



NEWS & NOTES

A PUBLICATION OF THE MWRA ADVISORY BOARD
MAY 2007

SENATE BUDGET INCLUDES \$15 MILLION FOR DEBT SERVICE ASSISTANCE

The Senate Budget debates concluded this week with \$15 million as the proposed amount of funding for the state-wide Debt Service Assistance program in the Senate version of the FY08 budget. This is the same amount proposed by Governor Patrick in January and a 40% cut from the \$25 million provided last year.

Senator Robert Havern of Arlington championed an amendment that would have increased the Senate number to \$25 million, the same amount provided in the House Budget. In total, nearly half of the Senators signed on to support the increased number in Debt Service Assistance, though ultimately it did not make it into the Senate Budget. The Advisory Board appreciates the efforts of all the senators who supported amendments that would have provided increased funding for Debt Service Assistance.

The Advisory Board will work with the Conference Committee to communicate the importance of Debt Service Assistance and advocate for level funding of \$25 million in FY08. It is critical that communities finalize resolutions in support of restoring the cut to Debt Service Assistance and contact Legislators to ask them to allow the House's allocation of \$25 million to prevail.

CURRENT EXPENSE BUDGET UPDATE

At its May 17 meeting, the MWRA Advisory Board approved the *FY08 Comments and Recommendations on the Authority's proposed Current Expense Budget (CEB)*, beginning July 1st. The proposed CEB includes expenses of \$589 million, non-rate revenues of \$62 million and rate revenue of \$527 million, an increase of 6.4%. The proposed rate revenue requirement crosses the \$500 million mark for the first time and represents a \$32 million increase from FY07, the largest dollar increase in more than a dozen years.

The *Recommendations* call for decreases in expenses and increases in non-rate revenues totaling nearly \$12.7 million. The Advisory Board recommends that \$4.6 million of that amount be used to reduce the proposed use of rate stabilization funds, reserving the funds to ease the impact of future rate increases. The remaining \$8.1 million should be used in conjunction with spring revisits and state Debt Service Assistance to reduce the rate revenue requirement increase to below 5%.

MWRA HONORS STUDENTS IN ESSAY & POSTER CONTEST

The MWRA hosted the 26th Annual Poster & Writing Contest this spring. The contest is a part of MWRA's School Education Program and helps students make the connection between the natural environment and their faucet and drains. This year the contest attracted over 2,000 entries. The winners were honored in a ceremony on May 25 at Deer Island with families, teachers, local officials and State Legislators in attendance. Joseph Favaloro, Executive Director of the MWRA Advisory Board, was the guest speaker at the Awards Ceremony. He challenged the contest winners to continue learning about what it takes to protect the quality of drinking water and to promote environmental stewardship so the mistakes of previous generations are never repeated. View the list of winners online at <http://www.mwra.com/annual/contest/2007/20072008winners.html>.



Winners from Abraham Lincoln School in Revere attend the Award Ceremony on Deer Island. Left to right: City of Revere Mayor Thomas Ambrosino; Rhonda DeRosa, teacher; Representative Kathi-Anne Reinstein; John Dello Russo, student; Kailynn Abrams, student; Meriam Mehaya, student, Donna Wood Pruitt, Vice-Chair, School Committee; Representative Robert DeLeo; and Dan O'Brien, MWRA.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

JUNE 6: MWRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS / 10 AM - CHARLESTOWN
JUNE 15: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING / 8:30 AM - BOSTON
JUNE 21: MWRA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING / 11:30 AM - CANTON
JUNE 27: MWRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS / 10 AM - CHARLESTOWN

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