



Nathan O. Taylor, CSI, CDT



Building Envelope Consultant

CA Phase Service

Building Forensics

Onion Gardener



Peeling Back the Onion

A forensic investigation that uncovered more than intended

Learning Objectives

Participants will examine the importance of regular on-site QA/QC observations during the construction process.

Participants will discuss the importance of well-planned and coordinated building maintenance plans in relation to an existing real-world project.

Participants will discuss the importance of continuity between air and water barrier systems and how lapping and transitions between adjacent systems are often incorrectly addressed.

Participants will acquire a better understanding of sequencing and constructability and how what is drawn relates to what is actually constructed.















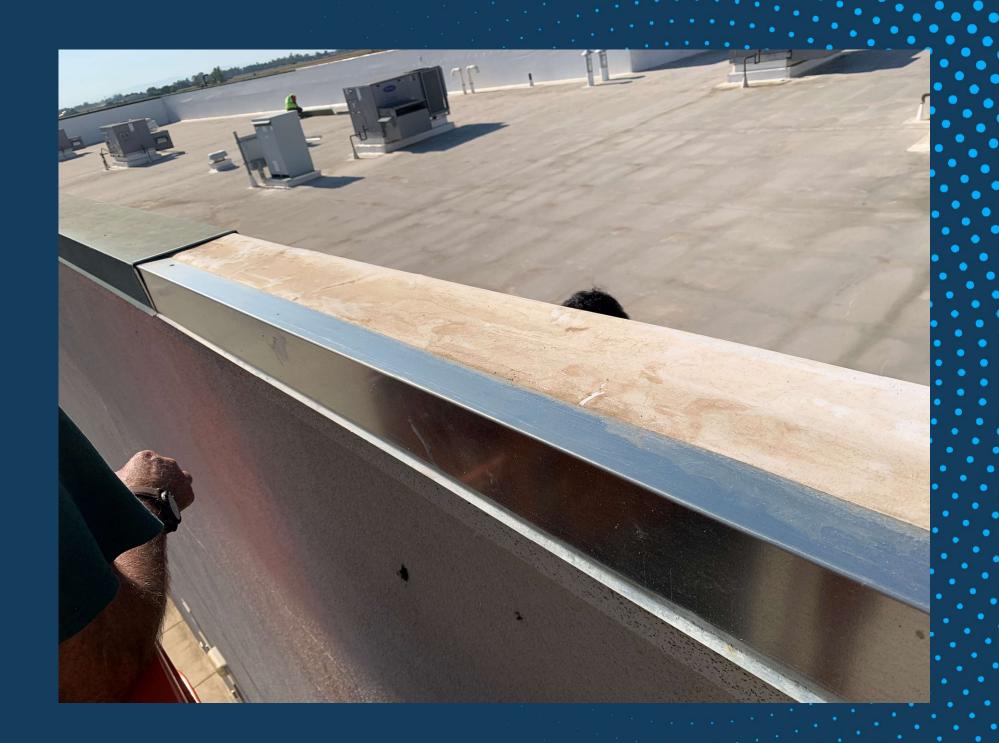
TIMELINE: OPENING THE FIRST LAYER

"Buildings are like onions, they have many different layers."

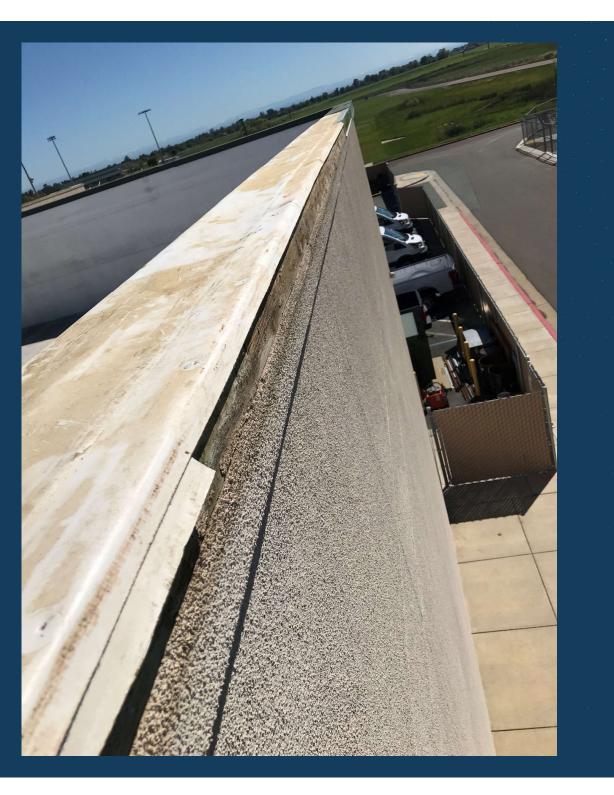




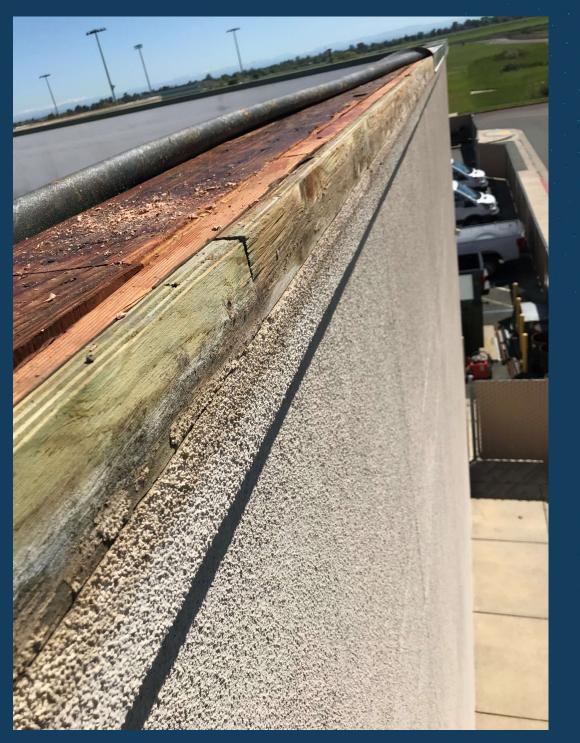




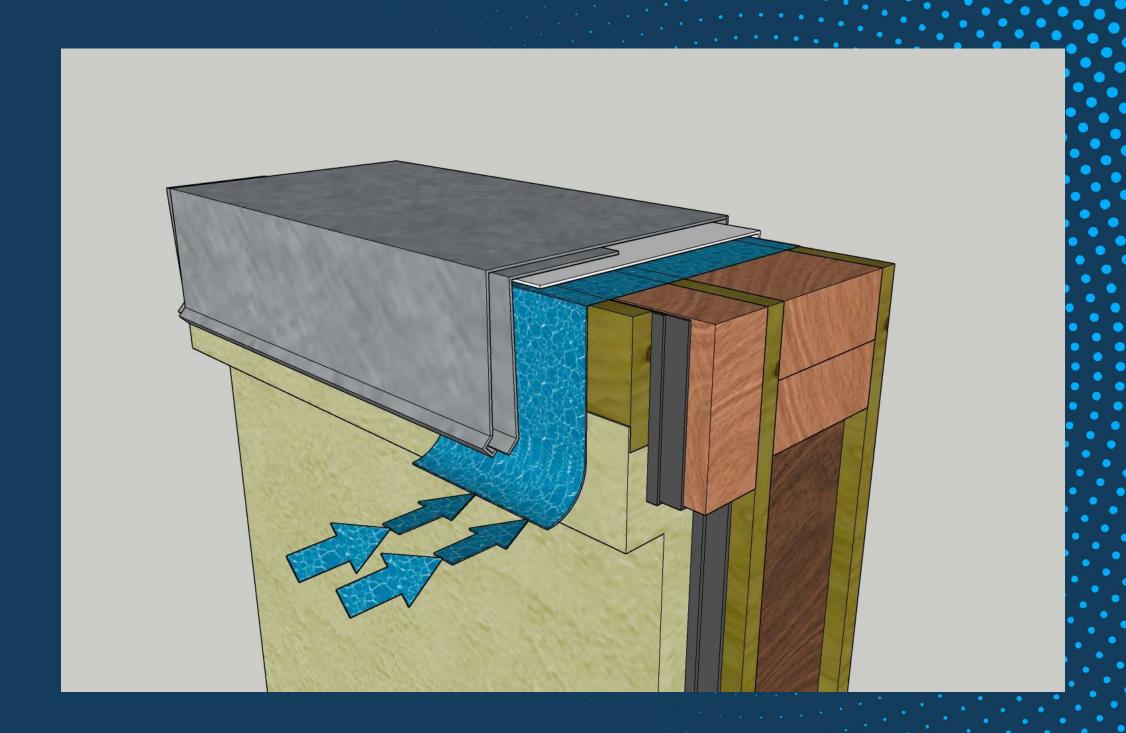














TIMELINE: PEELING BACK THE LAYERS

"LIFE IS LIKE AND ONION. YOU PEEL IT ONE LAYER AT A TIME, AND SOMETIMES IT MAKES YOU CRY."

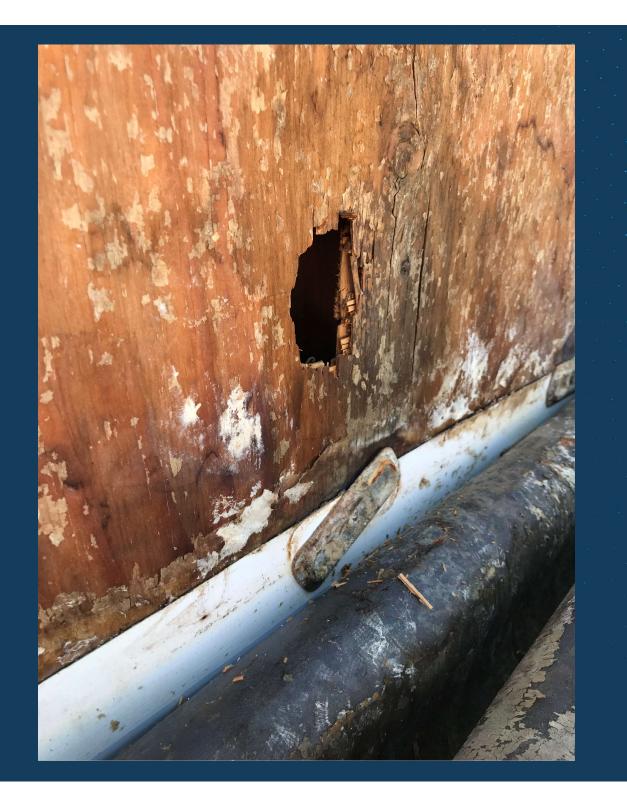
-Carl Sanburg-



















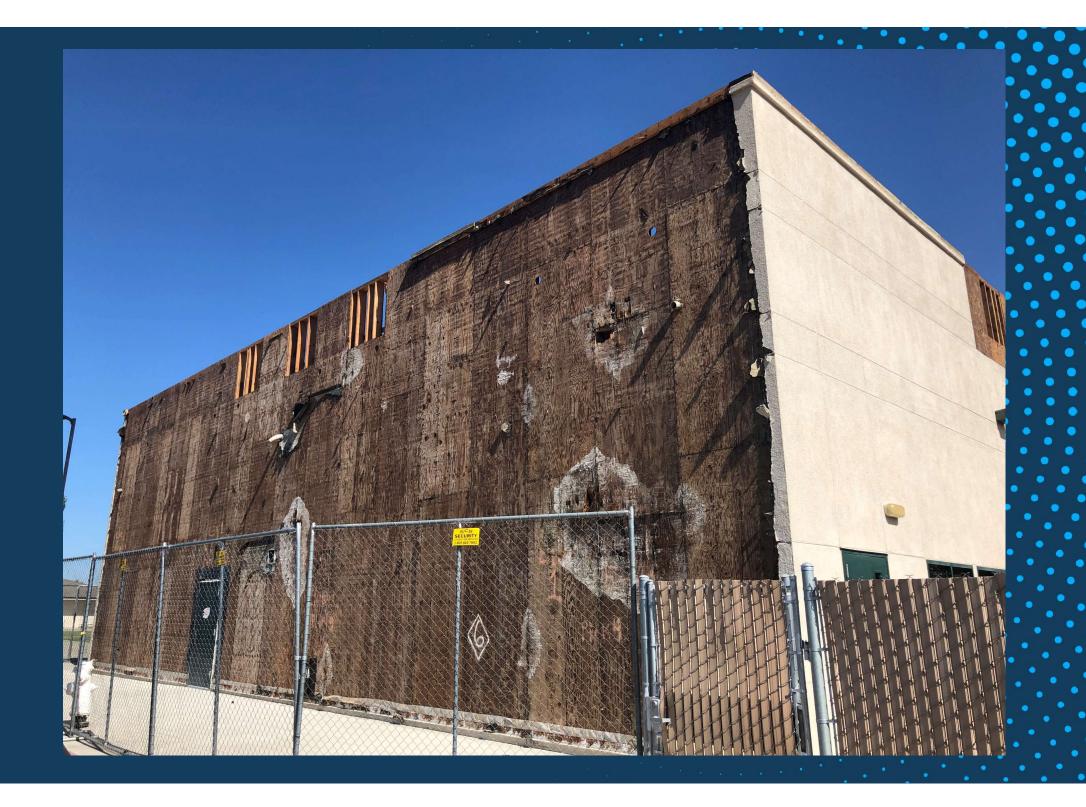


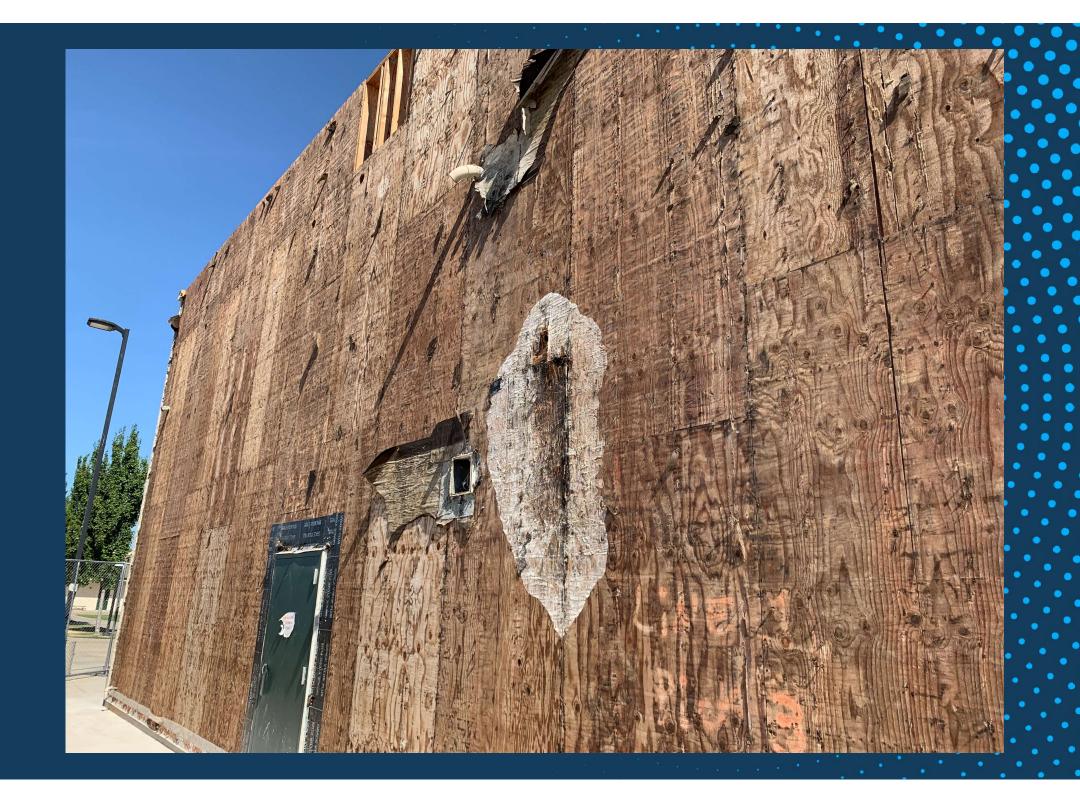
TIMELINE: PEELING BACK ANOTHER LAYER

"The Good Onion; peel away all the bad layers until you get to the good stuff."



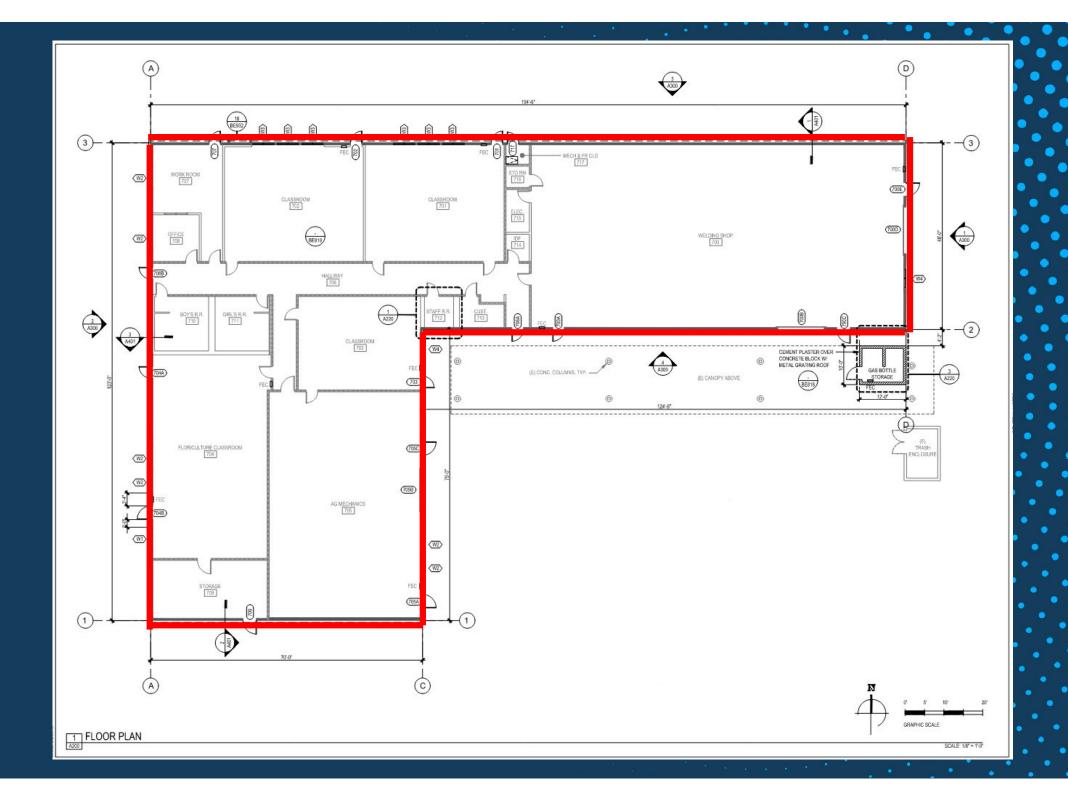














TIMELINE: THE CORE OF THE PROBLEM

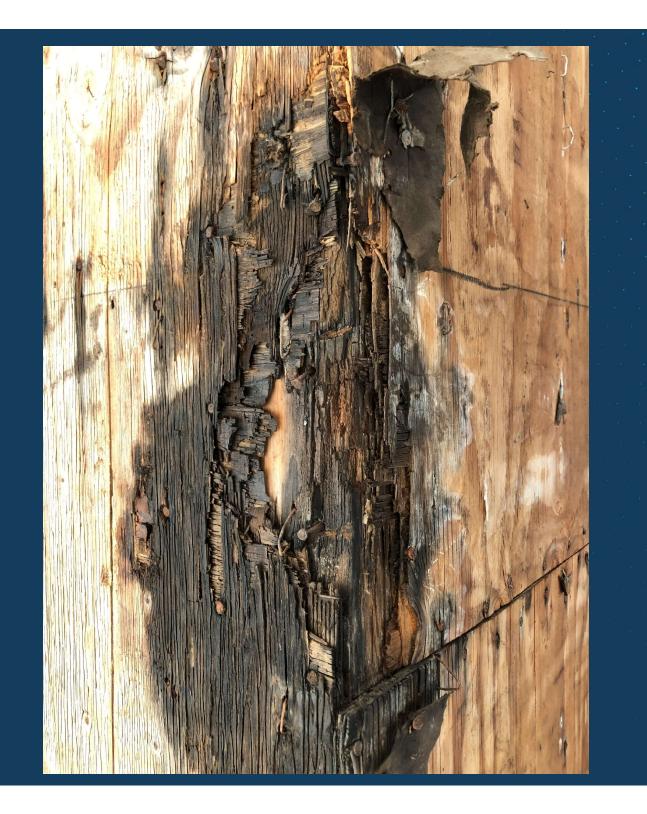
Onions contain sulfenic acid and can break down rust...

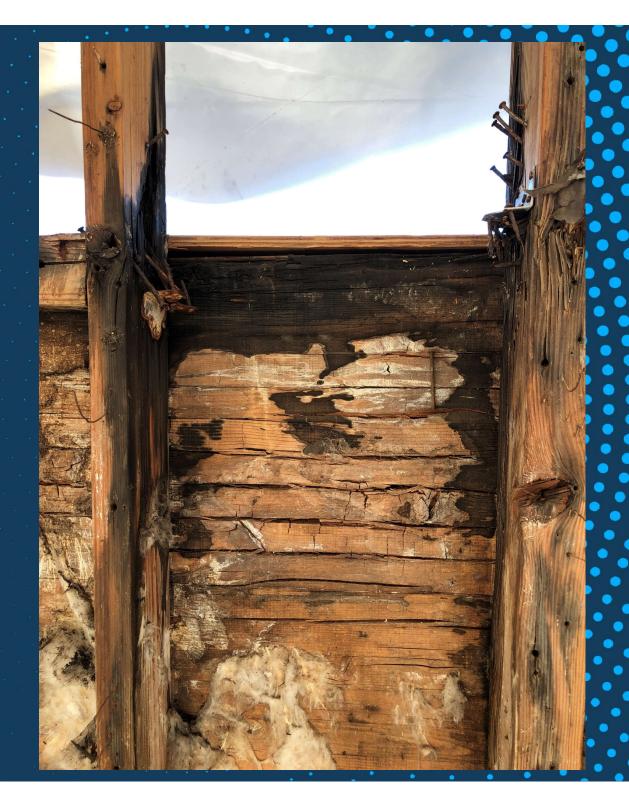
(The break down of those acids is also why onions make you cry)



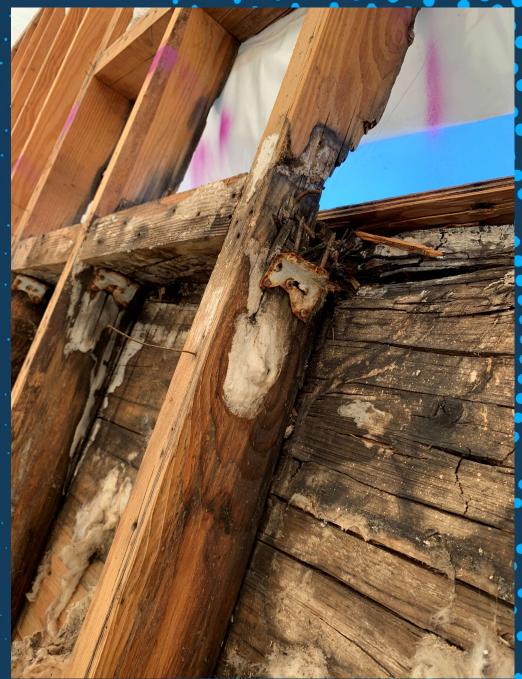






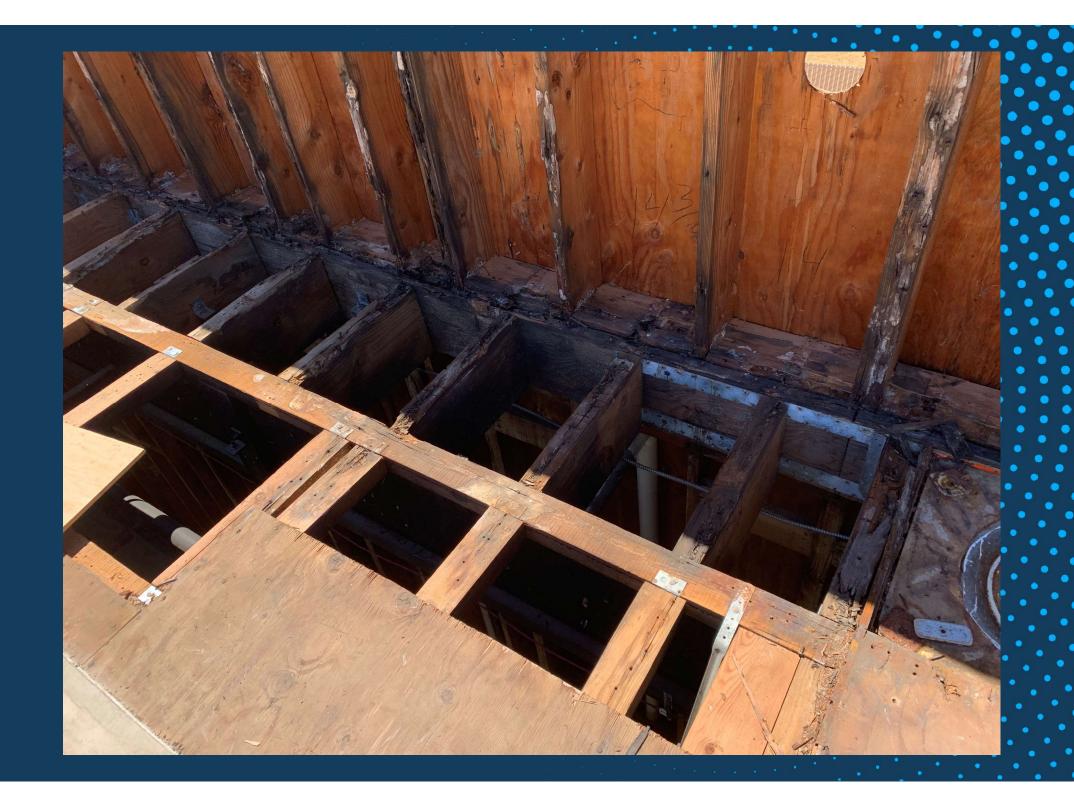






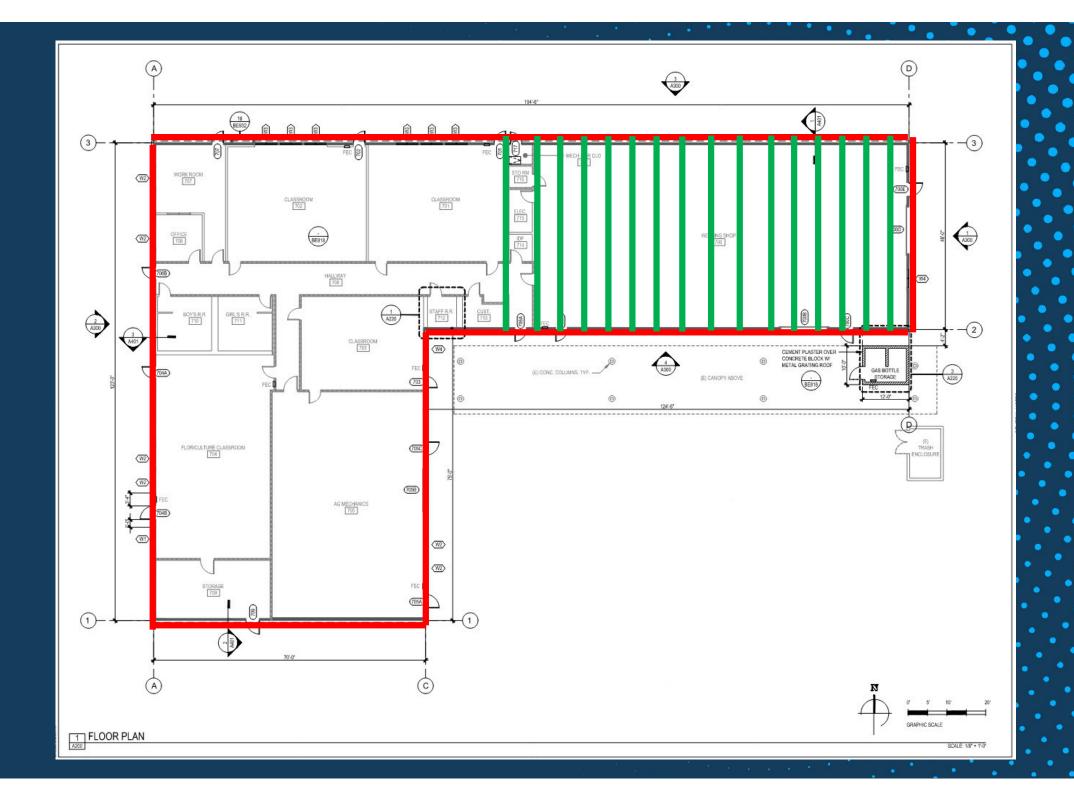












Onion Farmers have a saying... 'the thicker an onion's skin, the rougher the winter ahead will be'.



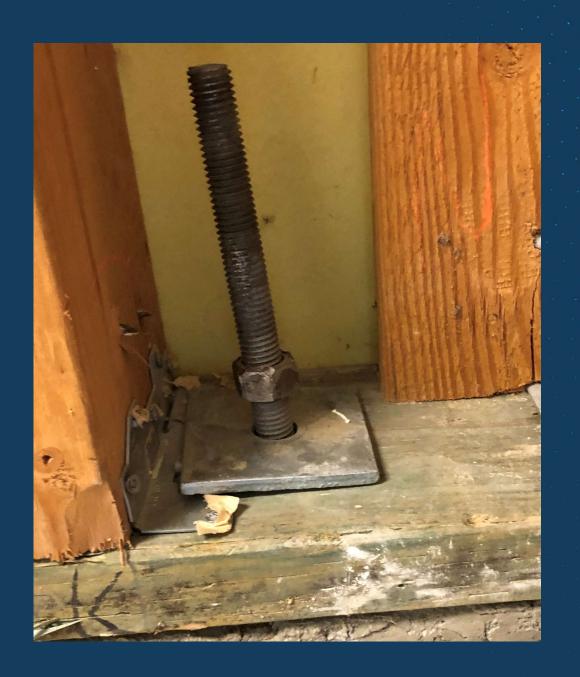


TIMELINE: ADDITIONAL LAYERS





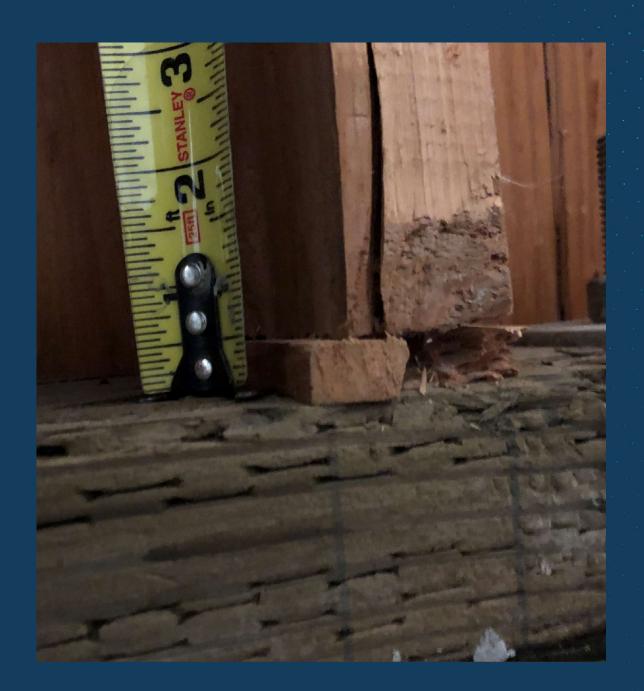




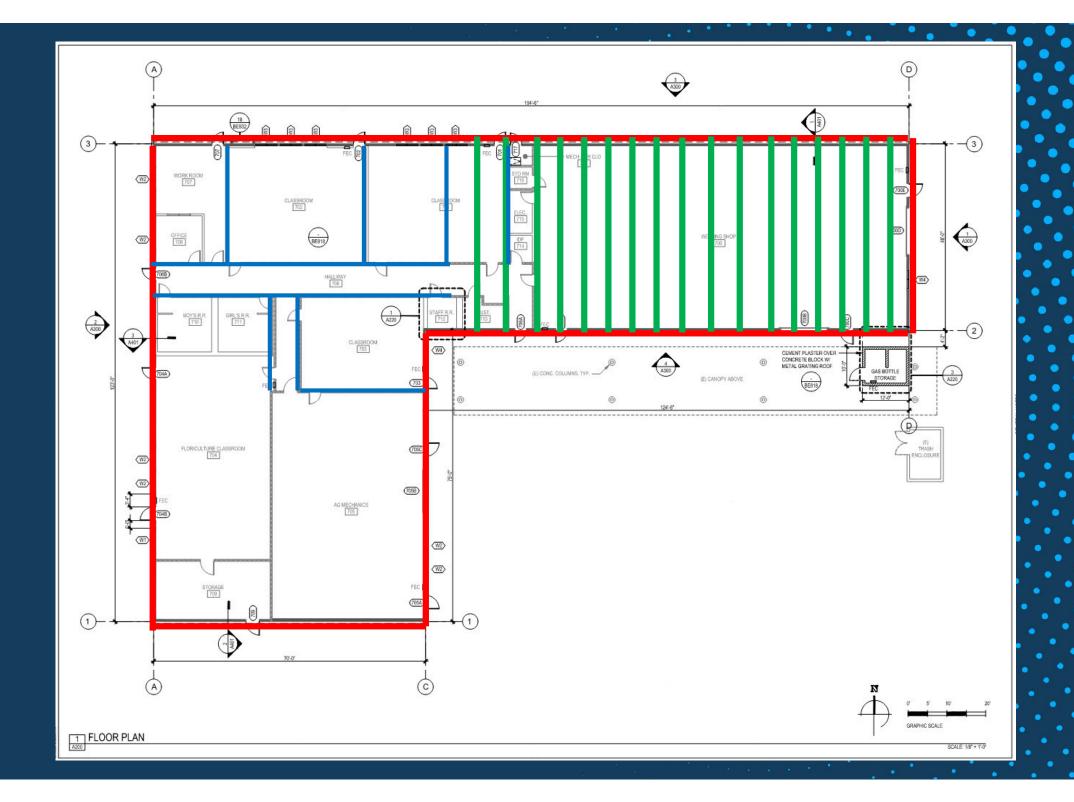






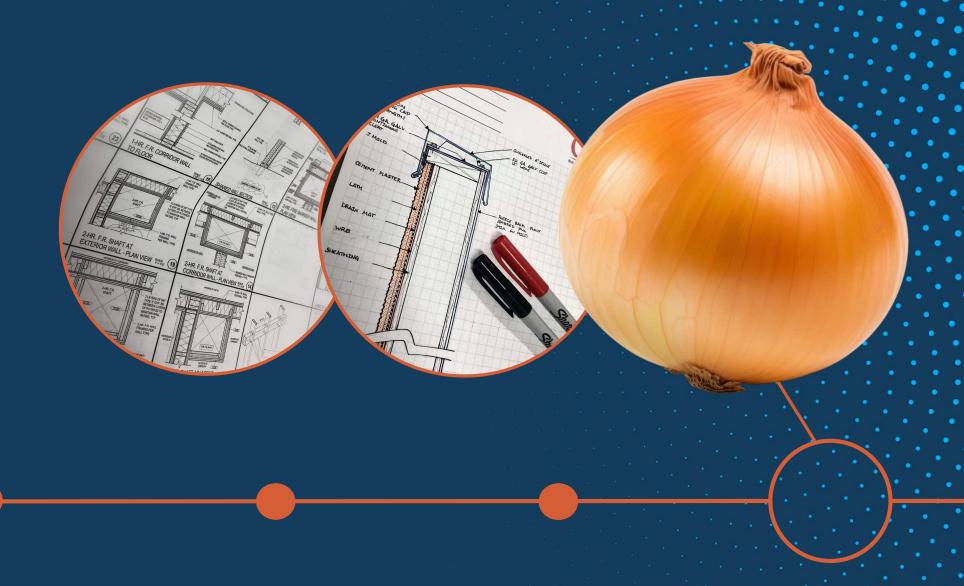






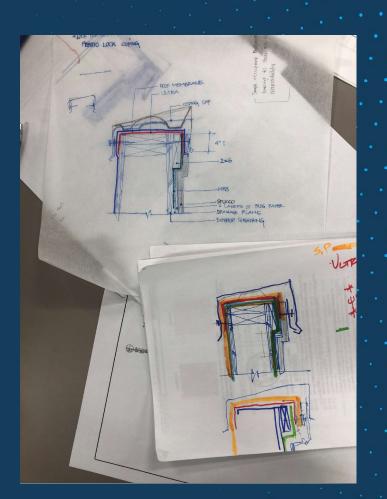
Onions were worshipped by ancient Egyptians, the concentric rings of onions indicated the circles of life.





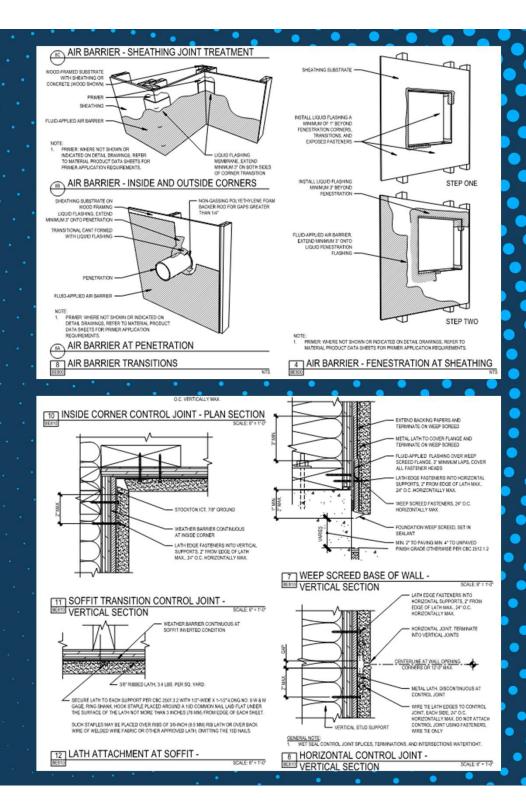
TIMELINE: REMEDIAL DESIGN



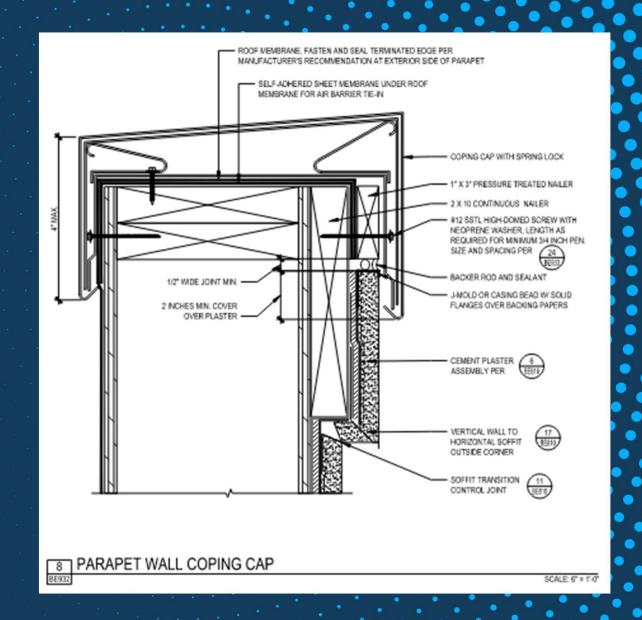




- New Cement Plaster
 System
- A liquid-applied WRB
- Full drainage plane
- More control joints
- Intermediate drainage (not just at the base of the wall)



- Redesigned parapet:
- Continuous nailer
- High-temperature underlayment
- Continuous and watertight termination of the roof membrane
- Continuous coping clip



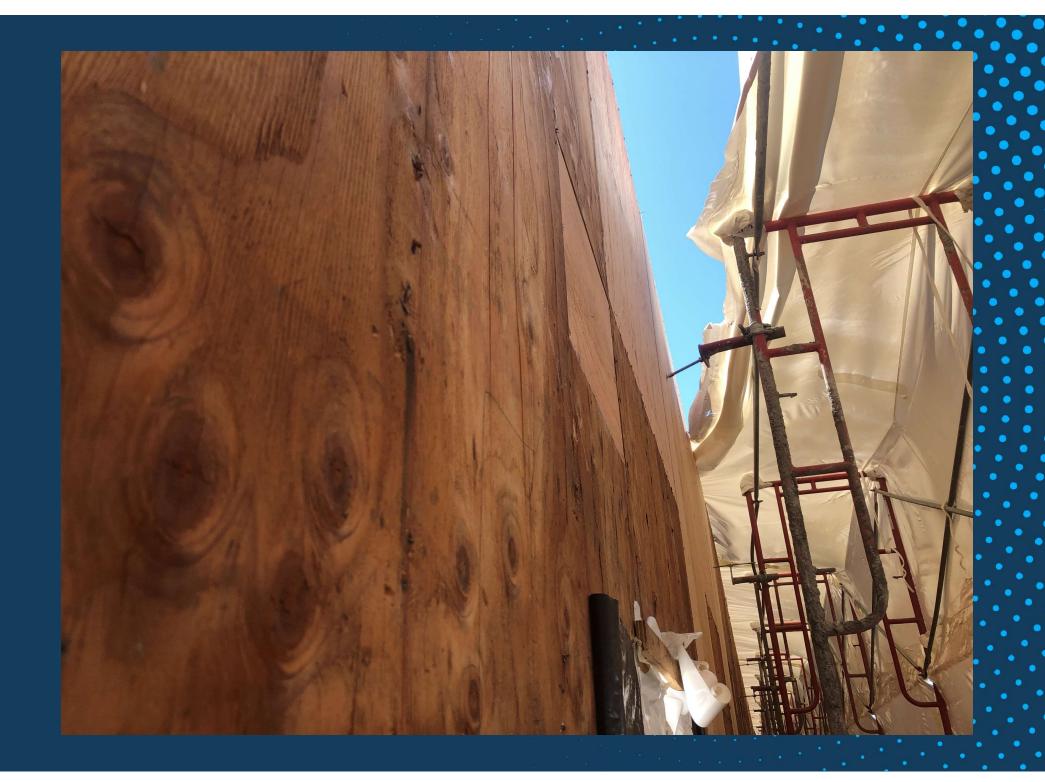
"Onions are like my wallet when I open it, I cry!"







TIMELINE: REMEDIAL CONSTRUCTION







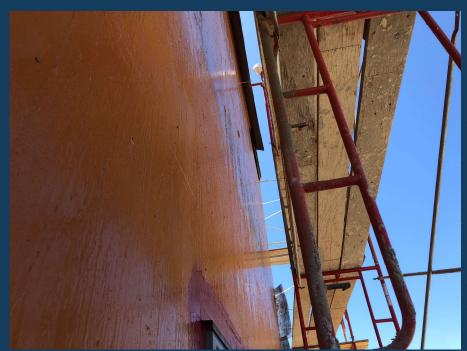








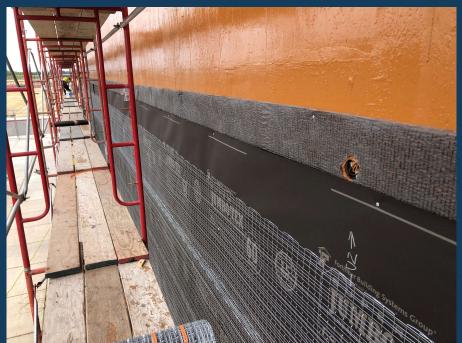








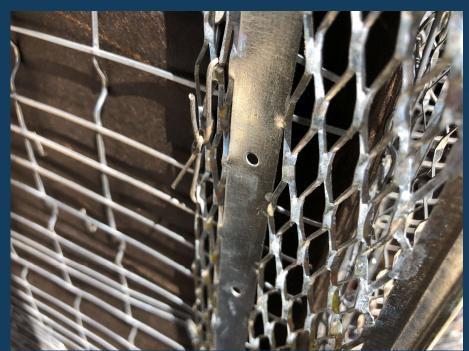














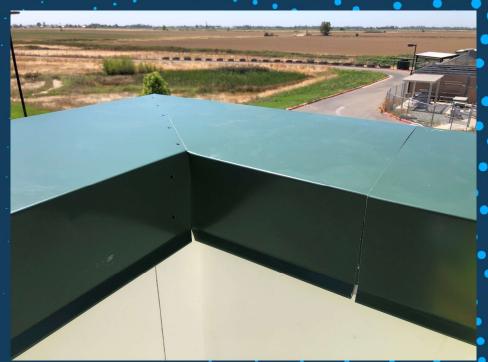
























Onions scraps can self-propagate, if the roots are left in place





Nathan O. Taylor, CDT, CSI



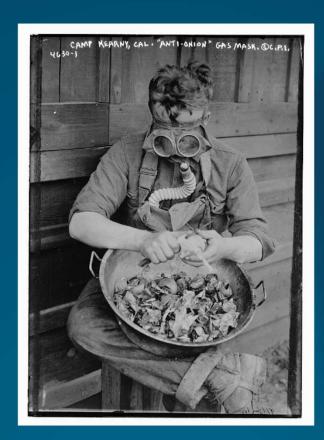
ntaylor@dtrcs.com











THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THIS PRESENTATION

