



“RE-BUILDING THE CITY’S WATER SYSTEMS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY”

Sewerage & Water Board OF NEW ORLEANS

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Safeguarding Our Cities is Focus of Upcoming New Orleans Water Summit

Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Executive Director Kyle Graham to deliver luncheon keynote; Special Katrina+10 panel will highlight city’s current, future progress in resilience and water innovation

What: The Water Environment Federation (WEF), Greater New Orleans, Inc. (GNO, Inc.) and the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO), will jointly present *Great Water Cities: Collaborating for a Resilient Future*. A distinguished group of national and international leaders from the public, non-profit and private sectors will meet July 21-22 at the Tulane University Lavin-Bernick Center to share perspectives, strategies for progressive, adaptable water management.

Who: Opening remarks will be provided by WEF President **Ed McCormick** and SWBNO Executive Director **Cedric Grant**, followed by a series of focused panel discussions. Anchoring the summit will be a luncheon keynote from **Kyle Graham**, Executive Director of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), who will talk about Louisiana coastal restoration projects and related regional impacts. CPRA works with federal, state and local political subdivisions, including levee districts, to establish a safe and sustainable coast that will protect local communities, the nation’s critical energy infrastructure and the state’s natural resources. The formal programming will conclude with remarks and next steps from WEF Executive Director **Eileen O’Neill**.

Panel 1: Utility/Utility Collaboration

- **Tony Parrott**, *Executive Director, Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati*
- **Barry Gullet**, *Director, Charlotte Water*
- **Scott Haskins**, *Senior Vice President & Director of Strategic Consulting at CH2M*

Panel 2: Managing Water in Extremes

- **Adel Hagekhalil**, *Assistant Director, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation*
- **Vincent Sapienza**, *Deputy Commissioner, New York City DEP*
- **David Waggoner**, *President, Waggoner and Ball Architects*
- **Doug Yoder**, *Deputy Director, Miami Dade Water & Sewer*

Panel 3: Workforce Development and Economics

- **Ashley Gardere**, Sr. Advisor to Mayor Landrieu and Director, *The Network for Economic Opportunity at the City of New Orleans*
- **Joanne M. Mahoney** - County Executive, Onondaga County
- **Karen Pallansch**, CEO, *Alexandria Renew*

Panel 4: Innovation and Investment

- **Mike Eckert**, Chairman, *Propeller Water Accelerator-NO/LA Angel Network*
- **Earnest Jolly**, Energy Chief, *DC Water*
- **Andrew Richardson**, CEO, *Greeley & Hansen*
- **Sue Schneider**, CEO, *Spartanburg Water*
- **Martin Vilhelmsen**, Project Manager, *RAMBOLL*

Panel 5: Katrina+10 and Beyond: How will we be measuring progress?

- **Robin Barnes**, Executive Vice President and COO, *GNO, Inc.* (Facilitator)
- **Jeff Hebert**, Chief Resilience Officer, *City of New Orleans on building resilience for the future*
- **Claire Anderson**, First Grade Teacher at *Kipp Central Primary School* and Project Co-Director of *Ripple Effect (water curriculum in elementary schools)*
- **Ginny Hanusik**, Water Program Coordinator, *Propeller Water Accelerator on social entrepreneurship and water innovation*

Why: As the latest installment of [WEF's Great Water Cities dialogue series](#), the 2015 New Orleans summit will build upon last year's meeting in Chicago, where a diverse group of global leaders gathered to examine and discuss their experiences—specifically where leading-edge utilities are focusing their resources and efforts—in hopes of changing the agenda for other communities facing similar water challenges. WEF is also the organizer of [WEFTEC](#), the world's largest annual water quality conference and exhibition. WEFTEC and the Great Water Cities series rotate each year between New Orleans and Chicago. The next New Orleans-hosted WEFTEC is scheduled for Sept. 24-28, 2016 at the New Orleans Morial Convention Center.

When: Formal programming: **Wednesday, July 22, 2015, 8:30 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.** Summit attendees are encouraged to arrive on Tues., July 21 for local facility tours and a welcome reception. A peer-to-peer networking wrap-up will be held immediately following the formal programming on Wed., July 22.

Where: Tulane University Lavin-Bernick Center

Note to editors:

Media interested in covering the event may contact Lori Harrison at lharrison@wef.org or 703-216-8565. For complete registration and event details, please visit www.wef.org/watersummit.

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About WEF

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) is a not-for-profit technical and educational organization of 36,000 individual members and 75 affiliated Member Associations representing water quality professionals around the world. Since 1928, WEF and its members have protected public health and the environment. As a global water sector leader, our mission is to connect water professionals; enrich the expertise of water professionals; increase the awareness of the impact and value of water; and provide a platform for water sector innovation. To learn more, visit www.wef.org.

About Greater New Orleans, Inc.

GNO, Inc. is the regional economic development organization for Southeast Louisiana. The GNO, Inc. Mission is to create jobs and wealth in the Greater New Orleans community. The GNO, Inc. Vision is for the Greater New Orleans region to fulfill its potential as one of the best places in the country to grow a company, and raise a family. More information can be found at www.gnoinc.org.