emurphy@carollo.com.* Please nominate one of your projects, or someone else's, that you feel is deserving of an award.

Hot Topics – Construction Cost Escalation

Count yourself lucky if you have not dealt with this in the last year. Unusually high and persistent inflation, particularly in construction materials, makes budgeting for and implementing new projects a challenge. Typical unit price or lump sum contracts require the contractor to honor his bid prices. Yet, in reality, most contractors are faced with material cost increases that are, to some degree, outside their control. How do you balance contract requirements with the need to address cost increases fairly and equitably (without issuing a blank check)? One option is to include an escalation clause in your contract documents. Key considerations for material price escalation clauses include:

1. **Long-term projects.** Projects with long durations require the contractor to assume more risk associated with material



price variability. Often if a project has a duration of less than one year, materials can be purchased early, and there is little need to address escalation.

2. **Readily-available price index**. An escalation clause in an agreement is best tied to a materials index, such as the cost of cement powder (for concrete) or a barrel of oil (for fuel). An index provides a basis to escalate materials without being arbitrary. Engineering New Record (ENR) is a good resource for construction materials price indices.

The bottom line in using an escalation clause is to help mitigate contractor risk and hopefully achieve competitive pricing. There are certainly more ways than one to address this – including alternative delivery contract methods – although ultimately when material prices go up, someone has to bear the cost.

Good Reads

If you're one of those people who like to read about engineering when you're not at work, you might enjoy *Dark Tide. The Great Boston Molasses Flood of 1919* by Stephen Puleo. It is a riveting account of a sticky wicket (all puns intended, *groan*) with devastating consequences. The book offers great insight into engineering ethics, standards of care, and factors of safety in the early days of engineering licensing and regulation.

Committee Meetings Schedule

Engineering Committee meetings are held from 12 pm to 1 pm (PT) on the first Wednesday of each month. If you'd like to join the Committee, please reach out to Greg Loscher at *gloscher@bowencollins.com*.

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Member Engagement and Development Committee (MEDC)

MEDC Purpose: To support the Pacific Northwest Section of AWWA (PNWS) in the engagement, retention, and growth of membership.

2020 Vision: To align with AWWA's strategic initiative for a sustainable future by bridging young talent with the water industry.

Membership Challenge Update: September 1 to December 31

The PNWS membership challenge officially launched this fall (September 1) as a friendly competition between the Subsections to see who can recruit the most new members by the end of the year. We're still counting new memberships by Subsection and looking at which Subsection has the highest percent growth over the challenge. We're excited to share that the PNWS has reached our AWWA recruitment goal for 2022 of 292 new or reinstated members.

We are still working to surpass last year's growth of 4% and make this our best membership year since pre-2020. Share the AWWA membership link far and wide! Join at *www.awwa.org/membershipvolunteering/join.* For questions about the challenge, membership benefits, or how to join, contact the MEDC Chair Joanie Stultz by email at *jstultz@brwncald.com*.

Mentorship Program Update

The 2022-2023 PNWS Mentorship Program has officially launched with 17 new mentor/protege pairs. Mentor pairs will meet five to six times over the next six months. with sessions on various career development topics, including technical and interpersonal skills, resume writing, and personal and professional goal setting. If you missed the application deadline and are interested in learning more or participating this year, feel free to contact our Mentorship Program Coordinator, Kyle Wong, at kyle.wong@spwater.org with any questions.

Are You Interested in Learning More about the Committee?

Attend our next monthly call. We meet on the first Friday of the month from 12 pm to 1 pm. Contact the MEDC Chair at *jstultz@brwncald.com* for the meeting invite.

Need Help with Reaching Your Subsection Members? Let us know! We can pull member lists that are specific to your Subsection and renewal date to outreach specific members. Please reach out to the MEDC Chair at *jstultz@brwncald.com*, or visit us at *www.pnws-awwa*. *org/member-groups/committees/ membership-committee*.

Special thanks to our current MEDC Committee Members: Chris Young (Outgoing Chair), Joanie Stultz, Esther Chang, Kyle Wong, Natalie Reilly, Doug Schlepp, and DeEtta Fosbury, supported by Trustee Tyler Clary.





PNWS Training Coordination Committee

Chlorine Residual Testing & Lab Skills Workshop

The Washington State Department of Health has developed a workshop for operators on good techniques for chlorine residual testing and how to calibrate your instrument. The class was developed in response to a 2015 study of water plants that showed operators lacked instruction on the correct techniques for testing that would result in the precision and accuracy we need to assure the public of the highest water quality. The half-day workshop is currently Washingtoncertified for 0.3 CEUs for both water and wastewater operators. Oregon CEU certification review will begin soon.

The workshop objectives are:

- Provide water system professionals with a better understanding of good free chlorine measurement techniques and why good techniques matter.
- Provide water system professionals insights to answer the questions:
 - o How do I know my instrument is working?o How do I know my results are accurate?
- Achieve a water industry goal of 0.05 mg/L accuracy
- Achieve a water industry goal of 0.05 mg/L accuracy and precision.

To date, the workshop has been presented more than 20 times to well over 200 operators in Washington. Everyone attending



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walks away having learned a lot and with a new appreciation for testing and calibration protocols. These hands-on workshops are limited to 20 participants to ensure everyone gets a chance to learn, test, and perfect technique.

If you, your utility, or Subsection would like more information about how to bring this workshop to your area, please contact Steve Deem (*steve.deem@doh.wa.gov*), Nancy Feagin (*nancy.feagin@doh.wa.gov*), or Jeff Lundt (*jeff.lundt@kingcounty.gov*). Oregon and Idaho operators and utilities are also encouraged to contact us. Let's see how we can get this workshop spread throughout the Section.





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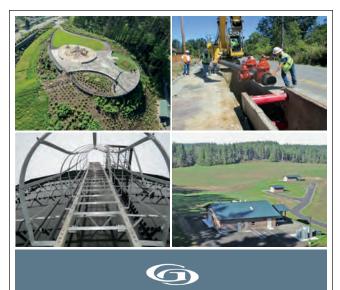


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Communications Efforts Recognized by Awards Program

The 2023 PNWS-AWWA Excellence in Communications Awards are coming in January. Start thinking now about your best communications efforts. The entry process will be online. The criteria for winning entries include idea, message, goal, and results. The categories include audio, digital, education, internal, print, video, visual, and wildcard. If you have done a CCR or haven't, you have a potential entry. Social media campaigns, communication plans, re-branding efforts, new logo, podcast, calendars – we want to see your great work so we can showcase and share our best ideas with our members. More details are coming soon.

Spokane Water won the Best in Show Award for the past two contests. The 2022 winning entry was "Go Gold to Save Blue."

Kristen Zimmer, Conservation Program Manager and Loren Searl, Director of Water and Hydroelectric Services, are pictured here with Spokane Water's 2022 Excellence in Communications Awards.

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King County Subsection

The winter season is quickly creeping up on us, and we have a lot to look back on over the past season. The KCSS Board is focused this winter on planning for the 2023 Training Program and our Annual Member Appreciation Water Olympics event in March that will bring back competitions next year.

Events

Golf Tournament Success

On behalf of the King County Subsection, PNWS-AWWA membership and officers, we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincerest appreciation to our sponsors for the 2022 PNWS-AWWA Charity Golf Tournament at the Druids Glen Golf Course in Covington, WA! We are grateful for the presence and support of our membership for a great cause! **Because of the support received**

from our sponsors, we were able to donate \$6,200 to the Section's philanthropic efforts within the water industry, including Water For People, Water Equation, and the PNWS Education and Training Fund.



Fun with Young Professionals Young Professionals Social

In June 2022, the Young Professionals of the King County Chapter of AWWA gathered for the first in-person networking/social event since before the pandemic began. The event was held at Magnuson Brewing on a beautiful Thursday after work. The team enjoyed drinks and food together. It was great to have the group back together, making connections and meeting new folks.



Young Professionals Site Visit

On November 3, 2022, the Young Professionals took a trip out for a site visit of the Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station (WWTS). The Georgetown WWTS is a satellite treatment facility that will operate an average of 20 times per year to bring the Brandon and Michigan CSOs under control. Following the site visit, the group got to enjoy food and drinks together at the Woods Seattle Cider House.



Workshops and Training Chlorine Residual and Lab Skills Workshop

On October 26, 2022, the KCSS hosted a Chlorine Residual Testing and Lab Skills Workshop at Covington Water District. This hands-on workshop was instructed by Washington State Department of Health staff. The training focused on procedures and best practices for chlorine residual testing. The goal of the workshop was to standardize this skill set to produce more accurate data collection in the field. Twenty-seven operators from



nine different utilities attended the workshop to sharpen their skills.

What We Are Looking Forward To 2023 Water Olympics

Planning is underway for the 2023 KCSS Water Olympics and Member Appreciation event. The event date will be set in the next month. If you've been to our competitions in the past, you'll know that this event is a blast. With more than 70+ competition participants, sponsors and audiences showing up to support their colleagues, you're guaranteed to have a good time.

Competitions will also be back this year, so now is the time to start talking to your people to get a team together for the Meter Challenge, Hydrant Hysteria, and Best Tasting Water! If you're interested in a practice hydrant or meter, or if you're interested in sponsoring the event, let us know. Please contact King County's PNWS-AWWA's Competitions Coordinator, Ted Stonebridge, at *tstonebridge@northbendwa.gov.* We look forward to seeing you there!

New Members

Welcome new members! If you are a new member of the King County Subsection, we would love to get you connected and learn more about your interests. Join us at one of our monthly meetings to learn more – every third Wednesday of the month. If you are interested in attending any of these meetings, reach out to the Subsection's Secretary, Beth Mende, at *elizabeth.mende@hdrinc.com*.

Future Training

The Subsection is committed to offering classes to help our members meet their CEU requirements. The goal of the Board is to offer at least four classes within the calendar year. Planning is underway for the 2023 technical program with more virtual classes and initial plans for the return of in-person classes. Look out for further announcements and registration information. For guestions related to classes, whether that's an idea for a class, a suggestion for speakers, or general information about training and CEUs, please contact our Program Director, Chris Guest, at chris.guest@covingtonwater.com or 253-867-0947.

KCSS Board Transitions and Recruitment

This season brought with it some transitions to the KCSS leadership. Please welcome Chris Guest as our new Program Director. Chris works for the Covington Water District and will be leading the program team to plan trainings for the KCSS membership.

The Subsection is still looking to fill two additional roles for 2022-23:

• Communications Chair: We are looking for a KCSS Communications Chair to keep the Subsection website up to date and help get information out to members. The role is a one-year term, with the option

to extend for more terms. We are looking for someone with a passion for communications and an interest in helping the Subsection improve our online resources.

Philanthropic Activity Committee (PAC) Liaison: We are looking for a KCSS PAC Liaison to help plan events and fundraisers to support the important work AWWA is doing with Water For People, Water Equation, Education and Training Fund, along with other philanthropic programs.

Please reach out to the Subsection President, Caren Sleeth, if you are interested in the Communications Chair or PAC Liaison role at caren.sleeth@covingtonwater.com.

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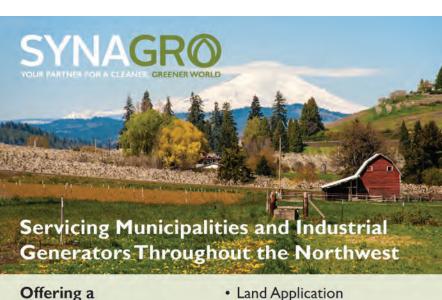
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Southern Oregon Subsection

2022 Operators Conference

This fall, members of the Southern Oregon Subsection partnered with several organizations to help plan the 2022 Oregon Operators Conference in Roseburg, OR. The conference was held November 15-17 at the Douglas County Fairgrounds and was in person! The conference was a great opportunity for water and wastewater operators to earn continuing education credits and network with other professionals in the industry. Volunteers from the PNWS Section, Southern Oregon Subsection, Umpgua Basin Operators Section, Oregon Region of PNCWA, and Umpgua Community College worked collaboratively to organize this well-attended event.



The SO Subsection plans to continue to partner with these groups on future operator's conferences, which will now be held every year in the fall instead of every other year. For more information about this year's conference or if you are interested in participating as a vendor, sponsor, or attendee at next year's conference, please visit the website at *http://ubos.pncwa.org* or call 541-440-7679.

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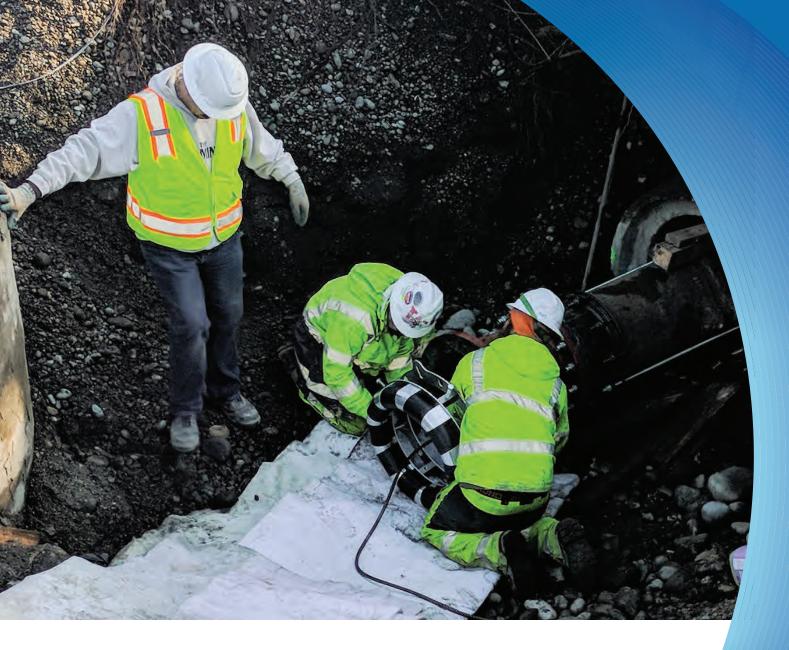
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PNWS-AWWA

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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.

CATEGORIES

ACCESS CONTROL & SECURITY SYBIS LLC

ACTIVATED CARBON

CEI – Carbon Enterprises, Inc.

AMR SYSTEMS AND METERS/AMI SOLUTIONS

Neptune Technology Group, Inc. Veolia Advanced Solutions

ASSET MANAGEMENT & REHABILITATION

SYBIS LLC Veolia Advanced 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 Hasa, Inc.

CHLORINE EMERGENCY SHUTOFF SYSTEMS

Force Flow/Halogen Valve Systems

COATINGS, LINING & CORROSION CONTROL

RELINER/Duran Inc. Veolia Advanced Solutions

CONTRACTORS

Garney Construction Insta-Pipe Inc. SYBIS LLC

CORROSION CONTROL

Norton Corrosion Limited LLC

CSO/SSO CONTROLS, WATER RESOURCES, DISTRIBUTION & COLLECTION Brown and Caldwell

DESIGN-BUILD CONTRACTOR

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DISINFECTION

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

FILTRATION

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

FLOW SENSORS Blue-White Industries

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LAND SURVEYING PACE Engineers, Inc. Wilson Engineering, LLC

LEAK DETECTION/CORRELATOR SERVICES

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MANUFACTURER RELINER/Duran Inc.

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METER READING SYSTEMS Neptune Technology Group, Inc.

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Blue-White

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