



# News & Notes

A publication of the **MWRA Advisory Board**  
September 2005

## **Authority Reaches Tentative Agreement on CSO's**

The MWRA submitted to regulators recently a plan for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) control in the Charles River. The proposal includes a 12-year variance from further CSO control efforts in the Charles with a three-year revisit period. Discussions on the proposed plan are progressing among the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Authority. The Advisory Board expects that approval will be secured in the coming weeks.

## **Advisory Board Releases Community Water and Sewer Assessments**

In an effort to assist communities preparing for escalating wholesale water and sewer assessments, the Advisory Board has prepared rate assessment breakdowns for communities in the MWRA system. The "Community Rate Projection" document shows water and sewer percent increases from FY06 through FY11 for each community, based on MWRA wholesale projections. The document will be released to communities in the coming days and will also be available on the Advisory Board's website.

## **Romney Appoints DCR Commissioner**

Governor Romney earlier this month appointed Stephen Burrington to head up the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the agency charged with managing the state's park system and its watershed properties. Mr. Burrington replaces former Acting Commissioner Stephen Pritchard, who last month was appointed Secretary of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. Prior to accepting the new position, Mr. Burrington served as a deputy chief for Commonwealth Development Secretary Douglas Foy and previously worked as General Counsel for the Conservation Law Foundation.

## **Blue Hills Covered Storage Decision Creates "Mitigation Deficit"**

In his written recommendation to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), released earlier this month, Administrative Magistrate Mark Silverstein suggests that the MWRA be allowed to proceed with its plans to construct a covered drinking water storage facility in the Blue Hills Reservoir to make emergency drinking water available to thousands of residents in Quincy and parts of Milton and Dorchester. But there's a catch-although freed of any further mitigation at the Blue Hills, the judge states the Authority now has a "wetlands mitigation deficit", meaning that at some point down the road, the Authority must replicate the 8.7 acres of wetlands that will be lost as a result of the Blue Hills Project. Such mitigation would likely take place as part of a future project.

The recommendation is now before DEP Commissioner Robert Golledge, who is empowered to accept, reject or modify the decision. In April of this year the MWRA Board of Directors voted to reaffirm its support of the Blue Hills Covered Storage Project as currently designed and specifically expressed its unwillingness to spend any more funds on mitigation at the Blue Hills. Further, the Board expressed its desire that any costs associated with mitigation beyond the original project plans should come out of existing mitigation funds. The Advisory Board has been a strong supporter of the Blue Hills Project in its proposed form, emphasizing the fact that the project includes \$8 million (25% of the total project budget) for mitigation-related expenses.

## **Advisory Board Summer Tour a Success**

The Advisory Board held its annual summer tour on Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. The trip included a tour of the John J. Carroll Water Treatment Plant, which went live on July 27, 2005. The tour coincided with official Plant dedication ceremonies, including the naming of the Plant in honor of Advisory Board appointee to the MWRA Board of Directors, John Carroll. Mr. Carroll's family was on-hand for the dedication, as were many key players from the MWRA and state government, including former Governor Michael S. Dukakis, former MWRA Executive Director Douglas B. MacDonald, Federal District Court Judge Honorable Richard G. Stearns and Advisory Board Chairman Katherine Haynes Dunphy. Please visit the Advisory Board's website for pictures from the event.

### **Upcoming Meetings/Events**

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| <b>September 14-</b> | <b>MWRA Board of Directors' Meeting</b><br>10:00 am in Charlestown            |
| <b>September 15-</b> | <b>Advisory Board Meeting</b><br>11:30 am in Newton                           |
| <b>September 27-</b> | <b>Operations Committee Meeting</b><br>10:00 am at Newton City Hall, Room 202 |

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

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