



NEWS & NOTES

A PUBLICATION OF THE MWRA ADVISORY BOARD
DECEMBER 2006

MWRA ADVISORY BOARD WELCOMES TWO NEW STAFFERS

Christine Hevelone-Byler joins the MWRA Advisory Board staff as the Government & Media Coordinator. Her background is in legislative advocacy and she previously worked at the Massachusetts Municipal Association in the Legislative Division.

Matthew Romero joins the staff as the new Senior Policy & Finance Analyst. His resume includes experience both in the Town of Canton and in the Town of Framingham where he most recently served as the Director of Administration and Finance for Public Works. He replaced Ryan Ferrara, who left to become Chief of Finance and Budget for the City of Newton Public Works Department.

GOVERNOR-ELECT PATRICK ANNOUNCES 9C SPENDING CUTS TO BE RESTORED

Governor-Elect Patrick announced this week that he would restore the 9c spending cuts in full made by Governor Romney in November. This includes the \$25 million in Sewer Rate Relief from the state budget. Restoration of Debt Service Assistance has been a major priority for the Advisory Board and will continue to be in order to ensure that it is included in House One. DSA is a critical part of an overall rates management strategy. In his announcement, Patrick indicated that after comprehensive review of the budget and revenue performance, the mid year budget cuts would provide too much of a strain on Massachusetts residents. In the press coverage, it was also noted that Governor Romney did not have direct jurisdiction to cut the rate relief funds within the emergency powers.

MWRA ADVISORY BOARD 2006 LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Senator Steven A. Tolman and Representative John H. Rogers are being honored as the Advisory Board's 2006 Legislators of the Year Award. Senator Tolman was presented the award at the State House during last month's MWRA Advisory Board Meeting and Representative Rogers will receive his award in February at an Advisory Board meeting in Canton.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2007-2008 SESSION

Due to Governor-elect Deval Patrick's upcoming inauguration and the administration's move onto Beacon Hill, the 2007-2008 Legislative bill filing deadline has been extended to January 10, 2007. In the upcoming legislative session, we will continue to advocate on behalf of the ratepayers of the MWRA Communities. In addition to efforts to restore Debt Service Assistance in FY07 and secure it for future fiscal years, our Legislative Priorities encompass key issues such as lead service replacement programs, PILOT payments and Infiltration & Inflow assistance. Specific pieces of legislation request increased state funding for the operating costs of the Clinton Wastewater Treatment Plant, reimbursements to municipalities for replacement of lead service lines and a program to provide meter modernization grants, among others.

THE NEW ADMINISTRATION TAKES SHAPE

Governor-elect Deval Patrick rounded out key cabinet appointments this month with the appointment of Ian Bowles, as the new Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs. In this post, Bowles will Chair the MWRA Board of Directors and be a key contact within the Administration. Bowles will join the Administration from his post as President and CEO of MassInc and publisher of Commonwealth magazine. Bowles has extensive experience in both the public and private Environmental Sectors. Bowles named Ann Berwick as Undersecretary for Energy. The MWRA Advisory Board looks forward to working with Secretary Bowles and the newly reorganized Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- JANUARY 10: MWRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**
 - 10:00 AM - CHARLESTOWN
- JANUARY 12: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**
 - 8:30 AM - BOSTON
- JANUARY 18: MWRA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**
 - 11:30 AM - WELLESLEY

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