



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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For immediate release

September 9, 2014

MWRD joins water leaders in Washington, DC to rally support for investing in cities, jobs

- 30 of the largest water and wastewater agencies will invest more than \$230 billion over next decade
- These agencies support 289,000 permanent good-paying jobs annually, strengthening America's middle class
- Experts note infrastructure requires even greater investment to fix aging system, avert looming failure

Water sector leaders from across the country are meeting in Washington, DC Wednesday to invite congressional leaders to partner in strengthening the nation's water infrastructure. Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) President Kathleen Meany and Executive Director David St. Pierre will be among those meeting with congressional leaders about the importance of the water sector.

"America's economy runs on water," said Pres. Meany. "Water is the backbone of the US economy. When we invest in water, we put people to work, support economic growth and build a stronger foundation for our nation."

Last year, the American Society of Civil Engineers reported that U.S. water and wastewater systems are close to failing, giving the systems a "D" grade. However, according to new research from the Water Research Foundation and the Water Environment Research Foundation, 30 of the largest utilities from around the country will invest \$233 billion over the next decade and generate more than half a trillion dollars in U.S. economic output. The study also found that utilities are responsible for 36,500 high-quality, direct jobs that help workers enter the middle class and further grow American competitiveness.

"The City of Chicago and the MWRD are a part of the water sector which will support 290,000 annual jobs and produce \$524 billion in economic output over the next decade," said Pres. Meany. "This is a win-win proposition for the Chicagoland area and a win-win proposition for America."



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“One third of the workforce is retiring, so it’s important we train people to fill these gaps,” said Mr. St. Pierre. “When water works, America works.”

The organizations participating in the nation’s capitol demonstrates the wide-spread recognition of the water sector’s economic importance. The 30 surveyed utilities serve 83 million people across the nation—more than 25% of the total U.S. population. They include:

- Alexandria Renew Enterprises
- Boston Water & Sewer Commission
- Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority
- City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management
- City of Baltimore Water & Wastewater Utility
- City of Chicago Department of Water Management
- City of Houston—Combined Utility System
- City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
- City of Tulsa Water and Sewer Department
- DC Water and Sewer Authority
- Denver Water
- Hampton Roads Sanitation District
- Kansas City Missouri Water Services Department
- Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
- Louisville and Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District
- Louisville Water Company
- Metropolitan Sewer District
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
- Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department
- Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District
- Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
- NYC Department of Environmental Protection
- Orange County Water District
- Philadelphia Water Department
- Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority
- Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District
- San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
- Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans
- Southern Nevada Water Authority

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Our Water Environment: **Take it personally**

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwrdd.org) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.