Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

MWRA Transmits Proposed $797.0 Million FY20 CEB to Advisory Board

Budget season is once again upon us, and the Advisory Board has begun our statutory review of the MWRA’s proposed Current Expense Budget for FY20. The proposed CEB presented at the Board of Directors meeting includes a rate revenue requirement of $766.66 million, a 3.74% increase over last year’s budget. This amounts to the funds paid by communities through their assessments. Authority staff will provide a presentation of the proposed CEB at the next Advisory Board meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2019, in Lexington (see calendar below for details). This is your chance to weigh in. We hope to see you there.

Preliminary FY20 Assessments Are Out

Find Your Community's Rates

Along with approving the FY20 CEB transmittal to the
Advisory Board for its review, the MWRA Board of Directors also approved the preliminary FY20 community assessments. While the average combined increase of 3.74% shows a decrease from FY19’s proposed 3.9%, demonstrating a gradual trend towards the “2.4 by ‘24” mantra, the Advisory Board will work to tighten this number during our no-less-than-60-day review.

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Catching Up with Communities

Keeping the Conversation Going

In the past few weeks, Advisory Board Executive Director Joseph Favaloro, MWRA Executive Director Fred Laskey, and members of staff have been going from community to community to meet with CEOs, public works departments, and Advisory Board designees. The goal is to visit as many communities as possible and to reaffirm and strengthen our relationships. During discussions of Authority goals and the role of the Advisory Board, communities so far have been interested in talking more about community support programs (such as the I/I grant and loan program), as well as current MWRA projects in their area.

Part of our conversations have included what infrastructure needs communities have in the coming years. Using data from each community’s capital plan, the Advisory Board hopes to put together a more concrete projection regarding water and wastewater infrastructure spending needs for the next 5-10 years. The resulting figure will no doubt highlight the need for accessibility to financial strategies and resources as communities look to maintain and improve their local systems. In other words, this is the exact purpose of our June 21st workshop at Boston College. Remember to save the date for this important meeting!
MWRA Proposes Changes to TRAC Fees

First Update Since 2012

Last week, the Board of Directors voted to approve a series of proposed amendments to the regulations governing MWRA’s Toxic Reduction and Control (TRAC) program for industrial pretreatment of wastewater. Changes to the Incentive Program charges for permit holders has long been on the Advisory Board’s list of Comments and Recommendations. Incremental increases to the TRAC fees ended in FY12, while the cost of wastewater treatment has continued to rise. The Advisory Board understands that the program is incentive-based and not meant to fully recover costs. However, regular increases are necessary to reflect increasing local water and sewer costs. The proposed change of increasing fees by 4.0% in FY20 and by 3.0% in the following four years is a welcome one.
MWRA TRAC staff performs an inspection on an oil and gas separator. Find out more about TRAC activities in the annual Industrial Waste Report.

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Upcoming Events

For the Month of **March**

- **March 15** | 8:30 AM, [Executive Committee Meeting](#) at Advisory Board offices
- **March 20** | 10:00 AM, [MWRA Board of Directors Meeting](#) in MWRA Board Room
- **March 21** | 11:30 AM, [Advisory Board Meeting](#) in Lexington

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