

## Environmental Justice Screening Form

Project Name	Metropolitan Water Tunnel Program
Anticipated Date of MEPA Filing	January 31, 2024
Proponent Name	Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA)
Contact Information (e.g., consultant)	MWRA Colleen Rizzi <a href="mailto:Colleen.Rizzi@mwra.com">Colleen.Rizzi@mwra.com</a> 857-331-2574
Public website for project or other physical location where project materials can be obtained (if available)	<a href="https://www.mwra.com/mwtp.html">https://www.mwra.com/mwtp.html</a>
Municipality and Zip Code for Project (if known)	Belmont (02478), Boston (02124, 02126, 02130, 02131, 02132, 02136), Brookline (02445), Dedham (02026), Needham (02494), Newton (02459, 02461, 02462, 02464, 02466, 02467), Waltham (02451, 02452, 02453), Watertown (02472), Wellesley (02481), Weston (02493)
Project Type* (list all that apply)	Water Supply – Treatment/conveyance
Is the project site within a mapped 100-year FEMA flood plain? Y/N/ unknown	Y
Estimated GHG emissions of conditioned spaces ( <a href="#">click here for GHG Estimation tool</a> )	It is expected that the Program will have minimal greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions during its operation (i.e., post-construction). Therefore, the <i>de minimis</i> exemption would be applicable for operations, and a quantitative GHG assessment of Program operations has not been conducted.  The MWRA prepared a quantitative assessment of emissions of NO <sub>x</sub> , VOC, and GHG during the Program’s construction period which demonstrated that air quality impacts for all alternatives are expected to be relatively minor, and well below state and federal air quality impact thresholds.

### Project Description

<p>1. Provide a brief project description, including overall size of the project site and square footage of proposed buildings and structures if known.</p> <p><b>Approximately 15 miles of two new deep rock water supply tunnels (north and south alignments) would be constructed to provide redundancy for MWRA’s existing Metropolitan Tunnel System. This includes up to 14 aboveground sites in 6 municipalities that result in up to 9 acres of permanent easements or land acquisition. Final acreages provided in the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) are subject to final design.</b></p>
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2. List anticipated MEPA review thresholds (301 CMR 11.03) (if known)

- 11.03(4)(a)(3): Construction of one or more new water mains ten or more miles in length.**  
**11.03(1)(b)(3): Disposition or change in use of land or an interest in land subject to Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth.**  
**11.03(1)(b)(1): Direct alteration of 25 or more acres of land.**  
**11.03(3)(b)(1)(f): Alteration of ½ or more acres of any other wetlands.**  
**11.03(6)(b)(2)(b): Construction, widening or maintenance of a roadway or its right of way that will cut five or more living public shade trees of 14 or more inches in diameter at breast height.**

3. List all anticipated state, local and federal permits needed for the project (if known)

Agency/Department	Permit/Approval/Action
<b>Federal</b>	
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit (CGP)
	NPDES Dewatering and Remediation General Permit, if needed
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	Section 404 Department of the Army Permit (General and Project Construction Notice) <sup>1</sup>
<b>Commonwealth of Massachusetts</b>	
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)	Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Review
Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC)	Review pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Ch. 9, Section 26-27C
Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)	Land disposition/easements <sup>1</sup>
	Highway Access/Construction Access Permits <sup>1</sup>
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA)	MBTA Right of Way Access License Agreement
Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)	Land disposition/easements <sup>1</sup>
	Construction/Access Permits <sup>1</sup>
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)	Water Management Act Permit
	Chapter 91 Licenses
	Superseding Order of Conditions, upon appeal <sup>1</sup>
	Section 401 Water Quality Certificate <sup>1</sup>
Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance	Distribution System Modification
	Article 97 Land Disposition Legislation <sup>1</sup>
<b>Municipal</b>	
Conservation Commissions	Wetlands Protection Act Order of Conditions <sup>1</sup>
Departments of Public Works	Roadway Access Permits/Street Opening Permit <sup>1</sup>
Boston Water and Sewer Commission	Hydrant Permit
	Drainage Discharge Permit

<sup>1</sup> Indicates that the permit or approval is site specific.

Note: This is a preliminary list of permits and approvals that may be sought for the Program. This list is based on current information about the Program and is subject to change as the design of the Program progresses.

4. Identify EJ populations and characteristics (Minority, Income, English Isolation) within 5 miles of project site (can attach map identifying 5-mile radius from [EJ Maps Viewer](#) in lieu of narrative)

**The Environmental Notification Form (ENF) for this Program was filed on March 31, 2021. A Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was filed on October 17, 2022. A Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Report (SDEIR) was filed on July 31, 2023. The DEIR, SDEIR, and the FEIR are not new filings and therefore not subject to the *MEPA Public Involvement Protocol for Environmental Justice Populations* or the *MEPA Interim Protocol for Analysis of Project Impacts on Environmental Justice Populations*. However, MWRA is voluntarily complying with these updates to the greatest extent practicable and is conducting comprehensive outreach and analysis of EJ populations near the proposed Program sites.**

**To align with MEPA’s EJ Protocols and amended regulations, the EJ analysis identified census block groups within a 1-mile radius of the temporary construction area limits of disturbance (LOD) around each proposed Program site. The EJ study area also included block groups within a 0.5-mile distance from the anticipated construction vehicle routes to/from each Program site and the nearest interstate highway.**

**Please refer to the attached figures illustrating EJ populations within 1 mile of the proposed sites.**

5. Identify any municipality or census tract meeting the definition of “vulnerable health EJ criteria” in the [DPH EJ Tool](#) located in whole or in part within a 1-mile radius of the project site

**The EJ census block groups within 1 mile of the American Legion site and Southern Spine Mains site in Boston, and the UMass Property site, Lower Fernald Property site, School Street site, and Cedarwood Pumping Station site in Waltham are within census tracts that have rates of Elevated Blood Lead Prevalence per 1,000 that are significantly higher than the state rate.**

**The EJ census block groups within 1 mile of the American Legion site and Southern Spine Mains site in Boston; the Newton Street Pumping Station site in Brookline; and the UMass Property site, Lower Fernald Property site, School Street site, and Cedarwood Pumping Station site in Waltham are within census tracts that have rates of Low Birth Weight per 1,000 that are significantly higher than the state rate.**

**Vulnerable health criteria at the community level were identified as significantly higher compared to the state rate in Boston which pertains to the American Legion site, Southern Spine Mains site, and block groups within 1 mile of the Newton Street Pumping Station site that are a part of Boston.**

6. Identify potential short-term and long-term environmental and public health impacts that may affect EJ Populations and any anticipated mitigation

**Existing environmental and health burdens identified by the DPH EJ Tool would not be exacerbated by Program activities.**

**There are no long-term environmental or public health impacts that may affect EJ populations. There are short-term impacts anticipated from temporary increases in construction vehicle traffic, construction noise levels, and potential contaminants found in excavated material. With planned mitigation, no disproportionate adverse effects or impacts that may affect EJ populations would be anticipated. The improved water supply redundancy provided by the Program will benefit both EJ and non-EJ populations by enhancing the reliable delivery of water and sewer services.**

**Detailed information on potential impacts and planned mitigation was provided in the DEIR and further elaborated upon in the SDEIR. The FEIR clarifies information related to the EJ analysis and provides updated information on outreach efforts.**

7. Identify project benefits, including “Environmental Benefits” as defined in 301 CMR 11.02, that may improve environmental conditions or public health of the EJ population

**The purpose of the Metropolitan Water Tunnel Program is to enhance the reliability of the Metropolitan Tunnel System that serves the metropolitan Boston area, allowing for system maintenance and repair without disrupting service in a way that maintains the system’s ability to provide water needed to support public health and safety.**

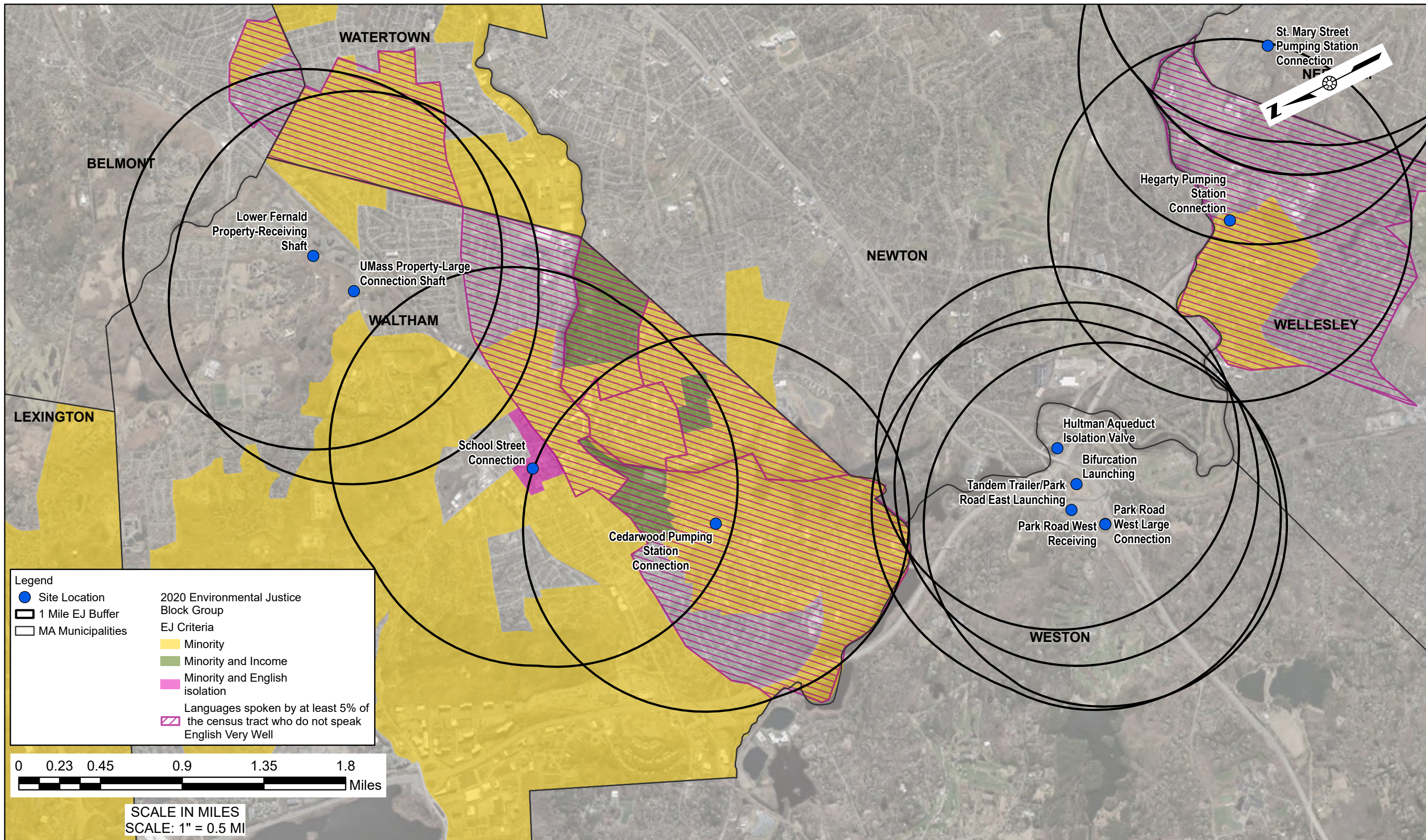
**The primary goal of the Program is to protect public health, provide sanitation, and provide fire protection, in line with the mission of the MWRA.**

8. Describe how the community can request a meeting to discuss the project, and how the community can request oral language interpretation services at the meeting. Specify how to request other accommodations, including meetings after business hours and at locations near public transportation.

**Communities can request a public information session, as well as any needed interpretation services, by contacting:**

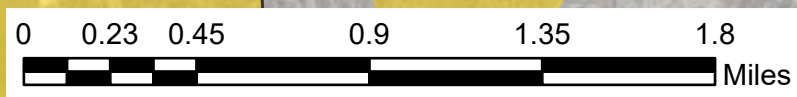
**Carmine De Maria  
Community Relations Manager  
Carmine.Demaria@mwra.com  
617-963-9876**





**Legend**

- Site Location
- 1 Mile EJ Buffer
- MA Municipalities
- 2020 Environmental Justice Block Group
- EJ Criteria**
- Minority
- Minority and Income
- Minority and English isolation
- ▨ Languages spoken by at least 5% of the census tract who do not speak English Very Well



SCALE IN MILES  
SCALE: 1" = 0.5 MI



**Metropolitan Water  
Tunnel Program**

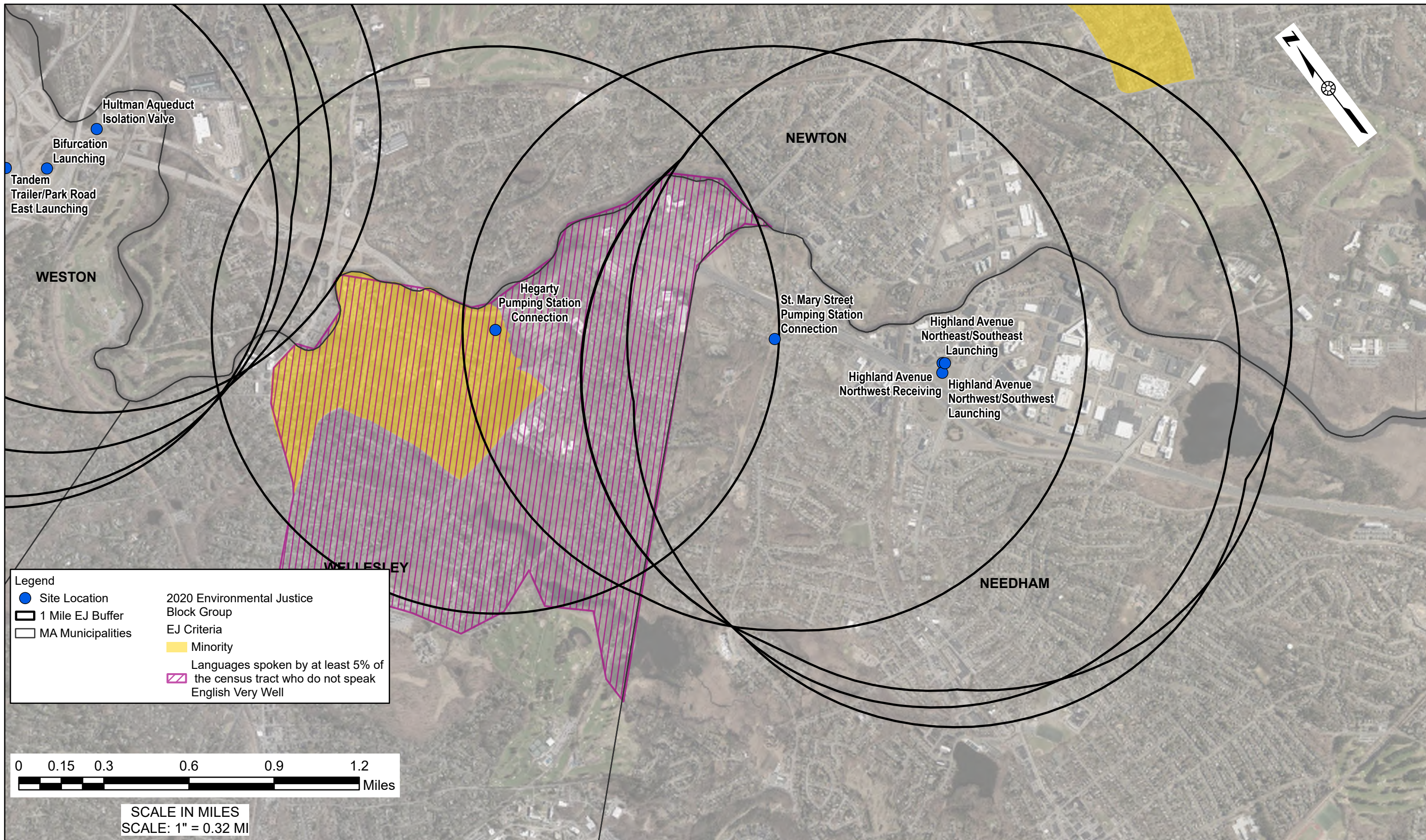
**MWRA Contract No. 7159  
Final Environmental  
Impact Report**



**Environmental Justice Overview Maps  
Panel 1**

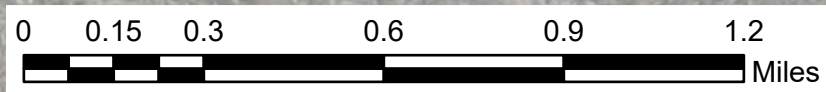
Source: MassGIS, NHESP, MWRA





**Legend**

- Site Location
- 1 Mile EJ Buffer
- MA Municipalities
- 2020 Environmental Justice Block Group
- EJ Criteria
- Minority
- Languages spoken by at least 5% of the census tract who do not speak English Very Well
- 



SCALE IN MILES  
SCALE: 1" = 0.32 MI



**Metropolitan Water  
Tunnel Program**

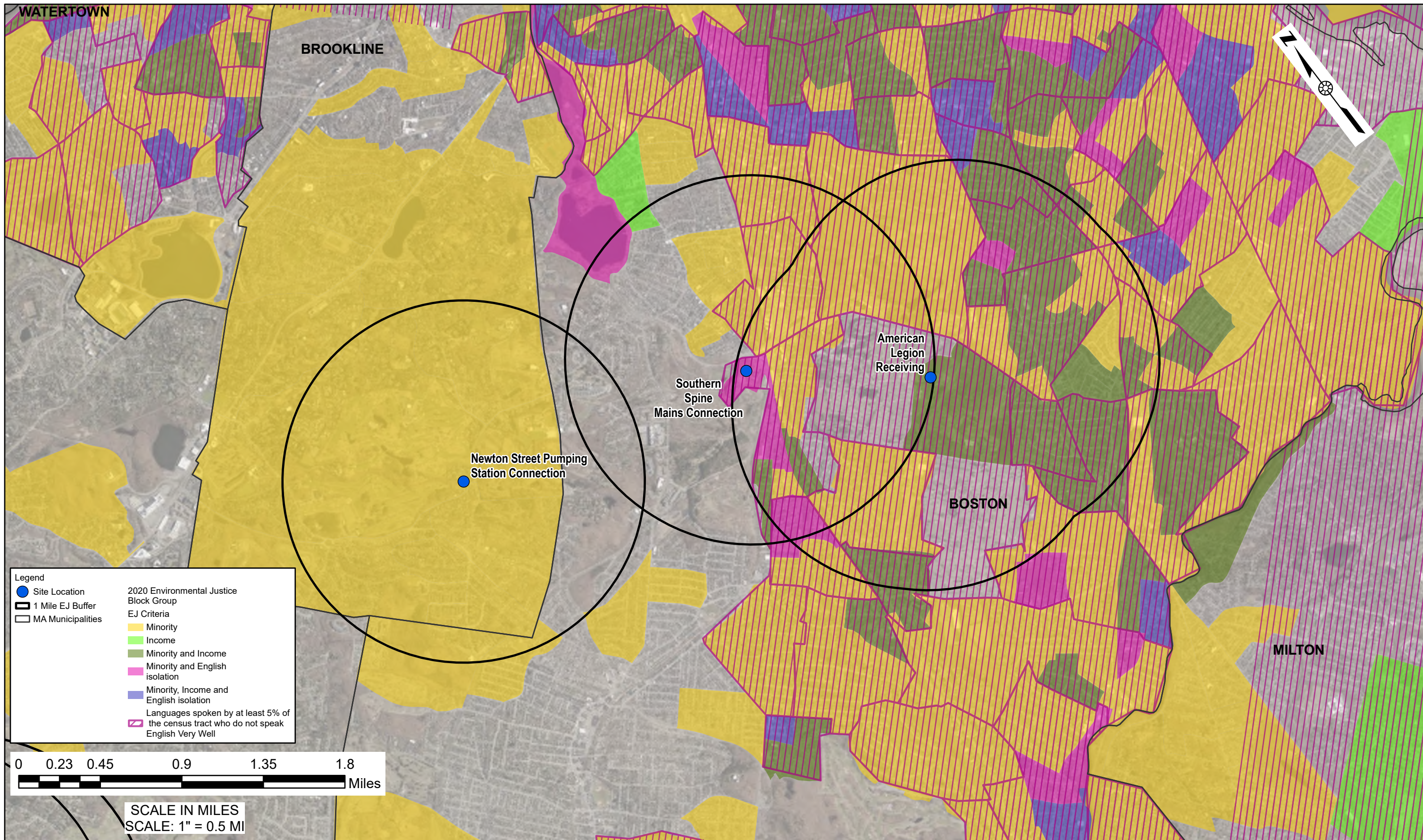
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**Environmental Justice Overview Maps  
Panel 2**

Source: MassGIS, NHESP, MWRA





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**Environmental Justice Overview Maps  
Panel 3**

Source: MassGIS, NHESP, MWRA