



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Media Advisory

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## MWRD to assist Special Olympics Illinois rubber ducky derby

**Who:** The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD)

**What:** Windy City Rubber Ducky Derby

**When:** 1 p.m. on Thursday, August 8, 2013

**Where:** Along the Chicago River beginning at the Columbus Ave. bridge and finishing at the Michigan Ave. bridge

Staff aboard the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) pollution control boat will take a break from performing their routine water quality monitoring duties along the Chicago area waterways to assist Special Olympics Illinois in conducting its annual Windy City Rubber Ducky Derby on August 8. The race kicks off at 1p.m. at the Columbus Ave. bridge and will finish at the Michigan Ave. bridge.

Thousands of spectators will cheer on 35,000 yellow rubber ducks along the Chicago River race course. The MWRD pollution control boat will escort the ducks along the route, guiding them toward the finish line by using bursts of water.

“The MWRD has been assisting in this effort for over two decades, and we are committed to providing assistance for this very worthy cause,” said MWRD President Kathleen Meany. “Thousands of children and their families benefit thanks to the work of the Special Olympics organization so we are happy to support this endeavor.”

Family entertainment will include face painting, games, free food and appearances by several sports mascots. Donated prizes will be provided to the adoptive parents of the winning ducks.

“We are very pleased to have the continuing support of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District,” said Special Olympics President and Chief Executive Officer Dave Breen. “The services they provide are an integral part of the success of our Windy City Rubber Ducky Derby, an annual event which provides much needed funding for the over 21,000 children and adults who participate in the sport of their choice through Special Olympics Illinois.”

Ducks are available for a \$5 adoption fee, and all proceeds benefit Special Olympics Illinois programs which supports over 32,000 athletes across Illinois. Additional information about the Rubber Ducky Derby can be found at [www.duckrace.com/chicago](http://www.duckrace.com/chicago).

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*Established in 1889, the MWRD ([www.mwr.org](http://www.mwr.org)) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.*