



**The ARAMARK Tower
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The 'Schuylkill River Constitution'
Lead Agencies Form an Unprecedented Partnership to Protect the
Schuylkill River**

You are invited to participate in a ceremony announcing the creation of the Schuylkill Action Network (SAN) which will be held on Monday, May 3, 2004 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the historic Fairmount Water Works located at 640 Water Works Drive, behind the Art Museum. This unique and remarkable partnership between the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region III (US EPA), the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP), the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) and the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD), will serve to collaborate and share resources on restoration and protection projects for the many uses of the Schuylkill River, to include being Philadelphia's drinking water source.

"We are all responsible for the quality of our drinking water. This partnership between federal, state and local agencies will serve as an example of the commitment we all share in preserving and protecting this vital resource," noted Water Commissioner Bernard Brunwasser

The ceremony marks the kick-off of National Drinking Water Week (May 2- 8), which occurs annually during the first week in May, and began in order to increase public awareness about drinking water issues. The event will commence with the signing of the one and only "Schuylkill River Constitution" by the distinguished dignitaries of the four founding SAN agencies, Don Welsh, Kathleen McGinty, Carol Collier and Bernard Brunwasser. The 'Constitution' will be a symbol of a cooperative effort among the agencies and the SAN members who have pledged to restore and protect the Schuylkill watershed. The document signing will be followed with a toast of "Schuylkill Champagne" by the four dignitaries.

In addition, the schools that have exemplified the spirit of the SAN partnership will be recognized for their efforts in source water protection with a Source Water Protection Educational Sector Award. The artwork depicting the importance of clean water, painted by local school children, will also be displayed. The ceremony will close with an invitation to the public to become a part of history by also signing the "Schuylkill River Constitution."

The Schuylkill River and its tributaries provide drinking water for approximately 1.75 million people. For more information, visit the Schuylkill Action Network's website at www.schuylkillactionnetwork.org.