Largest-ever USC construction project captures stormwater and refills aquifers

Lurking 46 m (150 ft) below the newly finished University of Southern California (USC) Village lies a campus game-changer: an on-site system that captures and purifies up to 95% of USC’s rainfall. The system, having successfully weathered its first California rainy season, will help Los Angeles water managers keep their groundwater aquifers filled as the region rebounds from a historic 5-year drought. Get more details on the project

U.S. EPA and USGS collaborate on new surface-water modeling tool

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to combine two popular streamflow analysis tools into a single, integrated resource. The Surface Water Toolbox, called SWToolbox, which has not yet been released to the public, will allow users to compute an extensive number of metrics associated with modeling how surface water moves through watersheds. Learn more about the new software

Study: To combat toxic algal blooms, focus on phosphorus

The results of an experiment spanning nearly a half-century at the International Institute for Sustainable Development (Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada) claim that if water stewards want to
stem the growth of harmful algal blooms, they should focus on phosphorus rather than nitrogen.

The discovery, made by the same research organization credited with identifying phosphorus as a main driver of algal bloom formation in the 1970s, could change the logic behind municipal pollution prevention approaches. Read more about this research

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**Webinar: EPA’s Storm Water Management Model (SWMM)**

Feb. 20, noon to 1:30 p.m.

SWMM can help plan, analyze, and design stormwater runoff, combined and sanitary sewers, and other drainage systems in urban areas.

Learn more

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**Boston releases 50-year floodproofing plan to meet climate risks**

Boston was built on climate resiliency planning. Early residents gradually filled in low-lying Atlantic Ocean tidelands as the city expanded. They turned small islands and peninsulas into neighborhoods high enough above sea level to prevent flooding from typical tides and storms.

Today, some of these areas, such as East Boston and Charlestown, are among the most populated in the city. Faced with projections that the effects of climate change could drive the local sea level upward by as much as 20 cm (8 in.) by 2030 (as compared to 2000), Boston recently developed a broad-reaching plan to keep its citizens, history, and infrastructure above water. Find out more about Boston’s plan