

## Environmental Justice Screening Form

Project Name	Metropolitan Water Tunnel Program
Anticipated Date of MEPA Filing	July 31, 2023
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> )	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

### Project Description

1. Provide a brief project description, including overall size of the project site and square footage of proposed buildings and structures if known.

**Approximately 14.5 miles of two new deep rock water supply tunnels (north and south alignments) 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 will be provided in the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) and are subject to final design.**

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. Conversion of land held for natural resources purposes in accordance with the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth Article 97 to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97.**

**11.03(1)(b)(1): Direct alteration of 25 or more acres of land**

**11.03(3)(b)(1)(f): Alteration of ½ acre or more 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 or 14 or more inches in diameter at breast height**

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 in March 2021 and a DEIR was filed on October 17, 2022. The DEIR and this Supplemental DEIR (SDEIR) 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, the Authority is voluntarily complying with these updates to the greatest extent practicable and is conducting appropriate and comprehensive outreach and analysis of EJ populations near the proposed sites. To closely align with MEPA's EJ Protocols and amended regulations, the EJ Study Area was defined as EJ populations in a 1-mile radius using an approximate center-point, or a 1-mile buffer zone from the limits of disturbance (LODs) for areas with unevenly distributed or separated LODs, for each of the proposed sites, to assess impacts.

**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 blocks within 1 mile of the American Legion site and Southern Spine Mains in Boston, and the UMass Site, Lower Fernald Property, School Street site, and Cedarwood Pumping Station 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 blocks within 1 mile of the American Legion site and Southern Spine Mains in Boston, St. Mary Street Pumping Station in Needham, and the UMass Site, Lower Fernald Property, School Street, and Cedarwood Pumping Station 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, Southern Spine Mains, Newton Street Pumping Station (Brookline).

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 construction impacts anticipated from increased truck traffic, construction noise levels, and potential contaminants found in excavated sediment. With planned mitigation, no disproportionate adverse effects or impacts that may affect EJ populations would be anticipated.**

**Detailed information on potential impacts and planned mitigation was provided in the DEIR and further elaborated upon in the SDEIR.**

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 Authority.**

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 by contacting:**

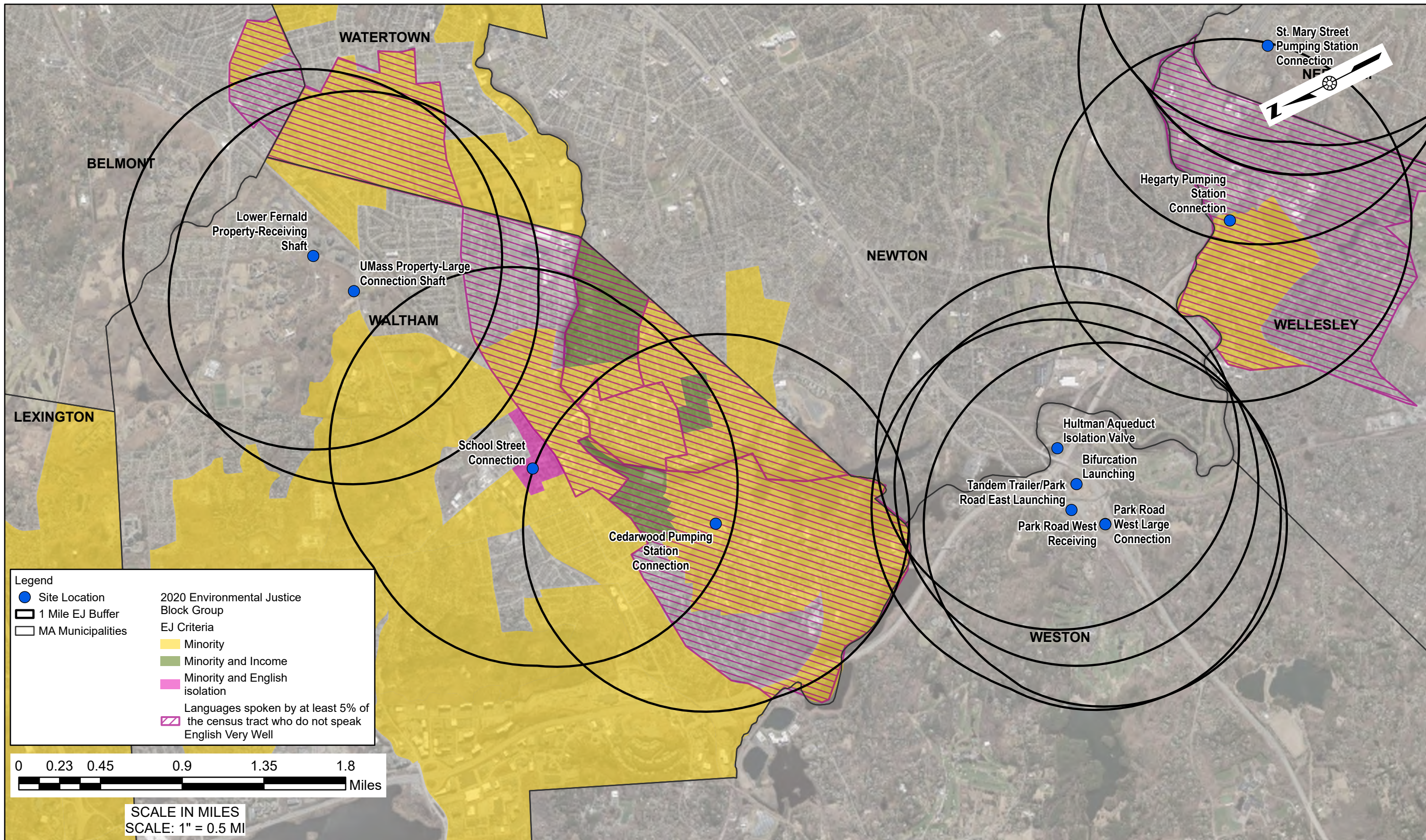
**Carmine De Maria**

**Community Relations Manager**

**Carmine.Demaria@mwra.com**

**617-963-9876**





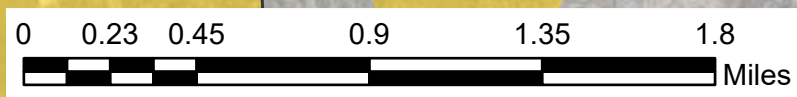
**Legend**

- 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**

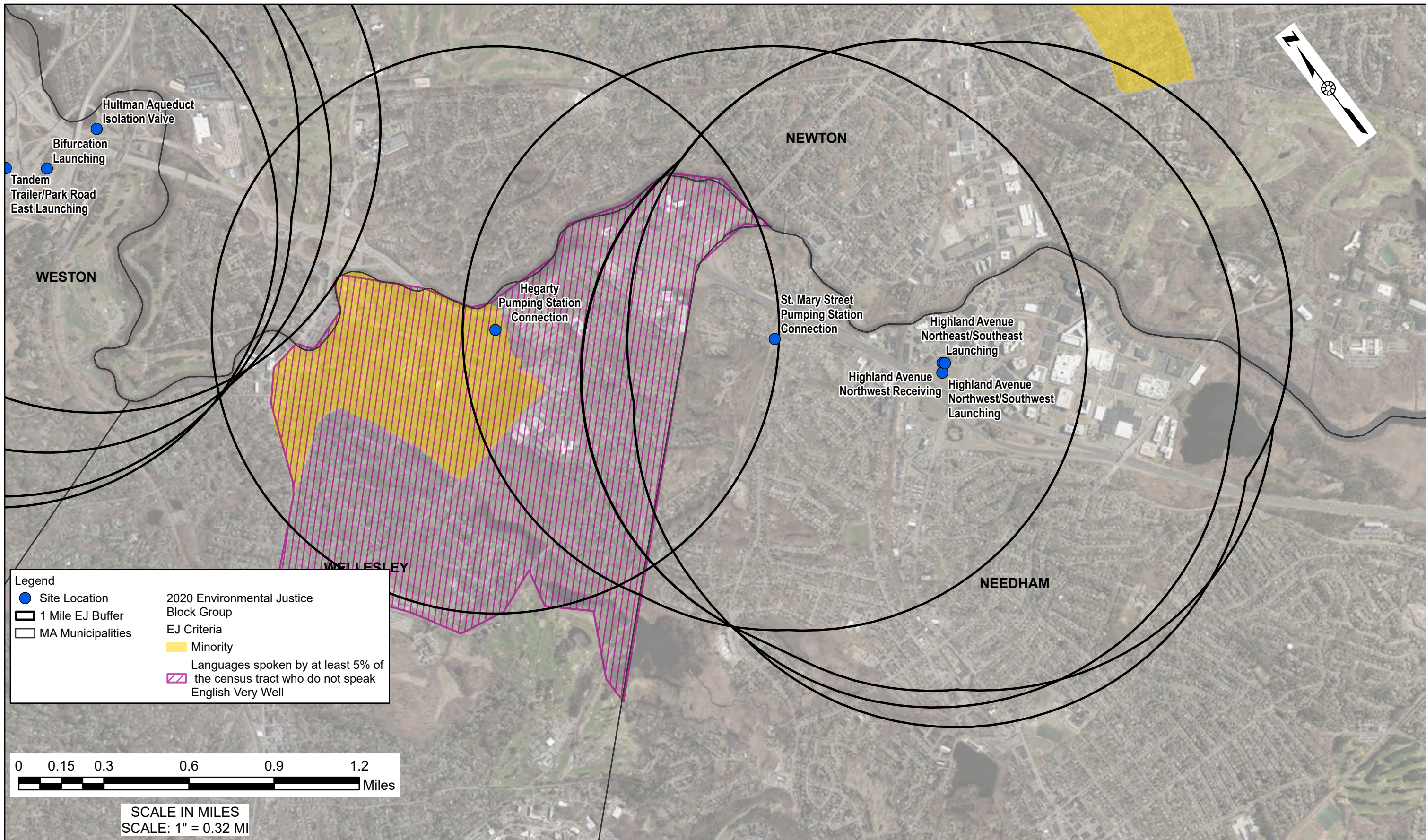
**MWRA Contract No. 7159  
Supplemental Draft  
Environmental Impact Report  
2023**



**Environmental Justice Overview Maps  
Panel 1**

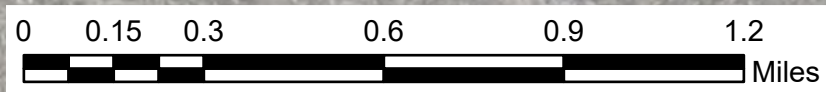
Source: MassGIS, NHESP, MWRA





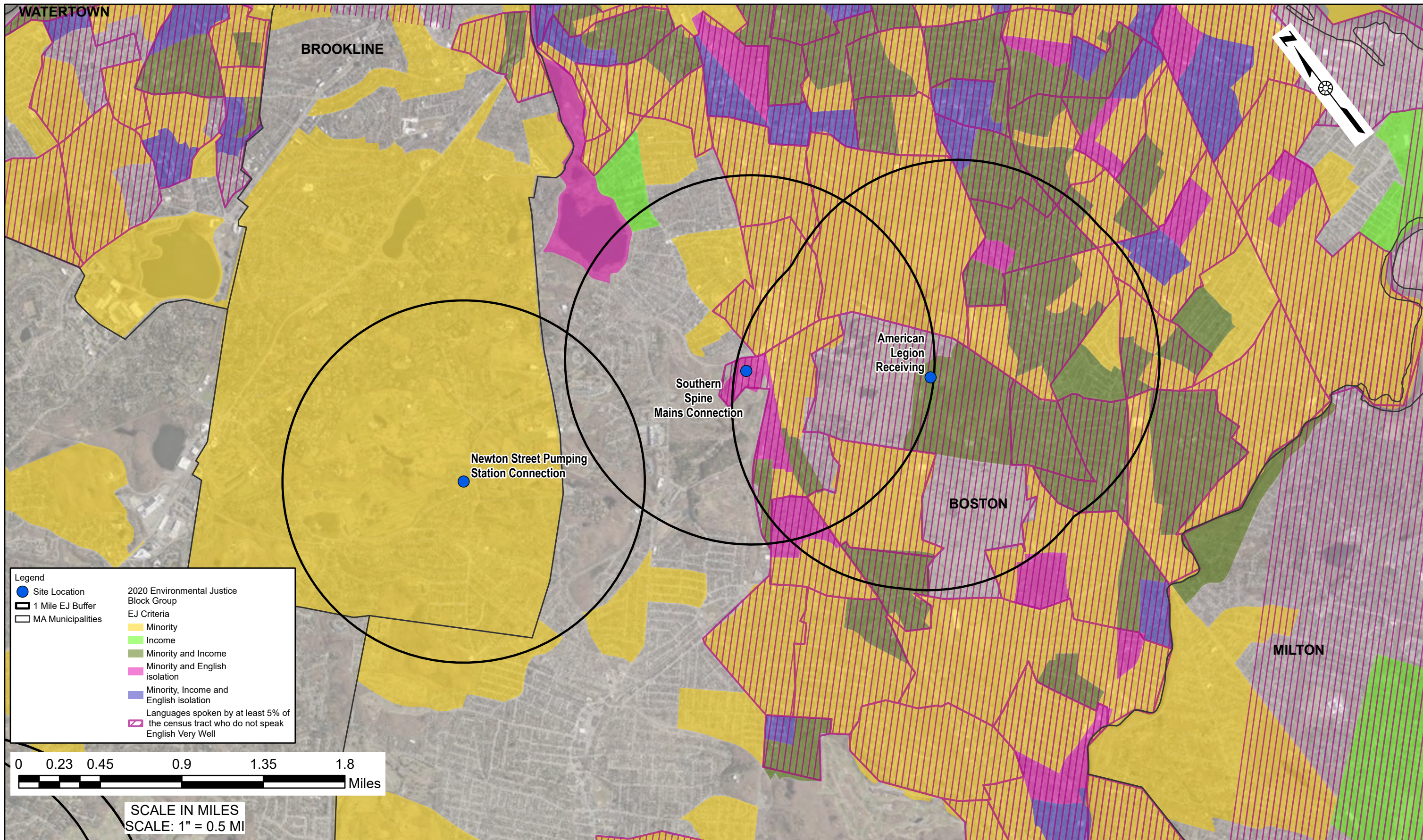
**Legend**

- 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



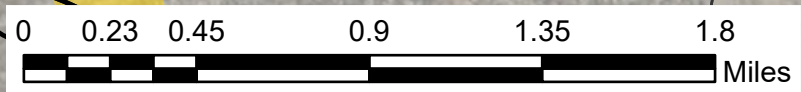


**Legend**

- Site Location
- 1 Mile EJ Buffer
- MA Municipalities

**2020 Environmental Justice Block Group EJ Criteria**

- Minority
- Income
- Minority and Income
- Minority and English isolation
- Minority, Income 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**

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**Environmental Justice Overview Maps  
Panel 3**

Source: MassGIS, NHESP, MWRA