



PRESS RELEASE

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Cincinnati Participating in National Discussion about U.S. Water Infrastructure

Addressing Deteriorating Condition of Water Infrastructure a National Priority

Cincinnati, OH – Tony Parrott, Executive Director of Greater Cincinnati Water Works and the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater (MSD), Cincinnati will participate in the Value of Water Coalition's national panel discussion about water infrastructure in Washington, DC on May 14.

The purpose of the panel discussion, held during Infrastructure Week 2014 (May 12-16), is to raise awareness about the investments needed to address our nation's crumbling water and wastewater infrastructure and to help communicate the challenges utilities face to maintain safe, reliable and sustainable water and wastewater infrastructure. Water has been the "unseen infrastructure" and today communities across the country must rely on aging water infrastructure systems in critical need of repair and replacement.

"Nationally, consent decree communities must invest in billions of dollars in water and wastewater infrastructure improvements over the next several years," said Parrott. "As is the case in Cincinnati and Hamilton County, we are developing integrated sustainable solutions that not only address our infrastructure needs but serve as a catalyst for community revitalization and job creation."

Parrott was selected to represent publicly owned water utilities because of his leadership and industry expertise. Other panelists include Nancy Stoner, U.S. EPA, Ed Pinero, Veolia Water North America, and Mark Strauss, American Water.

While in Washington, DC, meetings are also scheduled with White House Domestic Policy staff and the Council on Environmental Quality to discuss Cincinnati's approach to utilizing green and sustainable solutions to promote community revitalization and workforce development. MSD's approach is being explored as a national model for all federally mandated consent decrees utilities.

"The Value of Water Coalition is made up of both public and private members of the water industry, who have come together at a time when our water infrastructure is at risk. Our goal is to educate the public about the importance of clean, safe, and reliable water and the needs associated with providing these basic services," added Parrott.

MSD is under a federal mandate to treat, capture, or remove 85 percent of the annual 11 billion gallons of combined sewer overflows and eliminate all sanitary overflows. To meet this requirement, MSD launched Project Groundwork, a multi-year initiative composed of hundreds of sewer improvement and stormwater mitigation projects. Many of the strategies include green infrastructure techniques.

The most significant and large-scale effort is in the Lick Run watershed, which is located in the Lower Mill Creek on Cincinnati's west side. Instead of a traditional large diameter tunnel, MSD has received federal approval to implement a "sustainable approach" with green elements to make an above ground investment in the South Fairmount community that can lead to economic growth and neighborhood revitalization. Projects such as Lick Run are becoming a model for other urban communities under consent decree mandates.

To learn more about Infrastructure Week 2014 visit www.infrastructureweek2014.com.

To learn more about the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati and Greater Cincinnati Water Works, please visit us at www.msdgc.org and www.cincinnati-oh.gov/gcww.

The Value of Water Coalition is comprised of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA); Water Environment Federation (WEF); the American Water Works Association (AWWA); the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA); the National Association of Water Companies (NAWC); CH2M HILL; Veolia; United Water; American Water; Xylem; and MWH Global – and managed by the U.S. Water Alliance. This invaluable strategic collaboration strives to create a stronger, more united voice across the sector to improve awareness of the value of water – and in particular water infrastructure.

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