



News & Notes

A publication of the **MWRA Advisory Board**
May 2006

\$25 Million in Debt Service Assistance and Administration and Finance Waiver in the Approved FY07 House Budget

The FY2007 House Budget was approved on April 28 by the House of Representatives and included \$25 million for the Commonwealth Sewer Rate Relief Fund, also known as Debt Service Assistance (DSA). The \$25 million in DSA, of which MWRA anticipates receiving \$18.75 million, lowers the MWRA's projected FY07 rate increase from 9.8% to 5.83%.

The Advisory Board extends its thanks to the MWRA communities for their efforts to double the amount of DSA from FY2006. MWRA Advisory Board Chairman Katherine Dunphy said the DSA increase is a significant accomplishment for which each community deserves full credit. MWRA Advisory Board Executive Director Joseph Favaloro stated throughout the FY2007 budget process, the Advisory Board will continue to work alongside the MWRA area legislators and the MWRA to ensure that the \$25 million in DSA is included in the final State Budget.

The Administration and Finance Waiver was also included in the approved FY07 House Budget through an amendment as part of an outside section of the Budget. The waiver includes language amending the enabling statute of the Water Supply Protection Trust to exempt the Trust from an indirect overhead charge assessed by the Executive Office of Administration and Finance. The MWRA and the Advisory Board have worked since the inception of the Trust to eliminate this charge, which is tantamount to a 26% annual surcharge.

MWRA Advisory Board Declares the Impact Good Humor/Breyers is having on MWRA System is No Laughing Matter

The MWRA has spent over \$55 million to replace corroded sewer lines as part of the Odor and Corrosion Control plans for the Framingham Extension Sewer, Framingham Extension Relief Sewer and down stream interceptors. MWRA has identified an additional \$70 million in future capital needs. The major culprit is high levels of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and sulfates, which combined create sulfites. Over the past four years, MWRA has worked with area communities and businesses to develop strategies to alleviate the corrosion and work toward compliance. All but one business have made significant strides toward compliance. Good Humor/Breyers, owned by Unilever, Inc., adds more BOD today than it did four years ago. The Advisory Board, at its regular monthly meeting, discussed working with its 60 member communities to boycott Good Humor/Breyers products, as well as making the local press aware of the negative impacts Good Humor/Breyers is having on the environment and MWRA Collection System.

Setting Scope and Levels of CSO Control Through 2020

The MWRA, United States Justice Department, Department of Environmental Protection, Conservation Law Foundation and City of Boston all appeared before Federal Court Judge Richard G. Stearns to support a joint motion to amend Schedule Six with respect to the Charles, Alewife, South Boston and East Boston basins, as well as future liability and responsibility for the Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) Program. After listening to oral arguments, Judge Stearns ruled to amend the schedule, which will control spending on CSOs through 2020. Bringing closure to the scope and levels of control for the CSO Control Program has been at the cornerstone of the Advisory Board's CSO recommendations over the past two years.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

May 10- MWRA Board of Directors' Meeting

10:00 am- Charlestown, MA

May 12- Executive Committee Meeting

8:30 am- Advisory Board Office

May 18- Advisory Board Meeting

11:30 am- Boston, MA

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

Rachael Dane, Government/Media Coordinator • **Phone:** 617-742-7561 • **Fax:** 617-742-4614 • **Email:** rachael.dane@mwra.state.ma.us

Web Site: www.mwraadvisoryboard.com