



**NORTH
TEXAS
MUNICIPAL
WATER
DISTRICT**

NEWS RELEASE

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North Texas Municipal Water District Joins National [*Imagine a Day Without Water*](#) Campaign to Raise Awareness About Vulnerable Infrastructure Systems

September 15, 2016 – Today, North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) joins elected officials, drinking water and wastewater providers, community leaders, policy experts, advocacy organizations, and infrastructure experts in promoting [*Imagine a Day Without Water*](#), an effort to educate the public about the water infrastructure crisis currently facing the United States.

Organized by the Value of Water Coalition, hundreds of organizations across the country will promote raising awareness about the crucial need for investment to ensure that no community in America is left without water and the infrastructure that brings it to and from homes and businesses.

Recognizing that an investment in our drinking water and wastewater systems is essential to securing a prosperous future for generations to come, we must raise awareness for infrastructure funding.

“Over the next year, the North Texas Municipal Water District will spend approximately \$430 million maintaining and expanding our water and wastewater systems, including treatment facilities and pipeline networks to meet the growing needs of our service area,” said Tom Kula, executive director of NTMWD. “We currently serve 1.6 million customers and that number is expected to double within 50 years. Investments in new water sources and infrastructure are critical to meeting those needs,” Kula added.

“We’re thrilled that NTMWD is joining [*Imagine a Day Without Water*](#). This national day of action is educating public officials and engaging citizens about the essential role water plays in our lives, and the threat that aging and underfunded water infrastructure poses to our communities and economy,” said Radhika Fox, CEO of the US Water Alliance and Director of the Value of Water Coalition. “Most people can take for granted that when the turn on the tap, or flush the toilet, water systems functions exactly as they are supposed to. However, the systems that provide critical water and wastewater services are aging, and we need to take action before it gets worse; because a day without water is nothing short of a crisis.”

The drinking water and wastewater systems are each multi-faceted with unique challenges. Each community faces unique challenges that will require locally crafted solutions to solve. Drought, flooding, infrastructure failure, sewer overflows, and climate change are stressing our water and wastewater systems. In some communities, families and businesses have experienced the impossible struggle of a day without water. [*Imagine a Day Without Water*](#) tells their stories, as well as the stories of innovative

solutions to our nation's water challenges, so that no one ever has to experience another day without water.

Frequently, public attention for infrastructure typically focuses on the things we see every day, like roads, bridges, and tunnels. Yet the hidden infrastructure that reliably delivers clean water to homes and businesses, and takes it away after it has been used, is actually far more massive than our highway system. National Geographic estimates that the country's 1.2 million miles of water mains translates to 26 miles of pipes for every mile of interstate highway. Additionally, while the interstate system was built in the late 20th century, many of the water systems that our country's biggest cities rely on were built in the 1800s or early 1900s.

Now those systems are showing the effects of a century, or more, of running 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Did you know that a water main breaks somewhere in America every two minutes? The American Society of Civil Engineers gave a grade of "D" to our nation's drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. Without further investments, these systems will experience failures and service disruptions that are more frequent as they try to keep up with the needs of both growing urban cities and rural and agricultural areas.

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The Value of Water Coalition is a group of thirty water and wastewater providers, water-reliant businesses and policy organizations dedicated to educating and inspiring the nation about how water is essential and in need of investment. The Value of Water Coalition is coordinated by the US Water Alliance, a national non-profit dedicated to securing a sustainable water future for all.

About NTMWD

The North Texas Municipal Water District is a regional wholesale provider of water, wastewater and solid waste disposal services for approximately 1.6 million residents in the north Texas counties of Collin, Dallas, Denton, Fannin, Grayson, Hopkins, Hunt, Kaufman, Rains, and Rockwall – a service territory covering 2,200 square miles. For more information, visit NTMWD.com.

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