

BWL wins honorable mention in national taste test

The Board of Water & Light has received an honorable mention in the 2007 City Water Taste Test conducted recently in Washington D.C. That honor put us in the top 15 of the 93 municipal waters that competed. The press release (below) gives the details.

Immediate Release Contact: Elena Temple (etemple@usmayors.org)

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THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS ANNOUNCES 2007 CITY WATER TASTE TEST FINALISTS

Five Finalist Cities Selected from a Group of 93 Submissions

Washington, D.C. – The U.S. Conference of Mayors held the first round of its 2007 City Water Taste Test today at its headquarter offices in Washington, D.C. From a group of 93, five cities were selected for their achievement in providing great tasting, quality water to America's citizens. **The finalist cities are Anaheim, CA; Colorado Springs, CO; Long Beach, CA; St. Louis, MO and Toledo, OH.**

A celebrity panel of judges conducted a blind test of tap water for taste, clarity and aroma. The five finalist cities will be advancing to compete at the 75th Annual Meeting of The U.S. Conference of Mayors in Los Angeles (June 22-26) for the title of "Best Tasting City Water in America." Hundreds of mayors from around the nation will then be the blind taste test judges. The winning city will receive a cash award of \$15,000 and bragging rights.

Tom Cochran, Executive Director of the Conference of Mayors stated, "Our cities are world leaders in providing high quality water to protect public health, for public safety and fire protection." Although cities we have achieved much success in providing water infrastructure and services in America, we may soon be facing our biggest challenges as population growth, climate change and potential shortages in the near future pose an increasing cost burden.

"While we reward the efforts by cities, this water taste event is also a call for the federal government to partner with us to help cities improve deteriorating infrastructures," added Mr. Cochran. Local government has always been the primary investor in public water infrastructure, but federal policies for the last two decades have shifted the cost of water services to local governments; and cities cannot be expected to do this alone.

The Conference of Mayors thanks Veolia Water North America, the sole corporate sponsor of the 2007 City Water Taste Test. "Everyday, the private sector supports cities and towns across the country in their efforts to provide citizens with the best water services," said Joe Burgess, Veolia Water North America President and CEO. "We're delighted to highlight the importance of good quality drinking water."

This year's panel of judges were Tommy Jacomo, Proprietor of The Palm restaurant in Washington, DC; Ben Grumbles, Assistant Administrator of Water at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and Juliet Eilperin, environment reporter of The Washington Post newspaper.

The ten cities who received honorable mentions were as follows: Arvada, CO, Beverly Hills, CA, Dubuque, IA, Greenbay, WI, Lansing, MI, Northbrook, IL, Philadelphia, PA, San Jose, CA, Sugar Land, TX, and Tallahassee, FL.

All local government provides for the pipes, pumps, treatment works and services and has increased spending from \$45.6 billion in FY1992 to \$82 billion in FY2005.

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