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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Current's 2nd Annual World Water Day Symposium to Profile Leading Innovators in Water Resource Management

National & local officials call for greater water reuse and taste-test first-ever local beer brewed from treated wastewater effluent from Chicago's North Shore Channel

(MARCH 22, 2019) Chicago, IL – *Current*, a non-profit organization that delivers innovative solutions to critical water-related challenges, will host its second *World Water Day Symposium* on March 22 in conjunction with the U.N.'s annual effort to raise awareness of global water resources. The symposium will bring together more than 200 of the water and wastewater sectors' leading innovators, researchers, investors and end-users to explore critical water issues facing the Chicago area.

At the symposium, local and national public officials will taste-test beer brewed from treated wastewater effluent from the North Shore Channel. Championed by Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) Commissioner Josina Morita and brewed by Unreconciled Brewing Chicago with help from Sustainable Systems, LLC - Consulting, this taste-test demonstrates how wastewater can be safely treated and reused for human consumption.

"Effluent beer shows Chicagoans that we have the technology to safely treat and reclaim our water to the highest standards and drink it," said Commissioner Morita. "As a city, we must appreciate our freshwater resources and do all we can to preserve them. By furthering Chicago's 'circular economy', these beers show that our environment and our economy can benefit from treating water to fit its intended purpose and reusing it."

Despite seemingly abundant freshwater resources, Illinois communities, such as Joliet, are running out of drinking water. Illinois is one of 12 states in the U.S. that does not allow for non-potable water systems, requiring that everyone – residents and industry – use drinking water for everything from flushing toilets, washing cars, product manufacturing and airplane de-icing.

"Wise water reuse offers great potential to conserve this shared and essential resource, and create new locally-produced products and jobs," said Congressman Jesus "Chuy" Garcia. "Illinois has an opportunity to show leadership on this critical issue by changing current state regulations that disallow water reuse."

Current's symposium also features City of Chicago Department of Water Management Commissioner Randy Conner, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District

Debra Shore, and Illinois Finance Authority Executive Director Chris Meister. In addition, leaders in architecture, engineering, research and utility management will also discuss innovative approaches to financing water infrastructure, improving urban waterways like the Chicago River and protecting municipal drinking water supplies.

“MWRD operates one of the world’s largest wastewater treatment plants and attempts to manage stormwater to control urban flooding throughout Cook County, which requires a constant focus on innovation,” said Commissioner Shore. “As a founding partner of *Current*, we see technology innovation as essential to ensuring that the MWRD continues to protect Chicago’s waterways.”

Current delivers solutions to end-users by connecting them with innovative technologies. By sourcing and de-risking solutions that can serve utilities, industries and investors, *Current* advances economic and environmental progress in the traditionally risk-averse water sector.

“*Current* is thrilled to host this year’s symposium with the theme of *Profiling Leadership in Water Resource Management*,” said Steve Frenkel, executive director of *Current*. “With the rising costs of maintaining critical water infrastructure and emerging threats to essential water supplies, World Water Day is the right time to highlight innovative solutions to protecting and enhancing this shared and vital resource.”

At the symposium Orbert Davis, conductor of the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic, will preview his ensemble’s new recording, *The Chicago River*, a project inspired by previously unpublished photographs from *The Lost Panoramas: When Chicago Changed its River and the Land Beyond*.

“With events like today’s symposium, *Current* brings together a community of researchers, innovators, and industry leaders to discuss how innovation – from evolutions in utility business models to breakthrough technologies – can ensure water resources are protected today and for future generations,” said Commissioner Conner of the Chicago Department of Water Management.

Current’s World Water Day Symposium is sponsored by The Pizzo Group, Arcadis, W.S. Darley and Greeley and Hansen. Planning is underway for the *2020 World Water Symposium*, scheduled for March 22, 2020. For information on how to participate, contact Steve Frenkel at sfrenkel@currentwater.org.

About Current

Current delivers advanced research and market-driven innovations to enhance water resources, build resilience and drive sustainable economic growth by bridging gaps in water technology commercialization. *Current* solves end-user challenges by sourcing and de-risking innovative hardware and software solutions, and providing curated validation services. *Current* convenes a global network of industry and innovation leaders across the water value chain to engage thought leadership and showcase emerging technologies at events like the annual the *World Water Day Symposium*. www.currentwater.org