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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 16-77

July 28, 2016

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Department of Environmental Protection Announces NYC Tap Water Wins Regional Taste Test Competition



Photos of the New York City Water Supply System are Available on [DEP's Flickr Page](#)

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Acting Commissioner Vincent Sapienza today announced that the City's tap water was awarded the top prize in New York State's Regional Metro Tap Water Taste Test competition. The contest was held today at the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan and pitted New York City's tap water against drinking water suppliers from Westchester, Nassau, Suffolk and Orange counties. Museum visitors sampled tap water from the five suppliers and ranked them by taste. New York City's tap water was judged to be the best tasting, followed by water from Elmsford in Westchester County. After winning the Regional Taste Test competition, New York City tap water will next compete in a state-wide contest to be held in Syracuse, N.Y. on September 2. The annual taste test competition which takes place in county, regional, and state-wide contests is organized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the New York State Water and Wastewater Education and Outreach Committee.

"Generations ago New Yorkers had the foresight to construct the incredible network of infrastructure that carries our water from as far away as 125 miles and provides us with a robust supply of high-quality drinking water from a pristine and protected watershed," said **Acting Commissioner Sapienza**. "Under Mayor de Blasio's leadership we have continued that tradition, investing billions of dollars in upgrades to our water supply system and watershed protection programs, to ensure that the next generation of New Yorkers continue to enjoy

More Information

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high quality drinking water.”

New York City’s tap water is internationally renowned for its quality. New York is one of only five large cities in the country permitted to run a largely unfiltered drinking water supply, due in large part to the City’s comprehensive watershed protection programs. The City has invested more than \$1.7 billion in watershed protection programs since 1993, when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency first issued the City a waiver from the federal requirement to filter the water from the Catskill/Delaware System. In addition, DEP recently activated the \$3.2 billion Croton Filtration Plant, for water from the Croton supply system.

To ensure the water is safe and of the highest quality, DEP performs more than 500,000 analyses of the city’s drinking water every year. Samples are collected from the streams that feed the reservoirs, the reservoirs themselves, the aqueducts that carry the water to the city, and from nearly 1,000 sampling locations throughout the five boroughs. Each year, DEP publishes a Water Supply and Quality Report with detailed information about the water supply and the quality of the City’s drinking water. To view the report [click here](#).

NYC Water is a healthy alternative to sugar-sweetened beverages, containing zero calories, zero sugar, and zero fat. A typical 16-ounce bottle of soda contains about 180 calories and 20 cubes of sugar. Sports drinks, marketed as healthy alternatives, have as many calories as sugary beverages and usually contain high levels of sodium. NYC Water is also affordable—at roughly one penny per gallon, it is approximately 1,000 times less expensive than bottled water. In addition, drinking NYC Water helps to protect the environment as the production of plastic water bottles for use in the United States uses 1.5 million barrels of oil a year—enough to power 250,000 homes or 100,000 cars all year.

DEP manages New York City’s water supply, providing approximately 1 billion gallons of water each day to more than 9 million residents, including 8.5 million in New York City. The water is delivered from a watershed that extends more than 125 miles from the city, comprising 19 reservoirs and three controlled lakes. Approximately 7,000 miles of water mains, tunnels and aqueducts bring water to homes and businesses throughout the five boroughs, and 7,500 miles of sewer lines and 96 pump stations take wastewater to 14 in-city treatment plants. In addition, DEP has a robust capital program, with nearly \$14 billion in investments planned over the next 10 years that will create up to 3,000 construction-related jobs per year. This capital program is responsible for critical projects like City Water Tunnel No. 3; the Staten Island Bluebelt program, an ecologically sound and cost-effective stormwater management system; the city’s Watershed Protection Program, which protects sensitive lands upstate near the city’s reservoirs in order to maintain their high water quality; and the installation of more than 820,000 Automated Meter Reading devices, which will allow customers to track their daily water use, more easily manage their accounts and be alerted to potential leaks on their properties. For more information, visit nyc.gov/dep, like us on [Facebook](#), or follow us on [Twitter](#).

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