



# NEWS & NOTES

A PUBLICATION OF THE MWRA ADVISORY BOARD  
DECEMBER 2007

## RETAIL RATE SURVEY RELEASED AVERAGE INCREASE IS OVER 6% IN 2007 AND 35% OVER LAST 5 YEARS

The MWRA Advisory Board released its 21st Annual Water and Sewer Retail Rate Survey reporting an average increase of 6.2% in combined retail water and sewer bills in 2007 for customers in the MWRA service area. This is the fourth out of the last five years that rate increases have been above six percent. According to the Retail Rate Survey, the average MWRA community household charges range from \$725-\$1,069 per year. Although usage varies from household to household, the national standard of annual water consumption is 90,000 gallons per household. Based on this standard, the average increase for homes in MWRA communities is up \$63 from 2006. The forecast is not going to improve; over the next nine years, the MWRA is projected to increase charges to communities by \$334 million.

The survey results underscore the pressing need for a fully funded Debt Service Assistance program from the Commonwealth, which goes directly to offset wholesale water and sewer rates. Katherine Dunphy, Chairwoman of the MWRA Advisory Board said, "For every dollar communities pay to the MWRA, approximately sixty cents is dedicated to paying down the massive debt. Debt Service Assistance is a critical piece of our overall rates management strategy. We are working closely with Governor Patrick, Representative Ron Mariano, Chairman of the MWRA Caucus, and other legislators to ensure the most funding possible in the midst of the many priorities in the state budget."

To obtain a copy of the 2007 Water and Sewer Rate Survey, please visit our website: [www.mwraadvisoryboard.com](http://www.mwraadvisoryboard.com)

## ASHLAND REQUESTS EMERGENCY WATER

The Town of Ashland was granted approval by the MWRA Board of Directors to enter into an Emergency Water Supply Agreement due to low water levels in the town's well field. This is Ashland's first emergency withdrawal request; water will be taken through an interconnection with the Town of Southborough. Ashland has requested a maximum withdrawal of 1.20 million gallons per day, but anticipates its actual withdrawals will be much lower.

## GOVERNOR SWEARS IN NEW MEMBERS OF MWRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Three members were sworn onto the MWRA Board of Directors this month by Governor Deval Patrick. Joseph Foti, Director of Public Works for the City of Chelsea and an Advisory Board appointee was sworn in for his third term. Joel Barrera and Michael Gove are new Board Members, appointed by and serving co-terminus with the Governor. Barrera is the Project Director of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council's Metropolitan Mayors' Coalition and a resident of the Merrimack River Valley. Gove is an attorney at Lyon & Fitzpatrick, LLP in Holyoke, practicing landlord-tenant, probate and civil law and is a resident of the Connecticut River Valley.



Board members are sworn in by the Governor. From left to right: Fred Laskey, MWRA Executive Director; Board Members Joe Foti, Advisory Board Appointee; Joel Barrera and Michael Gove, Governor's Appointees; Governor Deval Patrick; Secretary Ian Bowles, Chair of the MWRA Board of Directors.

The staff of the Advisory Board wishes you a  
very happy and healthy holiday season!  
We look forward to seeing you in 2008!

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**JANUARY 11:** EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE / 8:30 AM – BOSTON  
**JANUARY 16:** MWRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS / 10 AM - CHARLESTOWN  
**JANUARY 17:** MWRA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING / 11:30 AM – CANTON

*If you have any questions regarding topics raised in this newsletter or any other MWRA issue, please contact:*  
**Christine Hevelone-Byler, Government & Media Coordinator** • Phone: 617.742.7561 • Fax: 617.742.4614 •  
Email: [christine.hevelone-byler@mwra.state.ma.us](mailto:christine.hevelone-byler@mwra.state.ma.us)  
Web Site: [www.mwraadvisoryboard.com](http://www.mwraadvisoryboard.com)