



# News & Notes

A publication of the **MWRA Advisory Board**  
November 2005

## Advisory Board Details Concerns Over Water Conservation Standards

In a letter to the state's top environmental agency, the Advisory Board identifies several problems with the recently released "Draft Water Conservation Standards". Of particular concern to the Advisory Board is the policy's "one-size-fits-all" approach, which seeks to impose universal water conservation standards on all water supplies. Specifically, the standards promote a 65 gallons per capita per day (gpcpd) level for water consumption. Such a standard would force many communities to impose strict water bans and install expensive water conservation devices regardless of the status of its water supply.

In its comments, the Advisory Board suggests mandatory water conservation standards should be limited to water suppliers addressing serious environmental supply issues and should not be universally applied to all water systems. Additionally, the Advisory Board recommends the state become a partner in solving water deficits in communities by providing financial assistance and technical support instead of implementing arbitrary and costly standards. The full comments on the Draft Water Conservation Standards can be accessed at the Advisory Board website.

## John J. Carroll Water Treatment Plant In Temporary Shutdown

In order to complete several needed modifications to the John J. Carroll Water Treatment Plant, which went online in July, the MWRA will reduce its treatment capacity at the Plant by half from November 1<sup>st</sup> through mid-February. The reduced capacity should not affect the Plant's ability to meet normal winter demands; however, MWRA staff are coordinating with communities to minimize operational risks.

Questions about the temporary shutdown should be directed to MWRA staffperson Marcis Kempe at 617-305-5863 and customer concerns should be reported to the MWRA Operations Control Center at 617-305-5950.

## A&F Waiver Language Included in Supplemental Budget

Language exempting the Water Supply Protection Trust from an indirect cost assessment totaling \$1.4 million in FY05 and approaching \$2 million in FY06 passed the House last month and is currently under consideration in the Senate. The language also requires the state's Office of Administration and Finance (A&F), which collects the fee, to reimburse the Trust for amounts already paid. If the language is included in the final version of the bill, it will go before the Governor who is empowered to veto the language.


The Water Supply Protection Trust, created in the FY05 budget, is the funding mechanism for watershed management at the state-controlled Wachusett, Ware, Quabbin and Sudbury Reservoirs. The MWRA and Advisory Board were first made aware of the "A&F charge" in March and have been working toward a legislative solution since then. In addition to paying an indirect charge to A&F, the MWRA also pays an indirect rate to the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), as well as a fringe rate to the State Comptroller's office. Together, the charges total approximately \$4 million each year.

## Water System Expansion Discussions Take Center Stage

In the midst of applications by the Town of Reading and the Dedham-Westwood Water District to join the MWRA Waterworks System, both the MWRA Board of Directors and the Advisory Board have begun preliminary discussions on the feasibility of expanding the waterworks system.

At its meeting this week, the Advisory Board is scheduled to vote on the Dedham-Westwood Water District's application to draw up to 36.5 million gallons of water annually from the MWRA. Also on the agenda is a motion to reconvene the System Expansion Committee given the growing interest in MWRA water. Additionally, the MWRA Board of Directors is slated to vote on the Town of Reading's application to join the system as a partial water community at its November meeting and is also proceeding with discussions regarding long range water supply planning.

### Upcoming Meetings/Events

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| <b>November 16-</b> | <b>MWRA Board of Directors Meeting</b><br>10:00 am in Charlestown  |
| <b>November 17-</b> | <b>Advisory Board Meeting</b><br>11:30 am in Lexington   |
| <b>November 24-</b> |  <b>Thanksgiving</b> |

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

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