



NEWS & NOTES

A PUBLICATION OF THE MWRA ADVISORY BOARD
NOVEMBER 2009

ADVISORY BOARD URGES \$0 RATE REVENUE INCREASE

At the November meeting, Advisory Board staff made a presentation on achieving a level-funded rate revenue requirement for the MWRA's FY11 Current Expense Budget. This approach would result in a \$0 wholesale rate increase system-wide for MWRA communities. The Advisory Board is urging the Authority to incorporate the \$0 rate revenue increase in the preliminary water and sewer assessments for communities distributed in February in order for communities to plan effectively for the upcoming year. The Advisory Board has identified various "tools" provided in the review of the Proposed FY10 budgets, which include many potential areas of reductions. The topic is on the agenda for the December Board of Director's meeting. The Advisory Board presentation, which features one of many pathways toward achieving this goal, can be found on the website:

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



MWRA's Deer Island wind turbines began generating energy this month. The project consists of two 190-foot, 600 kW turbines. The turbines will generate over 2 million kW hours per year, to be used on the island, saving MWRA ratepayers \$250,000 a year in energy costs.

**THE ADVISORY BOARD WISHES
EVERYONE A
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

LEGISLATURE RESTORES CLINTON FUNDING

Earlier this month, Governor Patrick announced sweeping mid-year 9C cuts to the state budget, which included the elimination of Debt Service Assistance and the \$500,000 reimbursement for the Clinton Wastewater Treatment Plant. In the final days of the legislative session, the House of Representatives restored the full funding for Clinton. The Advisory Board would like to thank Speaker DeLeo, MWRA Caucus Chairman Mariano and Ways & Means Chairman Murphy for their leadership in restoring this important funding. In the midst of this difficult economic climate, ratepayers appreciate the advocacy of the MWRA Legislative Caucus.

AB TESTIFIES AT EEA HEARING

Advisory Board Executive Director Joseph Favaloro testified before the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) in a hearing examining possible reorganization and consolidation of State Agencies. The purpose of the hearing was to assess if EEA and its agencies can be reconfigured to consolidate resources, clarify missions, and reduce duplication of effort. Mr. Favaloro testified that one strategy for reorganization would bring the Division of Water Supply Protection (DWSP) within the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) under the MWRA in order to consolidate costs. The Division is currently not a part of the state budget; 100% of the costs of the DWSP are borne by MWRA ratepayers. Even though it is not in the state budget, DWSP employees are bound by the same rules as other state employees, which can include furloughs, union bidding and bumping rules, longer procurement processes including the hiring processes, etc. Under this scenario the role of the Water Supply Protection Trust (the five-member Board that governs the operations of the watershed) would be increased and the DWSP personnel would be transferred directly to the MWRA. Direct and indirect costs, procurement, hiring and support services would be placed under the MWRA and would free up vital resources within DCR.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

DECEMBER 16: MWRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS / 1 PM - CHARLESTOWN
*THE MWRA ADVISORY BOARD'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE &
FULL ADVISORY BOARD DO NOT MEET IN DECEMBER*

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