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From: [The Stormwater Report](#)

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To: sboynton@pwea.org

Subject: From Underground to Outer Space

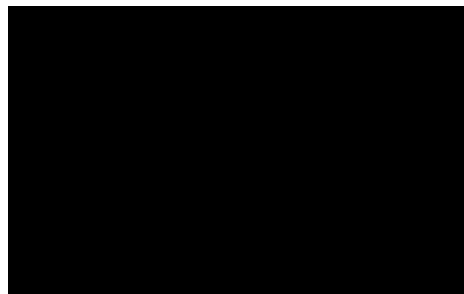
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Virginia Environmental Impact Bond Funds Major Green Infrastructure Projects

In December, the City of Hampton, Virginia, became the third U.S. community to issue an Environmental Impact Bond (EIB). Hampton's EIB will enable stormwater professionals to construct three major green infrastructure projects valued at about \$12 million, according to a December release from the city. According to the bond's terms, the three large, green infrastructure projects funded by the investment will add at least 32.5 million liters (8.6 million gallons) of local stormwater storage capacity to the Newmarket Creek watershed upon completion. [Learn more about the EIB concept and the sought-after projects it will enable in Hampton.](#)

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Studies Explore Complex Relationship Between Stormwater and Groundwater

U.S. scientists are working to better understand the relationship between coastal storms and groundwater, as well as how that relationship may be changing. Recent studies suggest intensifying storms may be a double-edged sword for coastal communities: Greater stormwater volumes may present higher risks for water quality and necessitate a more thorough treatment process, but also may help ensure local drinking water supplies remain abundant. [Scientists on the U.S. east coast are researching the quality concerns around coastal storms while Hawaiian scientists are focusing on quantity issues.](#)

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Researchers Look to the Stars for Insight on Wildfires, Mudslides

Researchers from the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) are performing both terrestrial and extraterrestrial soil experiments to develop new tools for the fight against mudslides. The team's research on Earth focuses on the differences in the behavior of rain, soil, air, and gravity when rain falls on typical soils versus on hydrophobic soils affected by wildfires. By adapting this research to run remotely on the International Space Station, the researchers hope to learn more about the fundamental behavior of particles, fluids, and air mixtures, as well as the role of gravity in mudslide formation. [Read more about how experimenting in space can yield important information for preventing mudslides on Earth.](#)

Experts Identify Long-Sought Stormwater Contaminant Behind Salmon Deaths

When it rains during salmon-spawning season around Seattle, Washington, as many as 90% of the coho salmon arriving in freshwater streams to reproduce will not survive the journey. Local environmental scientists, such as Jenifer McIntyre at Washington State University (WSU; Puyallup) and University of Washington (Seattle) engineering professor Edward Kolodziej, have spent years working alongside federal agencies, utilities, and conservation groups to find out why. The research team believes they have discovered an answer: An undocumented substance derived from a common ingredient in rubber tires and thought to be ubiquitous in more than 1.5 billion existing vehicles. [While the discovery provides answers, it also creates many new questions, researchers describe.](#)

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