

WASTEWATER
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE MASSACHUSETTS WATER
RESOURCES AUTHORITY

Fred Laskey, Director
MWRA
Via email

January 31, 2026

Dear Fred:

Much has happened in your 24+ years directing the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, and on the news of your retirement announcement, the Wastewater Advisory Committee wishes to share our appreciation for your service.

When you stepped into this job in June 2001 the challenge was building trust: that rates would be more predictable and affordable; that the 9-mile outfall tunnel from Deer Island to the waters of Massachusetts Bay would not harm the ecosystem there; that every ratepayer dollar invested in wastewater treatment would be well spent.

You managed that while topping off some great projects—from the North Dorchester Bay CSO Storage Tunnel (2011), several headworks rehabilitations (or rebuilding), climate resilience programs, energy efficiency upgrades, plans for a higher-efficiency Combined Heat and Power Plant, and more.

And you built public trust through some dramatic weather events (March 2010, when Deer Island hit some all-time volume highs; Hurricane Sandy...), a pandemic, a water supply valve break, a fire at Nut Island, and innumerable water main breaks (or adventures in drilling).

Your unflappability in the face of crises—and in the face of members of the public, some of them angry—is legendary, and we will miss that ability, among others.

At one of your early meetings with WAC, you noted that MWRA existed in part because of prior lack of maintenance. And that your job should be boring—but was anything but (with the Metro Tunnel project starting, boring will begin again).

All of us on the committee are grateful for your 25 years of service, for the many times you have given us information and presentations, and for your ability to listen to constructive criticism and suggestions. Enjoy your retirement, your seven grandchildren and the extra time for travel and uninterrupted nights.

With many thanks,



Kannan Vembu,
Chair For the committee