



## **Wipes Advocacy Update** **September 2022**

**That are Truly Flushable.** On January 24, 2022, the federal district court in Charleston, South Carolina, granted final approval to the [Class Action Settlement](#) between Plaintiff Charleston Water System (“CWS”) and Defendant Kimberly-Clark Corporation (“KC”). The approved settlement imposes numerous commitments/obligations on KC regarding its flushable and non-flushable wipe products manufactured in the U.S.

We expect these measures to significantly reduce collection system impacts from KC’s products, and eventually other manufacturers’ products, given that this settlement will set a precedent/standard for the rest of the industry. The settlement does not affect any of your members’ potential individual claims against wipe manufacturers for damages or other monetary relief due to wipes-related blockages. POTWs nationwide have no obligations whatsoever under this settlement.

CWS is close to having a second settlement with a major remaining defendant, so the litigation has been temporarily stayed pending those settlement discussions.

**State Wipes Labeling Laws Now in Effect.** On July 1, 2022, wipes labeling laws in [Washington](#), [Oregon](#), [California](#), and [Illinois](#) went into effect. These laws all require “Do Not Flush” labeling on non-flushable wipes, such as baby wipes and cleaning wipes. Congratulations to the state organizations that worked on these laws! We expect the “Do Not Flush” labeling required in these states to essentially become nationwide practices, since wipes manufacturers will likely use the same package designs in all locations.

**Public Education by Manufacturers.** As part of the California labeling law, wipes manufacturers are required to do public education on flushing practices.