



NEWS & NOTES

A PUBLICATION OF THE MWRA ADVISORY BOARD
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LEGISLATURE APPROVES \$23 MILLION IN DEBT SERVICE ASSISTANCE

The MWRA Board of Directors voted a 4.5% rate hike for FY08 after the Legislature approved a state budget that included \$23 million for Debt Service Assistance. The \$23 million allocation falls between the \$25 million provided in the House version and the \$15 million provided in the Senate and Governor's versions.

Absent Debt Service Assistance, the water and sewer rate hike had the potential to increase up to 5.9%. The amount of Debt Service Assistance provided by the state is directly related to the lower rate increase. The MWRA Advisory Board thanks the leadership of the House and Senate, as well as the MWRA Caucus for their advocacy in providing funding for the Debt Service Assistance program.

With rate revenue requirements projected to increase by over \$30 million every year through FY15, a continued and expanded Debt Service Assistance program becomes even more critical to mitigate community impacts. Debt Service Assistance is a state-wide program and helps many communities around the Commonwealth, both in and outside of the MWRA service area. To access individual community assessments visit the Advisory Board's website: www.mwraadvisoryboard.com

SYSTEM EXPANSION

Over the last two months, the MWRA and MWRA Advisory Board have approved three new sewer connections into the MWRA system bringing in a total of \$314,797 in entrance fee revenue. In order to come into the MWRA system, applicants must go through a stringent application process to determine that they will not negatively impact other communities in the service area. The three applicants, Herb Chambers Lexus Dealership of Sharon, Avalon Sharon, and D&N property in Foxborough, will be responsible for a verifiable four-to-one reduction of inflow, benefiting the entire system. While they will contribute an average daily flow of 35,520 gallons to the sewer system, they will be removing 324,692 gallons per day of peak inflow. The inflow removal plans vary from repairing and replacing manhole covers to removing sump pumps.

MWRA PURSUING RENEWABLE ENERGY; SOLAR PANELS TO BE INSTALLED AT DI

As part of an overall effort to develop and use renewable power, MWRA is moving ahead with plans to install solar panels at Deer Island. The electricity produced by the solar panel project will be used onsite, reducing the amount of purchased electricity. The installation of rooftop panels is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2007.

The solar panels will be financed in part under a program established by the Federal Energy Policy Act of 2005; Clean Renewable Energy Bonds are tax credit bonds that offer zero interest capital financing. In addition to federal funding, MWRA also received a grant from the Division of Energy Resources and the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative. Once installed, the solar panel project will be a qualified renewable energy source and MWRA will be able to sell Renewable Energy Certificates. This is one of several tactics the MWRA has pursued to increase capacity for renewable energy. Other possibilities include utilizing wind turbines and maximizing digester gas and hydroelectric facilities to produce electricity.

RUTLAND-HOLDEN TASK FORCE MEETS

The Rutland-Holden Trunk Sewers Working Committee met in June for the second time to discuss options regarding future care and custody of the sewer lines. The Committee is comprised of representatives from the user communities of Rutland, Holden and West Boylston, the Legislative delegations from these communities, the MWRA, DCR and the Advisory Board. The purpose of the committee is to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the current sewer system and determine if there is a way to make the system work better. Currently, the ownership and care of the lines comes under the responsibility of multiple parties. DCR owns the sewer lines while MWRA performs Operations and Maintenance and bills the communities for the costs. In a recent development, DCR is requiring the Town of Rutland to immediately halt all additional flows to the trunk sewer. The Committee plans to reconvene in September.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

JULY 18: MWRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS / 10 AM – CHARLESTOWN
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & FULL ADVISORY BOARD
DO NOT MEET IN JULY OR AUGUST

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