



NEWS & NOTES

A PUBLICATION OF THE MWRA ADVISORY BOARD
MARCH 2010

AB UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES CONTINUATION AND REVISIONS TO GUIDELINES FOR LOCAL WATER SYSTEM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Local Water System Assistance Program, as adopted by the MWRA Advisory Board at its March meeting, provides an additional \$200 million in interest-free loans over the next ten years and expands eligible projects to include water storage tank installation, rehabilitation or replacement, water meter and water meter reading systems purchase and installation, and GIS mapping and system modeling for water distribution systems. These revisions will be included in the Advisory Board's *FY11 Integrated Comments and Recommendations on the MWRA's Proposed CIP and CEB* and discussed and voted on by the Authority's Board of Directors in June.

The cost to the MWRA over the past nine years has been nominal, averaging over the life of the program approximately \$1.35 million per year in Debt Service costs, while the program has been a lifeline to communities trying to maintain their distribution systems. Through February 2010, \$176 million in interest-free loans have been distributed to finance 207 community projects.

To access all revisions to the program, go to: http://www.mwraadvisoryboard.com/Research_Articles/lwasp%20approved%20031210%20AB%20and%20alloc.pdf

REACHING CONSENSUS ON SYSTEM EXPANSION

A facilitated discussion, moderated by Lawrence Susskind of the Consensus Building Institute, amongst all stakeholders (EOEEA, Watershed Advocates, MWRA Board of Directors, MAPC, MWRA and MWRA Advisory Board) took place on March 4th at the John J. Carroll Water Treatment Plant in Marlborough.

The goal of the meeting was to reach consensus on the myriad of outstanding issues surrounding system expansion. Topics included expediting the review process, inclusion of a smart growth provision, system releases into the Nashua and Swift Rivers, enhancements to the fisheries and incentives to join the MWRA system.

Robust discussion occurred and progress was made on many of these topics, but there is still quite a way to go.

If you have any questions regarding topics raised in this newsletter or any other MWRA issue, please contact:

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CSO UPDATE

MWRA has submitted its CSO Annual Progress Report to the Court. Through calendar year 2009, MWRA has completed 24 of 35 CSO Projects. Nearly \$90 million was spent in 2009, principally on the East Boston Branch Sewer Relief Project and the North Dorchester Bay CSO Storage Tunnel.

Through CY2009, \$664.8 million has been spent on all CSO Projects, with approximately \$211.5 million to be spent over the next seven years. Most spending will be complete by December 2015, when the last court-ordered schedules are to be met. To date, CSO discharges have been reduced from 3.3 billion gallons in 1988 to 613 million gallons, an 81% reduction. To access the full report, go to: <http://www.mwra.com/cso/csoannualreports.htm>

EPIC STORMS “A MARCH TO FORGET”

More than ten inches of rain fell over some parts of Massachusetts between March 13 and March 15, earning the dubious honor of being the largest 48-hour storm since Hurricane Diane in August 1955.

MWRA set the “one-day record for treatment” at Deer Island, treating an average of 1.3 billion gallons per day.

With the additional 5 to 8 inches of rain that has fallen in the two subsequent storms, March 2010 is officially the wettest March on record and the second wettest month ever recorded.

MWRA staff should be applauded for their yeoman's effort in keeping facilities operating and protected.

“ON A PERSONAL NOTE...”

MWRA Advisory Board Executive Director Joseph Favaloro would like to thank all of you for the kind words and thoughtful gestures provided to him and his family upon the recent death of his Dad.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

APRIL 6: MWRA CEB PUBLIC HEARING / 6:30 PM – CITY HALL, BOSTON

APRIL 9: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE / 8:30 AM – BOSTON

APRIL 14: MWRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS / 10 AM – CHARLESTOWN

APRIL 15: MWRA ADVISORY BOARD / 11:30AM – LEXINGTON

APRIL 16: WAC/WSCAC / 10:30 AM – BOSTON (ADVISORY BOARD)