



Imagine a Day Without Water

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Providence Water and Rhode Island Waterworks Association Join Fourth Annual Imagine a Day Without Water Campaign to Raise Awareness About the Value of Water

October 10, 2018 – PROVIDENCE, RI – Today, Providence Water and the Rhode Island Waterworks Association joined elected officials, water utilities, community leaders, educators, and businesses around the country participating in the fourth annual Imagine a Day Without Water, a nationwide day of education and advocacy about the value of water. Led by the Value of Water Campaign, hundreds of organizations across the country will host events and spearhead projects today aimed at raising awareness about the crucial need for investment in our nation's water infrastructure.

“Providence Water’s distribution system consists of a network of 1,000 miles of water main pipes and 74,000 service connections that deliver an average of 60 million gallons of clean water per day to 600,000 Rhode Islanders in more than a dozen communities across the state. Over the past 28 years Providence Water has invested over \$400,000,000 to repair and modernize our water infrastructure so that we can continue to deliver the clean water that Rhode Island homes and businesses rely on every day” said Stephen Soito, P.E., Senior Manager at Providence Water and President of the Rhode Island Waterworks Association.

After decades of underfunding, water infrastructure is aging and in need of investment. Drought, flooding, and population changes are stressing our water and wastewater systems. A single nationwide day without water service would put \$43.5 billion of economic activity at risk. In just eight days, a national water service stoppage would put nearly two million jobs in jeopardy.

“Turning on the faucet for a glass of clean drinking water, taking a shower, and flushing the toilet are all things we just take for granted,” said Xaykham Khamsyvoravong, Chairman of the Providence Water Supply Board. “Yet behind each of these everyday activities are hundreds of

millions of dollars in infrastructure that must be constantly maintained and upgraded so that we can continue to deliver the safe, clean, reliable water that Rhode Islanders depend on. It is thankfully hard to ‘Imagine a Day Without Water’, but that is why it is so important to be a part of today’s day of action to remind everyone of the value of our nation’s water infrastructure and the need to continue to invest in this key asset.”

As part of Imagine a Day Without Water, Providence Water’s Senior Manager Stephen Soito will visit Robert F. Kennedy Elementary School in Providence to speak with students in several classes about the Scituate Reservoir, water conservation, and the value of water.

“We are thrilled that Providence Water and the Rhode Island Waterworks Association are part of Imagine a Day Without Water. This national day of action educates our neighbors and public officials about the essential role water plays in all of 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 Campaign. “Water infrastructure is often out of sight, out of mind. But, the systems that deliver water to and from our homes and businesses require reinvestment and upkeep just like roads and bridges. It is time to take action before we face a national crisis.”

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About Providence Water:

Providence Water is Rhode Island’s largest water utility, and is owned and operated by the City of Providence. Providence Water provides drinking water to 600,000 Rhode Islanders in more than a dozen communities through wholesale distribution. The utility has more than 70,000 direct retail customers in Providence, North Providence, Cranston, Johnston and East Smithfield.