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**Philadelphia Water Department Honored for Environmental Leadership
Stormwater Management Programs are Industry Model**

PHILADELPHIA – The Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) will receive the Leader in Sustainable Design and Development award from the Pennsylvania Resources Council, Inc. on Thursday, November 8, 2007. This award recognizes the Department’s innovative efforts for effective and sustainable solutions to stormwater management.

The Water Department has been charged with the management of the City of Philadelphia’s programs for Combined Sewer Overflow, Stormwater Management and Source Water Protection. These programs have been fully integrated into a watershed management-based approach that uses land, waterway, infrastructure and sustainability practices to support policies and programs targeted to protect Philadelphia’s drinking water supply and the reproduction and protection of fish and wildlife habitat. These programs also seamlessly compliment the goals of the City’s GreenPlan Philadelphia initiative, which recognizes the necessity of sustainable, green space and its positive impact on air quality, public health and stormwater management.

“The Philadelphia Water Department is proud to be recognized as an environmental leader by the Pennsylvania Resources Council. We remain committed to the preservation and protection of our water resources through watershed protection strategies that are focused on Philadelphia’s water resources and compliment the region’s green development practices, recreation, ecotourism and sustainable riverfront re-development efforts. These practices not only improve the environment but also the quality of life for the residents of Philadelphia,” remarked Water Commissioner Bernard Brunwasser.

The stormwater management programs include infrastructure-heavy solutions, such as the construction of huge combined system storage tanks, as well as, soft, green infrastructure solutions to provide above ground source control. This allows the Department to minimize the size of underground infrastructure and provide maximum benefits to Philadelphia’s waterways and to the community where construction is taking place.

Whether it is through tree trenches, bioswales, rain gardens, porous pavement, green roofs, living walls or infiltration beds, these technologies maximize the benefits and re-use of rainwater. Nature has always been the premier stormwater manager and the Water Department considers nature its mentor and partner.

Pennsylvania Resources Council, Inc. (PRC) is a nonprofit organization formed in 1939 whose mission is to promote conservation of natural resources and protection of scenic beauty through public education and outreach by collaborating with government agencies, businesses, charitable foundations and other nonprofit organizations.

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