



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District *of* Greater Chicago

Press Release

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Media Advisory

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Thornton Composite Reservoir ribbon cutting set for Sept. 1

- **WHO:** Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) Board of Commissioners, U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, U.S. Rep. Robin Kelly, U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley, USEPA Region 5 Administrator Susan Hedman, IL EPA Director Lisa Bonnett and local leaders.
- **WHAT:** Ribbon cutting for the MWRD's Thornton Composite Reservoir to help prevent flooding and improve water quality.
- **WHERE:** 17041 S. State St., South Holland, IL
- **WHEN:** Tuesday, September 1, 2015, 10 a.m.*

**Please arrive early to provide enough time to travel to the bottom of the reservoir.*

Decades in the making and after a summer of tours to the public, officials will have a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Thornton Composite Reservoir that will hold 7.9 billion gallons of water and benefit approximately 556,000 people in 14 communities throughout the South Side of Chicago and south suburbs. The reservoir will protect approximately 182,000 structures, such as homes, businesses and other facilities; and improve water quality in the Calumet River and Calumet-Sag Channel by collecting combined sewer overflows before entering waterways. The new reservoir's capacity holds these overflows before pumping the water to the Calumet Water Reclamation Plant for treatment.

The reservoir is part of the MWRD's Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP), commonly referred to as the "Deep Tunnel," consisting of more than 100 miles of tunnels deep below the surface of the Chicago region and three reservoirs designed to capture and hold stormwater and sewage for treatment at water reclamation plants.

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Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

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