



NEWS & NOTES

A PUBLICATION OF THE MWRA ADVISORY BOARD
JULY 2011

FINAL FY 12 STATE BUDGET SIGNED: INCLUDES \$500,000 FOR DSA

Governor Patrick signed the 30.6 billion annual state budget for FY12. The budget featured government reforms and no new taxes on the books 11 days into the new fiscal year.

Patrick did not veto any spending in the budget, but eliminated 16 outside budget sections. The final budget relies on two major strategies to help the state government balance its budget, which last year was supported by \$1.5 billion in federal funds that are not available this year. The Patrick Administration will have to strike \$750 million off projected spending in the massive Medicaid health insurance program and dodges a huge scheduled spike in public employee pension system costs by pushing those obligations into future years. Escaping the Governor's veto was \$500,000 in Debt Service Assistance, which goes directly toward rate relief for cities and towns. The Advisory Board is appreciative of the efforts of the Legislature and the Governor to include funding in this line item, in the midst of difficult times.

HAVE YOU SECURED YOUR SPACE FOR THE AB FIELD TRIP AUGUST 18th AB FIELD TRIP??

Just a reminder, spaces for the August 18th Field Trip are filling up fast so please secure your space as soon as possible.

The boat will be leaving Deer Island at 9 a.m. Vivien Li President of the Boston Harbor Association will be on board to narrate and outline all the changes that have occurred, which has transformed Boston Harbor from a national disgrace to an economic and environmental success story.

Additionally, we will be anchoring up next to one of the Harbor monitoring vessels to experience firsthand the testing that regularly takes place.

A box lunch will be provided when the boat docks at Spectacle Island. Finally, when the boat returns at 2 p.m. to Deer Island, optional tours of the facilities will be available for anyone who wishes to attend. Please contact May Ann McClellan at MWRA.ab@mwra.state.ma.us by August 10th with the number of individuals who will attend in order to reserve your spots. We hope that you will join us on the 18th!

ADVISORY BOARD 2.0

The Advisory Board is pleased to announce that coming this September, there will be major revamps to our website, BOD Summaries as well as the reintroduction of our Green Sheets. The goal is to communicate with our members more efficiently by making information more easily accessible. In addition, the AB will still provide access to full documents for its monthly and annual publications as well as its positions on various issues affecting its constituency. Please stay tuned for a more formal announcement when these changes "go live" in the coming months.

SEPTEMBER ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

The AB is delighted to announce that the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Rick Sullivan will be attending the Advisory Board meeting in September. This meeting will be held on Thursday, September 15, 2011 at Cary Hall in Lexington.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MWRA Board of Directors will not meet in August

The MWRA Advisory Board and Executive Committee
Do not meet in July or August

AB Annual Field Trip on Thursday, August 18, 2011

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

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