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Three Top Environmental Organizations in the New York Water Sector Partner to Host the 2022 NYS Water and Wastewater Virtual Legislative Forum

Syracuse, NY – The New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA), the New York Section American Water Works Association (NYSAWWA), and the New York Rural Water Association (NYRWA), the three leading environmental organizations in the state’s water sector, are partnering to present the annual New York State Water and Wastewater Virtual Legislative Forum on March 1, 2022 from 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM. The forum invites New York State Senators and Assembly Members and their staff, along with water professionals from across the state to join virtually for a discussion of current water quality challenges and policy solutions.

The forum will begin with a special welcome from New York State Senator Michelle Hinchey and NYS Assemblymember Patricia Fahy, who each serve on the Environmental Conservation Committee of their respective bodies. Water industry presentations will include an update on the Lead and Copper Rule, the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP), emerging contaminants – residuals and nutrients, and an update on water and wastewater infrastructure funding. Confirmed speakers include David A. Rowley, Chief of Water Quality Operations at the City of Rochester, NY; Keri Stark, LIHWAP Bureau Chief at the NYS Office of Disability Services; Paul J. Granger, Superintendent at Hicksville Water District; Dr. Robert Sharp, Chair of Environmental Engineering at Manhattan College; and Michael Hale, Executive Vice President at NYS Environmental Facilities. Following the technical presentations, the program will conclude with Q&A and discussion.

NYWEA, NYSAWWA, and NYRWA represent a combined membership of over 7,000 members that include municipalities across the state. This annual forum brings state and local policymakers together with a variety of water professionals to discuss the most urgent policy issues and the latest science in the field of water quality management. The event is free to attend and registration is available at nywea.org.

About NYWEA: Founded in 1929 by professionals in the field of water quality as a nonprofit educational organization, NYWEA has 2,500 members statewide and hosts several technical conferences each year for

environmental engineers, scientists, public officials and others who work in water and wastewater quality management. In addition, NYWEA sponsors a scholarship program, publishes Clear Waters, a quarterly educational magazine, administers wastewater operator training certification, and supports humanitarian clean water projects. Headquartered in Syracuse, NYWEA has seven regional chapters, 14 college student chapters and is a Member Association of the international Water Environment Federation. Visit nywea.org to learn more.

About NYSAWWA: Established in 1914, the New York Section is the first and oldest in the American Water Works Association (AWWA). The Section's history, and that of its parent organization, is tied to concern for the public's health. NYSAWWA is made up of over 2,000 passionate individuals and organizations committed to safe drinking water. The organization's mission is to lead the water community to provide sustainable safe water through the advancement of management, education, science, and technology with a vision of a better world through better water. Visit nysawwa.org to learn more.

About NYRWA: New York Rural Water Association, Inc. (NYRWA) is the largest membership organization representing small water/wastewater systems in the state. System members include villages, towns, municipal water and sewer districts, county authorities, state and federal institutions/facilities, schools and colleges, investor-owned water utilities, homeowner associations, and privately owned systems such as mobile home parks. NYRWA assists communities and systems to comply with complex regulations and to protect the public health and environment through on-site technical assistance, specialized training, and as a liaison to the government. Visit nyruralwater.org to learn more.

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