



News & Notes

A Publication of the
MWRA Advisory Board

May 2019

Welcome, Secretary Theoharides!

New Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs

The Advisory Board is pleased to welcome Secretary Katie Theoharides into her new role, as she presided over her first MWRA Board of Directors meeting on May 29, 2019. We had the pleasure of working with Secretary Theoharides last year when she presented on the [Commonwealth's](#)



[climate change initiatives](#) at our [Climate Change Forum](#). As the former Assistant Secretary of Climate change, Secretary Theoharides brings a wealth of experience to the position, having also worked as an environmental and climate change consultant. During the May 29th meeting, she emphasized the importance of investing in mitigation measures and resiliency, including addressing water and wastewater infrastructure needs. We look forward to working with the Secretary on these important issues for our communities.



Joe Foti Reelected

*Representing Advisory Board Communities on the
MWRA Board of Directors*



Joseph Foti was unanimously reelected to serve a 7th term as an Advisory Board representative on the MWRA Board of Directors. Joe's term runs from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2022. He said to the Advisory Board, "For the past 18 years, I have worked alongside John Carroll and Andy Pappastergion to make every effort to strengthen the Advisory Board's presence at the Board of Directors. With the support of Advisory Board staff, and the guidance of membership, we have been vigorous in representing the member communities on both financial and operational issues. During my tenure, the Board has encountered many complex issues; however, working together, we've been effective in reaching amenable resolutions. It has been a privilege to serve not only as your representative to the Board of Directors, but also as an Advisory Board member since 1990. I am proud of our accomplishments and look forward to continued success in the future. With the endorsement of the Advisory Board I will continue to work with my colleagues to provide all member communities with the best possible representation."

The Advisory Board thanks Joe for his service and looks forward to working with him over the next three years.



In case you missed
it, you can find our
Integrated



FY 2020

**Dunphy Sheet,
Comments & Recommendations, and
Policy Section**

on the MWRA's Proposed
Capital Improvement Program
and
Current Expense Budget

Comments and
Recommendations
on the MWRA's
Proposed FY20 CIP
and CEB [here](#).



Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

Budget Hearing

Preceding the regular [MWRA Board of Directors meeting](#), the hearing amongst the MWRA staff, Advisory Board staff, and the MWRA Board of Directors on the FY20 CIP and CEB took place.



Both sides made presentations to the Board, and Advisory Board staff [outlined their recommendations](#) to shave the FY20 Rate Revenue Requirement from the 3.74% increase proposed by the Authority, to a more modest 3.15% increase (as was voted by the full Advisory Board membership on May 16, 2019, at the Canton Public Library).

Major recommendations (see Appendix C, page A-3 of [our document](#)) included: (1) **a reduction to Salaries & Wages of \$950,000** due to the vacancy rate that the Authority manages each year under their goal of 1,150 FTE (outside of the Tunnel Redundancy group), and; (2) **a reduction to the Watershed Division budget of \$500,000** due to a recent personnel study that recommended the Division lower its FTE goal from 157.5 to 150.0 (the most recent headcount was at 134 FTE at end of March 2019).

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