



NEWS & NOTES

A PUBLICATION OF THE MWRA ADVISORY BOARD
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GOVERNOR RELEASES HOUSE 2; INCLUDES NO RELIEF FOR RATEPAYERS

Governor Patrick released his \$28.2 billion budget proposal for the state's FY11 budget on January 27, 2010. Although the budget represents a 3% increase over FY10 spending, it eliminates programs that are important to ratepayers, including Debt Service Assistance (DSA) and chemical reimbursements for wastewater treatment plants. As he did last year, the Governor consolidated line item appropriations for the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Watershed Management Program. Because of this consolidation, it is unclear whether the state's reimbursement of \$500,000 for operation of the Clinton Wastewater Treatment Plant is included in House 2. The budget also removes an MWRA Advisory Board initiative that was championed by the Governor last year: an expanded Bottle Bill that includes deposits on bottled water with unclaimed deposits directed to Debt Service Assistance. Governor Patrick's FY11 budget utilizes an expanded Bottle Bill initiative, but re-investment in water infrastructure and DSA do not benefit from unclaimed deposits. Instead, receipts from unclaimed deposits are used for recycling programs, with some funds returning to the General Budget. Governor Patrick's entire House 2 Budget can be found online: <http://www.mass.gov/bb/h1/fy11h1/index.html>

EPA PROPOSES NEW STORM WATER PERMITS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a new draft storm water permit aimed at improving water quality in Eastern Massachusetts by reducing storm water runoff into municipal drains. The proposed regulations would require municipalities to increase monitoring, add inspections to manholes, improve street sweeping, increase public education efforts and make environmentally friendly improvements to buildings and drainage systems. The costs associated with the proposed regulations would be a huge challenge for cities and towns, when budgets are already being cut and no new federal money is proposed. The proposed regulations would affect 46 MWRA communities. EPA will hold a public hearing on the draft regulations on March 18. Final regulations will be issued later this year.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

FEBRUARY 10: MWRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS / 10 AM – CHARLESTOWN
FEBRUARY 12: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE / 8:30 AM – BOSTON
FEBRUARY 18: MWRA ADVISORY BOARD / 11:30AM – WELLESLEY



Kevin Feeley was honored at the January Advisory Board meeting for his distinguished career and dedicated service. Mr. Feeley joined MWRA shortly after the agency was formed 25 years ago and has served as its first and only Director of Procurement. In 2005, he was also appointed Managing Director. Prior to joining MWRA, he worked for the City of Boston for 20 years. During his tenure at MWRA, he closely watched over the award of more than \$6 billion of construction contracts, including those leading to the successful cleanup of Boston Harbor and to one of the country's safest and most reliable drinking water systems.

THE ADVISORY BOARD'S INFORMATIONAL VIDEO IS NOW ONLINE

The MWRA Advisory Board's new informational video is now available online at the Advisory Board's website. The video introduces viewers to the work the Advisory Board does with ratepayer communities and provides information on its most pressing legislative priorities. It also provides a historical overview of the Legislature's efforts to secure rate relief. The video features key players and priorities of the Advisory Board. Featured speakers include Advisory Board Chairwoman Katherine Dunphy, the three Advisory Board appointees to the MWRA Board of Directors, Somerville Mayor Joseph Curtatone and MWRA Caucus Chairman Ronald Mariano. Copies are available for distribution to local cable stations; contact Christine at the Advisory Board if interested!

Watch the video now to learn about the organization and history of the MWRA Advisory Board:

<http://www.mwraadvisoryboard.com/>

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