



NEWS & NOTES

A PUBLICATION OF THE MWRA ADVISORY BOARD
JULY 2008

STATE BUDGET SIGNED; LEGISLATURE RESTORES DSA FUNDING TO \$20 MIL AFTER OVERRIDING GOV'S VETO

The State Budget process raced toward conclusion this month after the Governor signed the \$33 billion state spending plan. Before signing the budget, Governor Patrick used a line item veto to cut \$5 million of the \$20 million appropriation from the Commonwealth Sewer Rate Relief Fund, otherwise known as Debt Service Assistance. The Governor vetoed a total of \$122.5 million from the FY09 spending plan; however, both the House and the Senate voted to override the sewer rate relief veto on the final day of the Legislative session, reinstating the \$20 million appropriation which they previously approved. The restoration of the \$5 million in sewer rate relief could further reduce community water and sewer assessments from 4.5% to 3.7%. The MWRA Board of Directors will revisit the Authority's budget and rate revenue needs and make reductions to community assessments when they meet in September.

The MWRA Advisory Board thanks the leadership of the House and Senate as well as the efforts of the entire MWRA Caucus for their advocacy in providing funding for rate relief.

ADVISORY BOARD FIELD TRIP SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST 21, 2008! 9:15AM – 3PM

Join other Advisory Board members on a tour of two active MWRA construction project sites: the CSO Storage Tunnel Project in South Boston and the Blue Hills Covered Storage Tanks in Quincy. The tour will take members inside the 17-foot diameter storage tunnel *and* to visit the storage tanks at the Blue Hills Reservoir, which are 50% complete. Transportation and lunch are provided. Space is limited; contact Mary Ann at the Advisory Board to register!



The Advisory Board Urges Communities: Stop Flushing Shopping Carts!!

The MWRA's clean-up effort in the Mystic River produces a barge full of disposed items including tires and shopping carts. The Advisory Board questions why ratepayers foot the bill.

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

As part of the settlement regarding operating practices at the Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Plant, the MWRA was required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) to remove debris from the Mystic and Charles Rivers. The Advisory Board has expressed its concerns to EPA, indicating that while this project may have positive environmental ramifications, removal of shopping carts from the river is not a ratepayer responsibility. For more information on the nature of the fine and settlements visit the MWRA website: www.mwra.com. To see the Advisory Board Response, visit: www.mwraadvisoryboard.com.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY BOARD
DO NOT FORMALLY MEET IN JULY OR AUGUST (SEE FIELD TRIP INFO)
THE MWRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS DOES NOT MEET IN AUGUST.

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
Web Site: www.mwraadvisoryboard.com