



News and Notes

A Publication of the
Advisory Board for MWRA Communities

May 2016

Lead Programs in Place

Lead Service Line Loan Program and School Testing Programs Are Ready to Go

Both the Lead Service Line Replacement Loan Program and the School testing Programs are in place. Beginning in July, communities can begin to apply for 0% interest loans to replace lead service lines. All of the information can be accessed online by going to:

<http://www.mwra.com/comsupport/communitysupportmain.html>

In coordination with the Commonwealth's school testing programs, the MWRA has increased its capacity to provide laboratory and other resources.

MWRA is offering to support our communities by providing free lead sample analysis services using MWRA's laboratory. All public schools, publicly-funded charter schools, and publicly funded early education centers (preschools) within our water service area will be eligible. MWRA will provide sampling instructions and bottles, as well as labeling instructions for taps and samples to ensure that results can be reliably tied back to specific fountains or taps within each school.

Schools will be expected to develop an accurate inventory, develop a school sample map and numbering system for all fixtures to be tested, fill out the

sample bottle label information, and take the samples.

MWRA anticipates that many communities could complete school sampling before the end of the school year in June, rather than waiting until after the new school year begins in September.

MWRA is recommending that all schools follow the MassDEP sampling protocol and collect first draw and 30-second flushed samples at all drinking water fountains, food and beverage prep sinks, and other sinks likely to be used for drinking water (e.g. nurses' offices or teachers' lounges). If any first draw sample result is above the Lead Action Level, MWRA will analyze the 30-second flushed sample. MWRA will directly and immediately provide any result over the Lead Action Level to the community school department and water department as soon as it is available from the laboratory.

In addition, a state program being developed by MassDEP will offer technical and financial assistance state-wide to school systems. Information on MassDEP's program can be accessed at:

www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/testing-assistance-for-lead-in-school-drinking-water.html

If you are interested in participating in MWRA's school testing program, please contact Joshua Das at 617-788-4822 or Joshua.Das@mwra.com

Advisory Board Recommendation Would Reduce Rate Assessment Increase by 14.5%

Advisory Board Recommends Reducing the Combined Rate Assessment Increase by \$3.8 Million for FY17

At its May 19th meeting, the Advisory Board voted to reduce the MWRA's proposed combined rate assessment increase from 3.91% to 3.34% – a reduction of nearly \$3.8 million or 14.5% from the Authority's proposed increase of \$26.3 million.

The Advisory Board also recommended:

- Making interest-free loans available to communities joining the MWRA water system to finance connection costs
- Conditional support for creating a dedicated capital budget for the

Watershed Division

- Examining options for changing Phase 3 of the Local Water Assistance Program
- Reconvening the Long-Term Rates Management Committee

The Advisory Board will present its *Comments and Recommendations* to the MWRA Board of Directors on June 8th. When completed, the final document will be available [here](#).

DSA Headed to Conference Committee

Governor and House Included \$1.1 Million

The Massachusetts Senate did not include Debt Service Assistance (DSA) in their version of the FY17 State Budget. Both the Governor's and the House versions contained \$1.1 million for this important line item.

The Advisory Board will work with the House/Senate Conference Committee members to insure the inclusion of DSA in the final FY17 State Budget.

The Advisory Board would like to thank Senator Jason Lewis (5th Middlesex District) for filing an amendment to the Senate Budget to include \$1.1 million in DSA funds.

Upcoming Events

MWRA Board of Directors

June 8, 2016
and
June 29, 2016
Charlestown – 10:00 am

Advisory Board Executive Committee

June 10, 2016
Charlestown – 8:30 am

Full Advisory Board

June 16, 2016
Wellesley Free Library – 11:30
am

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