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To: MWRA All MWRAAll@mwra.net

Dear Colleagues.

Another week has gone by and we continue to get a lot of work done in this new situation. Below are a few highlights from this week I thought you would find interesting.

Ensuring Safe Spaces

Safety staff have been working to ensure compliance with CDC guidelines to keep staff safe in lunchrooms and other common areas. Signage has been posted, and chairs have been moved 6 feet apart with tape to mark safe distancing. Disinfectant has been placed at each location so staff can clean the area before and after use. These measures must be adhered to now and will be important when we start to transition back to the workplace.



Update on Construction

Construction continues on a number of key projects: on the water side, work is ongoing on the Southern Extra High redundancy pipeline project in Dedham and the Commonwealth Avenue Pumping Station in Newton. At Deer Island, the rehabilitation of the Gravity Thickeners and the re-lining of the hypochlorite tanks continue. At the Chelsea Creek Headworks, the new odor control system is up and running and demolition of the old scrubber has started.

Regulatory Compliance

Enqual staff prepared and we submitted all the Discharge Monitoring Reports for seven different NPDES permits. There were no violations.

FY2021 Budget

Finance and Operations staff are working to develop the FY2021 Budget on an accelerated schedule. We are also working with Advisory Board staff on an initiative to defer community pipeline and I/I loan repayments to offer some financial relief to our communities.

Community Assistance

MWRA staff assisted the City of Chelsea and Beth Israel Hospital to set up a hand washing station in the parking lot of the Quality Inn in Revere. The facility is being set up as a local quarantine location.



At the request of MEMA, MWRA staff in Southborough have been delivering hand sanitizer and other supplies from a MEMA warehouse in Marlborough to nursing homes and healthcare facilities throughout the Commonwealth. MEMA received a large amount of hand sanitizer in one gallon jugs from Tito's (distillery in Texas, now making hand sanitizer instead of Vodka, cheers!) and needed help distributing it. MWRA staff stepped up and are getting it out where it is needed.

Telework

There are currently 460 MWRA staff who are advancing the important work at MWRA through telework. We appreciate the parents in our MWRA family who are managing work and “distance learning” responsibilities. We are also grateful to MIS staff who continue to support our teleworkers.

Letter from the New England Water Works Association

If you haven't seen it, NEWWA send out a Letter to the Editor calling out water and wastewater workers as “[forgotten heroes of the pandemic](#) quietly working in the background, almost invisible to the public, but who are the basis for how we can continue to function as a society.”

I echo their sentiments and thank you one and all for your continued work during this challenging period.

Fred