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MSD hosts discussion on current state of DE&I in the water industry

LOUISVILLE, KY — Louisville MSD, in conjunction with the Water Environment Federation (WEF) Utility Management Community, have a new episode of their [Talking H2Oonestly Podcast](#) that focuses on the state of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I) in the water sector.

The podcast explores current issues, strategies, and approaches related to DE&I within the water industry. It features a range of perspectives from key stakeholders, including leading utilities, national water organizations, and private sector firms. The discussion particularly emphasizes understanding the current legal and legislative landscape surrounding DE&I initiatives. It also addresses how these programs can influence supplier diversity and affordability initiatives, as well as their impact on workforce development, recruitment, and talent retention in the water industry.

The panel includes a group of exceptional leaders in the water industry including Kellie Watson, General Counsel and Legal Director, Louisville MSD; Steve Hamai, Senior Director of Culture and Belonging, WEF; Terrence Jennings, Utility Policy Manager, City of Baltimore, Public Works; and Gary Haubner, Vice President, Regional Manager, and Director of Employee Engagement, Hazen and Sawyer.

Talking H2Oonestly's mission is to develop content to help utilities across the United States solve their water challenges and share their expertise. This podcast will give all utilities access to vital information, enabling them to maximize their funding and staffing resources. In addition, these conversations will provide an avenue for ratepayers to gain insight into the intricate and complicated issues utilities face in delivering critical services to our communities and introduce the audience to various dedicated water professionals.

Talking H2Oonestly is produced by Zonetta English, MSD Strategic Initiatives and Project Delivery Director and WEF Community Leadership Council Director, with the support of MSD Executive Director Tony Parrott. "This podcast will provide a variety of perspectives from across America. We hope this is helpful for utility employees, local communities, and political stakeholders," explained Parrott.

To learn more and to listen/view the Talking H₂Oonestly podcast, visit:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2340409>

<https://www.youtube.com/@LouisvilleMSD>

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About MSD

The Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) works to achieve and maintain clean, environmentally safe waterways for a healthy and vibrant community. The organization's more than 740 employees provide wastewater management, drainage and flood protection services across the 376 square miles of Louisville Metro, and wastewater service in portions of Bullitt and Oldham counties. In addition to operating and maintaining Louisville Metro's sewer system, floodwall system, water quality treatment centers and flood pumping stations, MSD invests in hundreds of infrastructure improvement projects each year, plants more than 1,000 trees and other vegetation annually to enhance water filtration and reduce runoff, and provides numerous outreach programs to inform and educate the community about protecting our waterways.