



MASSACHUSETTS WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY

Deer Island
33 Tafts Avenue
Boston, MA 02128

Stephen Estes-Smargiassi Executive Director

Chair: R. Tepper
Vice-Chair: A. Pappastergion
Secretary: B. Peña
Board Members:
P. Flanagan
J. Foti
B. Swett
L. Taverna
H. Vitale
J. Walsh
P. Walsh
J. Wolowicz

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Telephone: (617) 242-6000
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Date: Wednesday, October 21, 2026
Time: 1:00pm
Location: Deer Island Reception/Training Building, 1st Floor
33 Tafts Avenue – Favaloro Meeting Room
Boston, MA 02128

Photo ID required for entry.
The meeting will also be held remotely on Webex.

Webex registration link

<https://mwra.webex.com/weblink/register/r1f1a47bbb98122f7bbcf75653d6591b8>

Webinar number: 2341 835 7780

Password: 102126PM

AGENDA

- I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- II. REPORT OF THE CHAIR
- III. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- IV. ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE AND AUDIT
 - A. Information
 - 1. Delegated Authority Report – September 2026
 - 2. Internal Audit Department Activities Report – FY2026
 - 3. Financial Update and Summary as of September 2026
 - B. Approvals
 - 1. Bond Defeasance for Future Debt Service
- V. WASTEWATER POLICY AND OVERSIGHT
 - A. Information
 - 1. 2025 Outfall Monitoring Overview
 - 2. MWRA Industrial Waste Report #42
 - B. Contract Awards
 - 1. Cryogenic Oxygen Facility Valve Replacement, Walsh Construction Company II, LLC, Contract 8150
 - C. Contract Amendments/Change Orders
 - 1. Deer Island Treatment Plant Technical Assistance Consulting Services: AECOM Technical Services, Inc., Contract 7981, Amendment 1

V. WASTEWATER POLICY AND OVERSIGHT (Continued)**C. Contract Amendments/Change Orders (Continued)**

2. Deer Island Treatment Plant Technical Assistance Consulting Services: CDM Smith Inc., Contract 7982, Amendment 1
3. Deer Island Treatment Plant Technical Assistance Consulting Services: Hazen & Sawyer PC., Contract 8018, Amendment 1

VI. PERSONNEL AND COMPENSATION**A. Approvals**

1. PCR Amendments – October, 2026

VII. CORRESPONDENCE TO THE BOARD

- October 1, 2026 letter, Stephen P. Konetchy, Norwood, regarding the Draft Long-Term CSO Control Plan
- October 1, 2026 letter, Brookline Greenspace Alliance, regarding the Draft Long-Term CSO Control Plan
- October 6, 2026 letter, Allyson Hamilton, Selectboard Chair, on behalf of the Town of Walpole, regarding the Draft Long-Term CSO Control Plan
- October 14, 2026 letter, Senator Patricia D. Jehlen, Second Middlesex, regarding the Draft Long-Term CSO Control Plan
- October 7, 2026 letter, Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee (WSCAC), regarding MWRA's Interbasin Transfer Act Application

VII. OTHER BUSINESS**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION****i. Approval of July 29, 2026 Executive Session Minutes****A. Real Estate**

1. Watershed Land Acquisition Approval

B. Security

1. Security Update and Strategy

C. Litigation

1. To Discuss Strategy with Respect to Litigation

D. Release of Executive Session Minute Entries**X. ADJOURNMENT**

MASSACHUSETTS WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY

Meeting of the Board of Directors

September 23, 2026

A meeting of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) Board of Directors was held on September 23, at MWRA Headquarters at Deer Island, Boston, and via remote participation.

Chair Tepper presided from MWRA Headquarters. Board Members Foti, Pappastergion, Taverna and Vitale participated at MWRA Headquarters. Board Member Peña participated remotely. Board Members Flanagan, Swett, Jack Walsh, Patrick Walsh and Wolowicz were absent.

MWRA Executive Director Stephen Estes-Smargiassi; General Counsel Carolyn Franciso Murphy; Deputy General Counsel Michael Altieri; Chief Operating Officer Kathy Murtagh; Deputy Chief Operating Officers Stephen Cullen and Rebecca Weidman; Director of Finance Thomas Durkin; Director of Administration Michele Gillen; Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer (AACU) Wendy Chu; Deputy Finance Director/Treasurer Matthew Horan; Project Manager Malcom Ragan; Waterworks Director Valerie Moran; Budget Director Michael Cole; Procurement Director Douglas Rice; MIS Director Paula Weadick; Program Manager Kristen Patneaude; Wastewater Director Ethan Wenger; Program Manager Jenna Surette; Deputy Waterworks Director Lisa Bina; Director of Environmental and Regulatory Affairs Colleen Rizzi; Chief Engineer Brian Kubaska; Senior Program Manager Milan A. Horbaczewski; Assistant Director of Engineering Patricia Mallett; Program Manager Kellie Stevens; Construction Director Marty McGowan; Chief of Staff Katie Ronan; Associate General Counsel Angela Atchue; IT Asset and Configuration Manager Michael Curtis; and, Assistant Secretary Kristin MacDougall were among those attending at MWRA Headquarters.

Vandana Rao, EEA and Matt Romero, MWRA Advisory Board attended at MWRA Headquarters.

Chair Tepper called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

ROLL CALL

Assistant Secretary Kristin MacDougall took roll call of Board Members in attendance and announced that Mr. Peña was participating remotely. The Chair announced that the meeting was being held at MWRA Headquarters and virtually via a link posted on MWRA's website. She added that the meeting was being recorded, and the agenda and meeting materials were available on MWRA's website.

APPROVAL OF JULY 29 AND AUGUST 12, 2026 MINUTES

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the minutes of the July 29 and August 12, 2026 Board of Directors' meetings as presented and filed with the records of this meeting.

Chair Tepper asked if there was any discussion or questions from the Board. Hearing none, she requested a roll call vote in which the members were recorded as follows:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Tepper		
Foti		
Pappastergion		

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Peña		
Taverna		
Vitale		

(ref. I)

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MWRA Executive Director Stephen Estes-Smargiassi noted Governor Healey’s August 12, 2026 letter regarding Quabbin Watershed communities (“Quabbin communities”) and reported that staff were actively working to address next steps including for engagement, access, evaluating opportunities for local water access issues, and overall equity. He relayed that staff recently met with the Belchertown Water District to discuss the potential for the Town to site a new well on DCR land, noting staff’s efforts to communicate that the land used for MWRA’s work may also be available for the work of the Quabbin communities. Mr. Estes-Smargiassi also reported that he and Governor Healey had received a letter from the Wachusett Watershed Coalition that raised concerns similar to those expressed by Quabbin communities regarding hardships that they attribute to hosting watershed lands and relayed that the Coalition’s points were under staff consideration.

Mr. Estes-Smargiassi then announced that MWRA’s drinking water had been voted the “Best Tasting Water in New England” at the New England Waterworks Association’s annual meeting and presented the trophy received; noted that MWRA’s and BWSC’s drinking water has won multiple awards; and attributed its superior taste to high-quality watersheds, great treatment, and world-class staff.

Next, Mr. Estes-Smargiassi discussed the new Level 2 smart electric vehicle (“EV”) chargers installed at Deer Island and available for employee use at their own expense. Mr. Estes-Smargiassi then discussed the MWRA Advisory Board upcoming annual field trip on October 8, 2026, dedicating the Laskey Covered Storage Facility in Stoneham in honor of former MWRA Executive Director Fred Laskey. He explained how to RSVP and encouraged Board members to participate.

Finally, Mr. Estes-Smargiassi advised that significant rain was expected during the upcoming weekend, and the Deer Island Treatment Plant (“DITP”) could potentially operate at peak capacity. He discussed MWRA’s extensive storm preparation including supplemented operations and maintenance staffing throughout the duration. Finally, he noted that three inches of rain were expected in the Boston area, with less in the watersheds; other Greater Boston water systems such as Lynn and Cambridge could also benefit from the rainfall; and staff would keep the Board apprised as needed. (ref. III)

ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE AND AUDIT

Information

Delegated Authority Report – July and August 2026

Mr. Estes-Smargiassi briefly discussed staff’s ongoing efforts to review and update MWRA’s Delegated Authority policy, which was last revised in 2022, to further streamline some processes, account for inflation, and improve consistency. He noted that staff expect to present recommendations during a Board meeting this Fall.

Committee Vice Chair Vitale then invited Board Members’ questions about the Delegated Authority Report for July and August 2026.

Mr. Vitale inquired about the durations of MWRA's revenue bond consulting contracts. MWRA Deputy Finance Director/Treasurer Matthew Horan relayed that they were three-year contracts.

Hearing no further discussion or questions from the Board, Mr. Vitale moved to the next Information Item. (ref. IV A.1)

FY2026 Fourth Quarter Orange Notebook

Malcom Ragan, MWRA Project Manager, presented highlights of the FY26 Fourth Quarter ("Q4") Orange Notebook as detailed in the Staff Summary and PowerPoint slides ("meeting slides"). He reported on below average rainfall at Deer Island associated record lower DITP flows and watershed rainfall and Q4 drought levels, which had been downgraded since June 30, 2026. He also noted that the Quabbin Reservoir was at 82.1% capacity as of June 30; the Quabbin was at 78.5 in mid-September due to low rainfall; and a Ware River Watershed diversion in April had temporarily brought levels to Normal Range.

Mr. Ragan then presented metrics for Deer Island annual maintenance and pipeline inspection and maintenance, noting they achieved or were near all cumulative FY26 targets except for water main inspections due to persistent staffing issues. He outlined MWRA's inspection goals and noted that one additional field service technician was hired in Q4.

Finally, Mr. Ragan discussed FY26 electricity pricing. He reported that DITP electricity costs were approximately 20% higher on average in FY26 versus FY25; electricity was over budget every quarter in FY26 despite below-average demand, warmer temperatures and reduced flows to DITP; and higher pricing had increased the value of avoided energy costs from the beneficial use of digester gas.

Noting that water distribution pipeline inspections were approximately 85% below target, and acknowledging that two of four staff vacancies were filled, Mr. Pappastergion asked how MWRA would gain ground. MWRA Waterworks Director Valerie Moran explained that the surveys can only be conducted at night due to noise; crews were working as quickly and efficiently as possible; and three employees were currently assigned to the night work. She noted that MWRA had recently lost one member of the night shift team and were assigning day shift workers to the night shift to fill the gaps. In response to Mr. Pappastergion's follow-up question, Ms. Moran relayed that staff were taking steps to fill the vacancies; the night shift is the hardest to fill; and Operations and Human Resources staff were working toward a solution. Mr. Pappastergion asked if MWRA had ever met the pipeline inspection goal, and Ms. Moran responded in the affirmative. In response to Mr. Pappastergion's concern that MWRA may not be able catch up, Mr. Estes-Smargiassi relayed that the target is aggressive overall; and noted MWRA is not missing a lot of leaks.

Mr. Foti asked if MWRA had considered outside resources for the night inspections. Ms. Moran advised that staff would take that into consideration. Mr. Estes-Smargiassi added that engaging consultants from MWRA's emergency on-call list could negatively impact customer community inspections, noting that local systems tend to have more leaks. There was brief, general discussion about the potential impacts.

Mr. Foti requested an update on fuel spending. MWRA Budget Director Michael Cole reported that the FY26 average for gasoline was \$2.98 per gallon; staff made a large purchase in June 2026 at \$3.91 per gallon; and fuel costs were of concern for the FY27 and FY28 budgets due to ongoing geopolitical factors. In response to Mr. Foti's follow-up question, Mr. Cole relayed that MWRA's gasoline budget was underspent for FY26; he was not aware of any significant purchases since June; and he could provide

more information about FY27 purchases after the meeting. MWRA Finance Director Thomas Durkin added that staff would provide an update on gasoline prices at the October Board meeting. Mr. Foti requested an update on diesel fuel as well, and Mr. Durkin agreed.

Mr. Pappastergion asked if MWRA's fuel contracts included escalation clauses. There was brief, general discussion about escalation clauses. Mr. Estes-Smargiassi explained that MWRA typically pre-purchases fuel, and there was further general discussion. MWRA Procurement Director Douglas Rice explained that MWRA purchases diesel fuel under state blanket contracts. There was brief discussion about how MWRA and MassDOT purchase diesel fuel.

Hearing no further discussion or questions from the Board, Mr. Vitale moved to the next Information item. (ref. IV A.2)

FY26 Year-End Financial Update and Summary

Mr. Cole reported that the FY26 Current Expense Budget ("CEB") closed with a \$26.0 million variance, which is in line with FY25 (\$23.2 million) and budget trends and drivers were mostly consistent through FY26, as detailed in the Staff Summary. He noted that staff were planning to recommend applying the variance to defeasance; finalizing assumptions in preparation for the FY28 budget process; and closely monitoring fuel costs and their potential budgetary impacts.

Mr. Taverna asked if rates for vacancies and capital spending rate assumptions were periodically adjusted. Mr. Cole responded in the affirmative; described the process; and provided examples.

Mr. Vitale requested staff's projections for interest rates for investments and bonds. Mr. Horan relayed that the short-term interest rate assumption for investments was increased to 3.5% for the Final FY27 budget; the MMDT rate has climbed to 4.0% since June 2026 and the FY27 long-term rate assumption for investments coming due was 4.3%. He also described staff's planned reinvestment strategy for FY27. Mr. Estes-Smargiassi highlighted the Orange Notebook as a resource for additional information.

Hearing no further discussion or questions from the Board, Mr. Vitale moved to the next Information item. (ref. IV A.3)

Fiscal Year 2026 Year-End Capital Improvement Program Spending Report

Mr. Cole reported that the FY26 Capital Improvement Program ("CIP") was underspent by approximately 40% at year-end and line with FY25 but slightly higher than the 5-, 10- and 20-year averages, and noted that variances had grown since the 2020 Covid pandemic. He discussed the upcoming kickoff for the FY28 budgeting process, including project prioritization for FY28-FY33, and outlined some future FY28 budgeting milestones.

In response to a question from Mr. Vitale, Mr. Horan relayed that there were currently no arbitrage concerns for the spending side, however, rising interest rates were triggering an IRS rebate liability on some tax-exempt bond transactions due to allowable earnings limits. He described staff's strategy for limiting the rebate obligations. (ref. IV.A.4)

Approvals

Approval of the Ninety-Third Supplemental Bond Resolution

A motion was duly made and seconded to adopt the Ninety-Third Supplemental Resolution authorizing the issuance of up to \$50,000,000 of Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

Subordinated General Revenue Bonds and the supporting issuance resolution.

Mr. Horan requested Board approval to adopt the Ninety-Third Supplemental Resolution allowing MWRA to borrow approximately \$50 million in subsidized loans from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust ("Trust"). He advised that the Authority had received Trust funding only for wastewater projects this year because the MWRA's drinking water projects did not rank high enough on the scale of immediate need such as for PFAS remediation. Mr. Horan noted that staff have been working with DEP and the Trust on a pilot with BWSC to borrow at zero interest through the SRF's Lead Program, then combine a 25% MWRA grant with SRF's 40% grant in funding to provide a 65% grant for Boston lead service line removals and replacements (LSLRs). He added that the pilot would require SRF approval; staff may request Board authorization to borrow the funds at a future meeting; and the pilot could potentially be extended to other communities to maximize service area LSLRs.

In response to a question from Mr. Vitale, Mr. Horan explained that the Trust's scoring criteria for drinking water projects includes environmental needs and community financial statistics', therefore, utilities such as MWRA and BWSC, with robust maintenance programs, high drinking water quality and financial stability, tend to score lower overall. He added that MWRA had received advance notice of Trust funding limitations and plan to apply in the future. Mr. Estes-Smargiassi added that ability to comply with regulations can also be a factor. There was brief general discussion, and Mr. Vitale relayed that BWSC has also observed reduced funding opportunities.

Chair Tepper noted that there have been significant funding reductions from the federal government.

Chair Tepper asked if there was any discussion or questions from the Board. Hearing none, she requested a roll call vote in which the members were recorded as follows:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Tepper		
Foti		
Pappastergion		
Peña		
Taverna		
Vitale		

(ref. IV B.1)

Contract Awards

Professional Services for the Maximo Migration Project: International Business Machines Corporation, Bid WRA-5838Q, State Contract ITS75

A motion was duly made and seconded to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve the award of a purchase order contract for professional services for the Maximo Migration Project to the lowest responsive bidder under Bid WRA-5838Q, International Business Machines Corporation (IBM), and to execute said purchase order contract in the bid amount of \$2,028,702 under State Contract ITS75.

Paula Weadick, MWRA MIS Director, described the Maximo Application Suite's ("MAS") functions, a large system upgrade in 2015 and a 2023 enhancement. She advised that MWRA's current version of

MAS, which is hosted on premises, will become unsupported in 2027 and must be upgraded; and staff sought this contract award for system upgrade professional services. Ms. Weadick relayed that two bids were received for the contract, however, one bid (from Crory & Associates, Inc.) was determined to be unresponsive and described such including that it did not include the full scope of work. She reported that staff reviewed the bid from International Business Machines Corporation (IBM); IBM met all requirements; and staff recommend award to IBM as the lowest responsive bidder.

Mr. Foti noted that the Crory & Associates' bid was approximately \$1 million lower than IBM's; noted he understood why it was deemed unresponsive; and inquired about the costs to bring that bid to compliance. Ms. Weadick explained that to her knowledge, under procurement rules, MWRA is required to review submitted bids as-is and may not engage after submittal of the bid. She added that the unresponsive bid included a provision to perform an assessment and provide a cost estimate thereafter. In response to Mr. Foti's follow-up question, Ms. Weadick affirmed staff's belief that the firm understood the scope. Mr. Foti requested staff's original estimated contract cost and noted the approximately \$1 million difference between the two bids received. Ms. Weadick relayed that staff had budgeted approximately \$2 million for this contract. There was brief, general discussion about the proposals' cost difference, and difficulties encountered when BWSC changed hosting sites.

Mr. Pappastergion noted for the record that his daughter works for IBM but has no financial interest in the contract.

Chair Tepper asked if there was any discussion or questions from the Board. Hearing none, she requested a roll call vote in which the members were recorded as follows:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Tepper		
Foti		
Pappastergion		
Peña		
Taverna		
Vitale		

(ref. IV B.1)

WASTEWATER POLICY AND OVERSIGHT

APPROVALS

Design and Installation of a Solar Canopy System at the Deer Island Treatment Plant: Solest Energy Development, LLC, Contract 7270

A motion was duly made and seconded to authorize the Executive Director or his designee, on behalf of the Authority, to enter into contract negotiations with Solest Energy Development, LLC regarding proposed Contract 7270, Design and Installation of a Solar Canopy System at the Deer Island Treatment Plant and, contingent upon mutually acceptable terms and conditions, award and execute said Contract 7270 in the not to exceed proposed amount of \$8,899,849 and for a contract term of 571 calendar days from the Notice to Proceed. This authorization to award and execute Contract 7270 is conditioned upon final review and approval by the Executive Director of contract terms and conditions that are acceptable to the Executive Director.

Kristen Patneaude, MWRA Program Manager, discussed the procurement process under MGL Ch. 164 §137 for a proposed contract with Solect Energy Development, LLC (“Solect”) to design and install a solar canopy at DITP. She explained that MGL Ch. 164 §137 allows public entities and nonprofits to engage in a competitively procured energy program that has been conducted on behalf of a public instrumentality; described how nonprofit membership organization Power Options selects a solar development program manager during a competitive process every three to four years; and, noted that in 2022 Power Options selected Solect as its program developer. She relayed that MWRA is eligible to use this program as a member of the Power Options consortium and staff had initially executed a letter of intent with Solect so they could initiate preliminary design in collaboration with staff, all as detailed in the Staff Summary and meeting slides.

Ms. Patneaude noted Solect’s qualifications and experience; requested Board approval for a design and installation contract with the firm; and outlined the contract terms wherein Solect will design, procure and install the canopy, and MWRA will be responsible for its ownership and operation.

She then presented an overview of the proposed project’s development, some subsurface challenges for constructing a solar canopy at the DITP site, and the site layout. Ms. Patneaude also presented a project summary including the canopies’ locations, specifications, features and output. She noted that the generated electricity will be fed to DITP’s grid and consumed on site; and make up approximately 2% of DITP’s total electricity requirements and approximately 5% of DITP’s renewables portfolio.

Next, Ms. Patneaude reviewed the planned schedule for the project and presented examples of some solar canopy projects completed by Solect under the Power Options program. She also discussed the project’s costs and budget, expected reimbursements from the Climate Mitigation Trust, planned applications for additional funding under the state’s solar SMART incentive program, the canopies’ avoided electricity costs and Social Cost of Carbon value.

Finally, Ms. Patneaude discussed some practical and environmental benefits of the DITP solar canopy; relayed that the installation of solar canopies offers an opportunity to integrate additional electric vehicle (“EV”) charging at DITP and noted that this project will include the installation of conduit and all electrical infrastructure to serve 20 future EV charging ports to be installed after the recently constructed EV stations are assessed.

In response to a question from Mr. Taverna, Ms. Patneaude affirmed that MWRA would own, operate and maintain the solar panels. In response to Mr. Taverna’s follow-up question, Ms. Patneaude relayed that there is a one-year workmanship warranty from the developer; the panels have a 25-year warranty; the berm has a 10-year warranty; and the racking system hardware has a 25-year warranty. She also noted that staff plan to outsource long-term system operation and maintenance. There was brief discussion with questions and answers about the size and location of a canopy structure on meeting slide 13.

Hearing no further discussion or questions from the Board, Chair Tepper requested a roll call vote in which the members were recorded as follows:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Tepper		
Foti		

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Pappastergion		
Peña		
Taverna		
Vitale		

(ref. V A.1)

Contract Awards

Janitorial Services at the Deer Island Treatment Plant: Facilities Management and Maintenance Inc. Bid WRA-5826

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the award of Contract WRA-5826, Janitorial Services at the Deer Island Treatment Plant, to Facilities Management and Maintenance Inc., and to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute said contract in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,970,156.13, for a contract term of three years from the Notice to Proceed.

Ethan Wenger, MWRA Director of Wastewater, presented background on janitorial services contracts for DITP during the past 25 years, the square footage and number of buildings served under these contracts, and a summary of the scope of work for the proposed contract award. He reviewed the bids received, including that of the recommended bidder, Facilities Management and Maintenance, Inc., and noted that a purchase order for to provide janitorial services in the interim pending approval of this proposed contract had been awarded under Delegated Authority.

In response to questions from Mr. Foti, Mr. Wenger relayed that Facilities Management, was the current contractor and their work was satisfactory. There was brief discussion about the contractor's work schedule. Mr. Estes-Smargiassi noted that this contract would have typically been awarded under Delegated Authority, however, it was now presented to the Board for approval due to inflation. He added that this scenario exemplified why staff were preparing to recommend updates to Delegated Authority policy at a future Board meeting. There was brief, general discussion about the policy.

Mr. Vitale requested information about how MWRA confirms that contractors pay staff the prevailing wage, and how MWRA handles noncompliance. Mr. Rice explained that MWRA's janitorial services are bid under state blanket contracts, which require compliance, and he would provide documentation after the meeting. There was discussion with questions and answers about how MWRA would handle a hypothetical scenario of noncompliance.

Hearing no further discussion or questions from the Board, Chair Tepper requested a roll call vote in which the members were recorded as follows:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Tepper		
Foti		
Pappastergion		
Peña		
Taverna		
Vitale		

(ref. V B.1)

Deer Island Chemical Piping Replacement: Walsh Construction Company II, LLC, Contract 6851

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the award of Contract 6851, Deer Island Treatment Plant Chemical Piping Replacement, to the lowest eligible and responsible bidder, Walsh Construction Company II, LLC, and to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute said contract in the amount of \$5,999,400, for a contract term of 330 calendar days from the Notice to Proceed.

MWRA Program Manager Jenna Surette summarized the scope for a proposed chemical piping replacement contract with Walsh Construction Company II, LLC and noted the exiting piping was installed in 1997 and has exceeded its useful life. She explained that under this contract, a temporary bypass sodium hypochlorite system will be installed to ensure reliable means of chemical transfer in the event that a below-grade line were to be compromised during construction; site excavation will be required; and all excavated areas will be backfilled and restored to preconstruction conditions. She also outlined some benefits of the project, including reliable chemical transfer. Finally, Ms. Surette presented an overview of the procurement process and bid results and requested award to the lowest responsive and eligible bidder, Walsh Construction Company II, LLC.

In response to a question from Mr. Taverna, Mr. Rice explained that this contract was bid under Chapter 149 due to the nature of the work, after consultation with DCAMM. In response to Mr. Taverna's follow-up question, Ms. Surette relayed that the pipe material would be PVC, and the valves would be CPE lined.

Chair Tepper asked if there was any further discussion or questions from the Board. Hearing none, she requested a roll call vote in which the members were recorded as follows:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Tepper		
Foti		
Pappastergion		
Peña		
Taverna		
Vitale		

(ref. V B.2)

WATER POLICY AND OVERSIGHTInformationSection 91B Water Main Leak, Saugus

Lisa Bina, MWRA Deputy Waterworks Director, reported on a Section 91B water main leak on Ballard Street in Saugus that occurred on August 18, 2026 as detailed in the Staff Summary and meeting slides. She provided background on Section 91B's location, composition, and service area; explained that Section 91B is one of several area water mains that provide support and redundancy for supply Section 91; noted that two of these mains (Sections 26 and 56) were isolated; provided a brief status update; and reported that Section 91B was able to be isolated without any hydraulic impacts to the North because Sections 91 and 71 were still active.

Ms. Bina then summarized the timeline of the leak, notification, response and resolution. She noted that

despite the rapid response, the leak caused damage to the Ballard Street area, including within a MassDOT construction project, and required a road closure.

Next, Ms. Bina reviewed MWRA water and wastewater crews' response, including repairs to Section 91B and an adjacent City of Saugus sewer line, site cleanup, and interim restoration of the Ballard Street site in coordination with MassDOT. She discussed staff's coordination with MassDOT on final restoration, including working on a reimbursement agreement for the Authority to pay for paving to be performed by MassDOT.

Ms. Bina also discussed the failed segment of Section 91B, which was installed in 2001, repaired in 2014, and now shows severe corrosion. She relayed that recent investigation revealed corrosion in another segment, and staff were coordinating with an independent lab to perform pipe failure analysis for the failed segment and the newly discovered corroded area. Finally, Ms. Bina noted that Section 91B was still isolated; leak detection staff have inspected the entire length of the pipeline; and the next steps forward would depend on the pipe failure analysis results.

Mr. Estes-Smargiassi noted the complexity of the repair and staff's successful efforts to quickly restore the function of a major roadway. Mr. Foti discussed the beneficial partnership between MWRA and MassDOT to repair Ballard Street and reduce constituent impacts. There was brief, general discussion about the road repairs.

Mr. Taverna noted that Section 91B's level of corrosion was unusual. There was brief, general discussion about records regarding the pipeline installation and some potential reasons for the corrosion.

Hearing no further discussion or questions from the Board, Mr. Taverna moved to Approvals. (ref. VI A.1)

Approvals

Renewal of Ashland Water Supply Continuation Agreement

A motion was duly made and seconded to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute the Water Supply Continuation Agreement with the Town of Ashland for a term of ten years, substantially in the form filed as Attachment A to the September 23, 2026 Staff Summary presented and filed with the records of this meeting.

Colleen Rizzi, MWRA Environmental and Regulatory Affairs Director, provided background on the proposed renewal of a Water Supply Continuation Agreement with the Town of Ashland and noted that the terms of the Agreement were similar to the existing terms, as discussed in the Staff Summary.

In response to a question from Mr. Taverna, Ms. Rizzi affirmed that Ashland has committed to required water conservation efforts and noted the Agreement's stringent guidelines. There was brief discussion about the location of the guidelines in the Staff Summary.

Hearing no further discussion or questions from the Board, Chair Tepper asked if there was any discussion or questions from the Board. Hearing none, she requested a roll call vote in which the members were recorded as follows:

Yes

No

Abstain

Tepper

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Foti		
Pappastergion		
Peña		
Taverna		
Vitale		

(ref. V B.1)

Sections 53 and 99 Improvements - Design and Engineering Services During Construction: Hazen and Sawyer, P.C., Contract 7485, Amendment 1

A motion was duly made and seconded to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve Amendment 1 to Contract 7485, Sections 53 and 99 Improvements Design and Engineering Services During Construction, with Hazen and Sawyer, P.C., increasing the contract amount by \$2,723,353, from \$4,985,262 to \$7,708,615, and extending the contract term by 36 months from August 10, 2028, to August 10, 2031.

Brian Kubaska, Chief Engineer, reviewed the history of the Sections 53 and 99 Improvements design contract ("Contract 7485"); relayed that the project is primarily intended to improve the hydraulic capacity and reliability of the Northern High-Pressure Zone; and described MWRA's efforts to ensure the implementation of appropriate projects to meet known current and future needs and minimize construction impacts to communities. He explained that Contract 7485 required more effort than originally anticipated, however, the result was reduced construction and improved capacity and reliability. Mr. Kubaska noted that approximately 2/3 of the proposed Amendment was to provide Resident Engineering/Resident Inspection ("RE/RI") services; staff recommend procuring these services to Contract 7485's existing design consultant through an Amendment with a value consistent with the that of a competitive proposal.

Next, MWRA Senior Program Manager Milan A. Horbaczewski presented background on Sections 53 and 99; the reasons for the improvements project, including reduced restriction and improved carrying capacity; the originally envisioned design with three construction packages; and the current adjusted design with two construction packages. He noted that the proposed Amendment would address additional design work not included in the original scope and minimize impacts on local communities. Finally, Mr. Horbaczewski discussed the cost and terms of Contract 4789's original award to Hazen and Sawyer, P.C. ("Hazen and Sawyer").

Mr. Horbaczewski presented photos Contract 4789's project area in Malden including high traffic streets; outlined the cost estimates, scopes and schedules of the contract's two construction packages; and summarized the scope and budget of proposed Amendment 1. Finally, Mr. Horbaczewski presented a cost and task breakdown of the proposed Amendment, all as detailed in the Staff Summary and meeting slides.

In response to a question from Mr. Taverna, Mr. Horbaczewski discussed some reasons for the two construction packages' sequencing, including traffic impact reductions and the determination that some system elements could not be taken offline at the same time.

Hearing no further discussion or questions from the Board, Chair Tepper requested a roll call vote in

which the members were recorded as follows:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Tepper		
Foti		
Pappastergion		
Peña		
Taverna		
Vitale		

(ref. V C.1)

Steel Water Storage Tank Painting and Improvements - Design & Engineering Services During Construction: Hazen and Sawyer, P.C., Contract 6832, Amendment 3

A motion was duly made and seconded to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve Amendment 3 to Contract 6832, Steel Water Storage Tank Painting and Improvements Design & Engineering Services During Construction, with Hazen and Sawyer, P.C., increasing the contract amount by \$2,563,066, from \$2,930,873 to \$5,493,939, and extending the contract term by 57 months from October 15, 2026 to July 15, 2031.

Further, a motion was duly made and seconded to authorize the Executive Director to approve additional amendments as may be needed to Contract 6832 in an amount not-to-exceed the aggregate of \$500,000 and 12 months in accordance with the Management Policies and Procedures of the Board of Directors.

In support of staff's request for approval of Amendment 3 to a design/ESDC contract for steel water storage tank painting and improvements ("Contract 6832"), MWRA Assistant Director of Engineering Patricia Mallett presented the tank locations; reviewed the original contract scope; and outlined the reasons for the Amendment, including longer than expected construction durations, the addition of needed tank improvements, and staff resources, as detailed in the Staff Summary and meeting slides.

Next, MWRA Program Manager Kellie Stevens presented before and after photos of Contract 6832, CP-1, which was completed in June 2026. She also summarized the tasks and costs of the original contract, Amendments approved under delegated authority to date, and proposed Amendment 3 with a cost increase and time extension. She then presented a summary of costs to be covered under Amendment 3. Finally, Ms. Stevens requested authorization for the Executive Director to approve additional amendments as needed in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 and 12 months.

Mr. Taverna requested more information about repairs for the Park Circle Tank. Ms. Stevens explained that the repairs would be external as part of CP-2, due to required masonry work. There was brief, general discussion about the planned bid process.

Hearing no further discussion or questions from the Board, Chair Tepper requested a roll call vote in which the members were recorded as follows:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Tepper		
Foti		

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Pappastergion		
Peña		
Taverna		
Vitale		

(ref. V C.2)

Gillis, Brattle Court and Newton Street Pumping Stations Roof Replacements: Reliable Roofing and Sheet Metal, LLC, Contract 7901, Change Order 1

A motion was duly made and seconded to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve Change Order 1 to Contract 7901, Gillis, Brattle Court and Newton Street Pumping Stations Roof Replacements, with Reliable Roofing and Sheet Metal, LLC, for a not-to-exceed amount of \$1,500,000, increasing the contract amount from \$2,222,000 to \$3,722,000, with no increase in contract term.

Further, a motion was duly made and seconded to authorize the Executive Director to approve additional change orders as may be needed to Contract 7901 in an amount not-to-exceed the aggregate of \$555,500, and 180 days in accordance with the Management Policies and Procedures of the Board of Directors.

MWRA Construction Director Marty McGowan presented a summary of the work to be performed under proposed Change Order 1 to a roof replacement contract for the Gillis, Brattle Court and Newton Street Pump Stations ("Contract 7901"). He advised that Change Order 1 was significant in its dollar amount and percentage, however, staff believed that it was in MWRA's best interest to proceed.

Mr. McGowan then presented a photo of the Gillis Pump Station at Spot Pond and described its service area. Noting that roofing materials had already been purchased and delivered to the site, he relayed that contractors found significantly deteriorated decking with dry rot while stripping the roof and presented a photo of its condition. He advised that the decking's current state was not suitable for the installation of a new roofing system, further, the roofing manufacturer would not provide a warranty unless this compromised decking were replaced.

Mr. McGowan explained that the decking's level of deterioration surpassed Contract 7901's allowance and the best course of action would be to replace the entire decking to support long-term use. He also presented photos of missing asphalt shingles and a temporary roof patch that required repairs.

Next, Mr. McGowan explained that the roof work's expanded scope required the protection of the critical pump equipment within the Gillis station and described protective measures to be taken under proposed Amendment 3. Finally, he relayed that staff's evaluation of options for improving the roofing structure as part of the new design had determined that adding a ventilation layer would help to avoid future dry rot.

In response to a question from Mr. Taverna, Mr. McGowan explained that the shingles that were already purchased would be used for the new roof.

In response to a question from Mr. Foti, Mr. McGowan relayed that the proposed Amendment would be awarded on a not-to-exceed basis, and work will not be performed on sections that don't require

replacement. There was general discussion with questions and answers about the reasons for requesting delegated authority in the second part of the motion for this proposed Change Order, and the amount of delegated authority requested.

Hearing no further discussion or questions from the Board, Chair Tepper requested a roll call vote in which the members were recorded as follows:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Tepper		
Foti		
Pappastergion		
Peña		
Taverna		
Vitale		

(ref. V C.3)

PERSONNEL AND COMPENSATION

Approvals

September 2026 PCR Amendments

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve amendments to the Position Control Register (PCR) as presented in, and attached to, the September 23, 2026 Staff Summary and filed with the records of this meeting.

Mr. Estes-Smargiassi noted that staff would review MWRA's PCR Amendment policy; this proposed amendment would not historically have been presented to the Board of Directors, however, staff were now requesting Board approval due to inflationary impacts; and staff sought some additional flexibility with respect to MWRA's hiring practices.

Michele Gillen, MWRA Director of Administration, added that staff were looking at ways to address certain difficult to fill positions and described some mechanisms to attract additional candidates. She then requested Board approval for one PCR Amendment for a title and grade change in an effort to attract more qualified candidates for a vacant MIS position.

Hearing no discussion or questions from the Board, Chair Tepper requested a roll call vote in which the members were recorded as follows:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Tepper		
Foti		
Pappastergion		
Peña		
Taverna		
Vitale		

(ref. VII A.1)

Appointment of Deputy Director, Procurement Strategy and Compliance

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the appointment of Mr. Neil H. Cohen to the position of Deputy Director, Procurement Strategy and Compliance (Non-Union, Grade 15), at an

annual salary of \$176,160 commencing on a date to be determined by the Executive Director.

Ms. Gillen relayed that the recommended candidate would be a valuable addition as MWRA prepares to increase capital spending. She reviewed the candidate's qualifications and work experience, including interactions with MWRA staff.

Chair Tepper asked if there was any discussion or questions from the Board. Hearing none, she requested a roll call vote in which the members were recorded as follows:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Tepper		
Foti		
Pappastergion		
Peña		
Taverna		
Vitale		

(ref. VII A.2)

Appointment of Associate General Counsel, Environmental and Energy

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the appointment of Jennifer L. Keegan to the position of Associate General Counsel, Environmental and Energy, Law Division (Non-Union, Grade 15) at an annual salary of \$176,153, commencing on a date to be determined by the Executive Director.

Ms. Gillen noted ongoing staffing challenges and MWRA's good fortune to recruit the recommended candidate; and outlined the candidate's qualifications and work history. There was brief, general discussion about the candidate's current employer.

Hearing no further discussion or questions from the Board, Chair Tepper requested a roll call vote in which the members were recorded as follows:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Tepper		
Foti		
Pappastergion		
Peña		
Taverna		
Vitale		

(ref. VII A.3)

Mr. Estes-Smargiassi noted that hiring a new Human Resources Director has been challenging, and senior staff have been covering the position's duties in the interim. Mr. Foti asked if the challenges were due to a lack of qualified candidates. Ms. Gillen explained that staff were on round three of efforts to fill the position, and offers made to two qualified candidates were declined for reasons related to pension and commute, respectively. Mr. Foti asked if staff should wait until after Non-Union Manager compensation was settled to fill the position. There was brief, general discussion about staff's continued efforts to fill the position as soon as possible.

Non-Union Manager Compensation Subcommittee: Update and Salary Ranges for Non-Union Managers, Grades 13 to 18

Mr. Foti relayed that he would provide an update on the Non-Union Manager Compensation Subcommittee ("NU Subcommittee") in Chair Wolowicz' absence. He reported that the Subcommittee members (Ms. Wolowicz, Mr. Foti and Mr. Vitale) had met several times in recent months and took the matter of NU compensation very seriously.

Mr. Foti explained that the Subcommittee sought to accomplish two tasks: adopting the salary ranges recommended by the UMass Boston Collins Center, which will provide guidance for moving forward; and avoiding salary compression and collision going forward so that NU employees were treated as fairly as Union staff. He reiterated on behalf of the Subcommittee that its members take the issue of NU compensation seriously and explained that the pace of the ongoing process is to benefit employees and minimize future problems with collision and compression.

Finally, Mr. Foti provided a progress update on the Subcommittee's work to date, including several meetings with staff to ask questions and discuss financial impacts; noted upcoming meetings; and relayed that the Subcommittee hopes to present recommendations to the full Board in a timely manner.

Chair Tepper thanked the NU Subcommittee and acknowledged their time and effort. She also noted Mr. Pappastergion's leadership in driving the process forward and ensuring that it is handled expeditiously and carefully.

Mr. Vitale added that the NU Subcommittee members, with some assistance from key MWRA staff as needed, were working with the employees' best interests in mind, and the process was going well. Mr. Foti agreed.

A motion was duly made and seconded to adopt the salary ranges for non-union managers Grades 13 - 18 presented in Attachment 1 to the September 23, 2026 Staff Summary presented and filed with the records of this meeting, which ranges reflect the salary ranges recommended by the University of Massachusetts, Boston, Collins Center in its March 2026 Total Compensation and Benefits Study report, adjusted to include non-union manager salary adjustments implemented since the Collins Center initiated its study.

Mr. Foti suggested amending the motion to include a recommendation to adjust the salaries of three MWRA staff who would fall below the new minimum salary ranges under the terms of this motion. He added that if the proposed amendment were approved, those three salaries would be brought to at least the minimum of their respective ranges. He added that these ranges could potentially be further adjusted in the future, along with those of other NU Managers. Mr. Vitale agreed. Mr. Pappastergion noted that this recommendation would level the playing field and inform the Subcommittee's work moving forward.

In response to a question from Chair Tepper, Mr. Pappastergion affirmed that the proposed amended motion would bring all NU Managers within their respective new ranges, and the next task for the Subcommittee would be to determine where NU positions should fall within the new ranges.

Chair Tepper asked if each NU position would be considered individually. Mr. Foti responded in the affirmative and reiterated that the salaries of the three NU managers included in the amended motion

may not ultimately fall at the proposed rate.

There was brief discussion with questions and answers about the procedure for amending the original motion.

Ms. Francisco Murphy then read a suggested amendment to the motion that was duly made and seconded:

“Further, to adjust the salary of the Budget Director to \$183,943, the salary of the Internal Audit Director to \$183,943 and the salary of the Chief of Staff to \$145,622 so that their salaries are within the new salary range of the Grade for their respective non-union manager positions.”

There was brief discussion about the proposed amendment and its relatively low cost of approximately \$10,060. In response to a question from Mr. Taverna, Ms. Francisco Murphy advised that the amended motion would become effective during the next full pay period following Board approval.

A motion was duly made and seconded to amend the motion as recommended and read.

Having no further discussion or questions from the Board on the motion to amend a roll call vote was taken in which the members were recorded as follows:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Tepper		
Foti		
Pappastergion		
Peña		
Taverna		
Vitale		

Mr. Peña asked if the motion as amended included the step structure. There was brief discussion, and Ms. Francisco Murphy explained that the motion pertained only to the salary ranges.

Next, having no further discussion or questions from the Board on the motion as amended, a roll call vote on the amended motion was taken in which the members were recorded as follows:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Tepper		
Foti		
Pappastergion		
Peña		
Taverna		
Vitale		

(ref. VII A.4)

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE BOARD

Chair Tepper announced that the MWRA Board of Directors had received an August 21, 2026 letter and attachment from Jeff Weston, Town of Shutesbury Planning Board, regarding Eversource Energy's proposed WT-11 Transmission Right-of-Way Reliability Program; a September 8, 2026 letter from Chair Matthew E. Lane and Vice Chair Robert G. Donnelly on behalf of the Town of Norwood Board of

Selectmen regarding Draft Updated CSO Control Plan Comments; and a September 16, 2026 letter from Susan Turnbull, Assessor, Town of Oakham, regarding the proposed battery storage facility and increasing the Quabbin draw by 20 million gallons a day.

Chair Tepper asked if there was any discussion about this correspondence. She also noted that the WT-11 Transmission Project was currently before MEPA, which falls under her purview, and that she was reviewing the matter. Mr. Estes-Smargiassi added that the project's location does not fall within the watershed. (ref. VIII)

OTHER BUSINESS

Executive Director Position

Preliminary Screening Committee Update (verbal)

Chair Tepper updated the Board on the Preliminary Screening Committee for the MWRA Executive Director Position ("PSC"). She discussed the PSC members' (Chair Tepper, Mr. Pappastergion, Mr. Swett and Ms. Wolowicz) interviews with candidates held on September 15 and 16, 2026 and an upcoming PSC meeting on October 14 to discuss and vote to select recommended finalists, noting that the PSC was required to present at least two final candidates to the full Board.

The Chair relayed that directly after the October 14 PSC meeting, a Board meeting would be held at which the finalists would be announced, and Board members would then have the opportunity to have one-on-one conversations with the final candidates in preparation for a discussion and full Board vote on the Executive Director at the October 21, 2026 Board of Directors' meeting.

Chair Tepper noted that the PSC process has been conducted well; she was impressed by the work of the executive search firm engaged by the MWRA Board (Isaacson, Miller); and the candidates who were interviewed were excellent. Mr. Pappastergion agreed that the candidates were impressive, noting this would make the PSC's final decisions extremely difficult. Chair Tepper added that they have had robust conversations; the process was fair; and all candidates interviewed remarked on MWRA's excellent reputation including with respect to its finances, work and top rate staff. Mr. Pappastergion noted that the recently adjusted Executive Director salary range may have contributed to the high level of interest.

Mr. Taverna inquired about the format of the Board members' upcoming conversations with the final candidates. Ms. Francisco Murphy explained that one-on-one conversations were recommended; however, they could potentially be held with a two-on-one format. She advised that she would reach out to individual Board members after this meeting for their preferences. Chair Tepper noted that Isaacson, Miller staff would contact the Board members directly and requested that they reserve time on their calendars. Ms. Francisco Murphy briefly outlined the schedule.

There was discussion with questions and answers about the numbers of expressions of interest, applications, and candidates interviewed. There was also discussion about the PSC's processes for reviewing applications and narrowing the candidate pool, the selection criteria, and first- and second-round interview formats. Ms. Francisco Murphy noted that consideration of candidates has been conducted during the Executive Sessions of PSC meetings. There was further discussion about the PSC process, including its strict confidentiality to protect the applicants' privacy.

Mr. Vitale asked if MWRA senior staff were consulted during the PSC process. Ms. Francisco Murphy explained that Isaacson, Miller spoke with some staff members early in the process; she has provided

assistance as needed such as to arrange PSC meetings and facilitate responses to members' requests for information from staff about topics such as about benefits; however, neither she nor any other MWRA staff member has been present during PSC candidate discussions, deliberations or interviews.

Chair Tepper noted that the early discussions with Board members and some staff were conducted by Isaacson, Miller in order to develop the Executive Director Position Profile, and, Mr. Pappastergion added that no information about the candidates has been shared with any MWRA Board members other than the PSC members, and the final candidates will be announced at the October 14 Board of Directors' meeting. The Chair advised that once the final candidates are announced, all Board members will have an equal vote to select the new Executive Director.

Mr. Vitale asked if this PSC process was similar to that for former Executive Director Fred Laskey. Mr. Pappastergion explained that it was similar in some ways, however, there have been differences and this PSC process has been incredibly strict and regimented; and briefly discussed the importance of maintaining applicant confidentiality. There was brief, general discussion about the process to select Mr. Laskey. (ref. IX.A.1)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Estes-Smargiassi suggested postponing Executive Session due to time constraints. There was brief, general discussion about the Executive Session agenda, and Board members reached a consensus to postpone. (ref. X)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

A roll call vote was taken in which the members were recorded as follows:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Tepper		
Foti		
Pappastergion		
Peña		
Taverna		
Vitale		

The meeting adjourned at 2:59pm.

Approved: October 21, 2026

Attest:

Brian Peña, Secretary

LIST OF DOCUMENTS AND EXHIBITS USED

- Draft Minutes of the July 29 and August 12 Board of Directors' meetings (ref. I)

- 9/23/26 Staff Summary – Delegated Authority Report – July & August 2026 (ref. IV A.1)
- 9/23/26 Staff Summary and Presentation – FY2026 Fourth Quarter Orange Notebook (ref. IV A.2)
- 9/23/26 Staff Summary – FY26 Year-End Financial Update and Summary (ref. IV A.3)
- 9/23/26 Staff Summary – Fiscal Year 2026 Year-End Capital Improvement Program Spending Report (ref. IV A.4)
- 9/23/26 Staff Summary – Approval of the Ninety-Third Supplemental Bond Resolution (ref. IV B.1)
- 9/23/26 Staff Summary – Professional Services for the Maximo Migration Project: International Business Machines Corporation, Bid WRA-5838Q, State Contract ITS75 (ref. IV C.1)
- 9/23/26 Staff Summary and Presentation – Design and Installation of a Solar Canopy System at the Deer Island Treatment Plant, Solect Energy Development, LLC, Contract 7270 (ref. V A.1)
- 9/23/26 Staff Summary and Presentation – Janitorial Services at the Deer Island Treatment Plant Facilities Management and Maintenance Inc., Bid WRA-5826 (ref. V B.1)
- 9/23/26 Staff Summary and Presentation – Deer Island Chemical Piping Replacement: Walsh Construction Company II, LLC, Contract 6851 (ref. V B.2)
- 9/23/26 Staff Summary and Presentation – Section 91B Water Main Leak, Saugus (ref. VI A.1)
- 9/23/26 Staff Summary – Renewal of Ashland Water Supply Continuation Agreement (ref. VI B.1)
- 9/23/26 Staff Summary and Presentation – Sections 53 and 99 Improvements: Design and Engineering Services During Construction, Hazen and Sawyer, P.C., Contract 7485, Amendment 1 (ref. VI C.1)
- 9/23/26 Staff Summary and Presentation – Steel Water Storage Tank Painting and Improvements: Design & Engineering Services During Construction, Hazen and Sawyer, P.C., Contract 6832, Amendment 3 (ref. VI C.2)
- 9/23/26 Staff Summary and Presentation – Gillis, Brattle Court and Newton Street Pumping Stations Roof Replacements: Reliable Roofing and Sheet Metal, LLC, Contract 7901, Change Order 1 (ref. VI C.3)
- 9/23/26 Staff Summary – September 2026 PCR Amendments (ref. V A.1)
- 9/23/26 Staff Summary – Appointment of Deputy Director, Procurement Strategy and Compliance (ref. V A.2)
- 9/23/26 Staff Summary – Appointment of Associate General Counsel, Environmental and Energy (ref. V A.3)
- 9/23/26 Staff Summary – Update and Salary Ranges for Non-Union Managers, Grades 13 to 18 (ref. V A.4)
- 8/21/26 letter and attachment from Jeff Weston, Town of Shutesbury Planning Board, regarding Eversource Energy's proposed WT-11 Transmission Right-of-Way Reliability Program; 9/8/26 letter from Chair Matthew E. Lane and Vice Chair Robert G. Donnelly on behalf of the Town of Norwood Board of Selectmen regarding Draft Updated CSO Control Plan Comments; 9/16/26 letter from Susan Turnbull, Assessor, Town of Oakham, regarding the proposed battery storage facility and increasing the Quabbin draw by 20 million gallons a day (ref. VIII)

MASSACHUSETTS WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY

Meeting of the Board of Directors

October 14, 2026

I.B
10/21/26

A meeting of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) Board of Directors was held on October 14, 2026 remotely, via Webex.

Chair Tepper presided remotely. Board Members Flanagan, Foti, Pappastergion, Taverna, Swett, Jack Walsh, Patrick Walsh, Vitale and Wolowicz participated remotely. Board Member Peña was absent.

MWRA Executive Director Stephen Estes-Smargiassi attended remotely. General Counsel Carolyn Francisco Murphy; Chief Operating Officer Kathleen Murtagh; Deputy Chief Operating Officers Stephen Cullen and Rebecca Weidman; Finance Director Thomas Durkin; Deputy General Counsel Michael Altieri; Procurement Director Douglas Rice; Public Affairs Director Sean Navin; Chief of Staff Katie Ronan; Associate General Counsel Angela Atchue; IT Asset and Configuration Manager Michael Curtis; and Assistant Secretary Kristin MacDougall were among the MWRA staff who participated remotely.

Chair Tepper called the meeting to order at 11:02am.

ROLL CALL

Assistant Secretary Kristin MacDougall took roll call of the members in attendance and announced that all were participating remotely.

The Chair relayed that the purpose of this meeting was to provide an update from the Preliminary Screening Committee for the MWRA Executive Director position ("PSC") and announce the finalists.

MWRA General Counsel Carolyn Francisco Murphy announced that the meeting was being recorded.

I. UPDATE FROM THE PRELIMINARY SCREENING COMMITTEE; ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINALISTS FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION

Chair Tepper provided background information on the PSC process, which included the selection of national executive search firm Isaacson, Miller ("IM") to facilitate a nationwide search for the next MWRA Executive Director in March 2026; subsequent engagement with the MWRA Board of Directors, Advisory Board, and staff stakeholders; Board approval of a Position Profile that was prepared by IM and went live in May; and a thorough, multi-step search process, during which IM was in contact with over 230 individuals across the country, including those who might consider the Executive Director role for themselves and those knowledgeable about the water and wastewater sectors and could provide some sound advice.

The Chair noted that the Executive Director position was posted on IM's website and the websites of ten advertising venues focused on the water, wastewater, and public works sectors within the Commonwealth, in New England, and nationally; IM received and reviewed 46 resumes for the position, which were advanced to the PSC for consideration; the PSC selected candidates for first-round interviews in early August; virtual first-round interviews with nine candidates were conducted by the PSC over two days in mid-August; and in-person, second-round interviews were held by the PSC with four candidates over two days in September.

On behalf of the PSC members (Chair Tepper, Mr. Pappastergion, Mr. Swett and Ms. Wolowicz), the Chair then extended appreciation to the four second-round candidates, noting that all were exceptionally qualified professionals with a unique set of professional experiences that would bring value to MWRA and the Executive Director position. She also thanked the PSC for their work and seriousness of purpose over the last several months and offered assurances that all PSC members had spent hours on consideration, resume review and discussion; noted that this search was the best run such process she had been a part of; and thanked IM for their efforts.

Next, the Chair reported that the PSC had met earlier in the morning before this meeting and was ready to announce the finalists for the MWRA Executive Director position; that it was a very difficult decision due to the caliber of the candidates; and, after thoughtful deliberation the PSC members were pleased to announce that the Committee had voted to select Matthew Brown, Interim CSO, General Manager and Executive Vice President of Operations at the DC Water and Sewer Authority ("DC Water"), and Jonathan Gulliver, Undersecretary of Transportation and Highway Administrator for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation ("MassDOT"), as the finalists, and to advance them to the full Board of Directors for consideration for the Executive Director position.

She advised that each Board member would receive a packet of materials including resumes, cover letters, and reference summaries of the finalists.

Chair Tepper noted that Matthew "Matt" Brown is a highly experienced public sector finance and operations leader who engages communities, communicates effectively, leads with transparency and integrity; has served as Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President of Operations and Engineering at DC Water since December 2025; had been appointed as Interim CEO and Manager in July 2026; and whose prior roles included Chief Financial Officer (2017-2025) and Board Chair (2015-2017).

(Mr. Foti joined the meeting.)

Next, the Chair noted that Johnathan Gulliver is a seasoned infrastructure and operations leader who brings deep experience and successfully navigates complex projects and initiatives in Massachusetts; currently serves as Massachusetts Undersecretary of Transportation; and has served as state Highway Administrator since 2017.

Chair Tepper reminded Board members that they would each be provided with the finalists' resumes, cover letters, and reference summaries, and they should let IM staff know if they would like to have a one-on-one discussion with each candidate.

The Chair then announced that the Board of Directors will deliberate and make their decision regarding the next MWRA Executive Director at a Board meeting on October 21, 2026 and as of this time the PSC has been disbanded. Finally, she relayed that every Board member will have one vote at the October 21 meeting.

II. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Chair Tepper asked if there was any discussion or questions from the Board.

Mr. Foti requested that the Chair repeat the name of the first finalist discussed during this meeting, which he missed due to Internet issues. Chair Tepper relayed that the first finalist discussed was Matthew Brown, Interim Chief Executive Officer and General Manager at DC Water and Sewer. Mr. Foti

asked if the names of the finalists would be released today. Chair Tepper advised that those names were now public.

Mr. Estes-Smargiassi briefly recognized that Board Member Jack Walsh was in attendance following a temporary absence. Chair Tepper thanked Mr. Walsh for attending the meeting.

Hearing no further discussion or questions from the Board, Chair Tepper requested a motion to adjourn.

A motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The Chair requested a roll call vote in which the members were recorded as follows:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Flanagan		
Foti		
Pappastergion		
Swett		
Taverna		
Vitale		
J. Walsh		
P. Walsh		
Wolowicz		
Tepper		

(ref. II)

The meeting adjourned at 11:11am.

Approved: October 21, 2026

Attest:

Brian Peña, Secretary

LIST OF DOCUMENTS AND EXHIBITS USED

(None)

STAFF SUMMARY

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Stephen Estes-Smargiassi, Executive Director
DATE: October 21, 2026
SUBJECT: Delegated Authority Report – September 2026



COMMITTEE: Administration, Finance & Audit

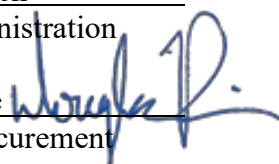
X INFORMATION
____ VOTE



Michele S. Gillen
Director, Administration

Barbara Aylward, Administrator A & F
Julio Esperas, Assistant Buyer
Preparer/Title

Douglas J. Rice
Director of Procurement



RECOMMENDATION:

For information only. Attached is a listing of actions taken by the Executive Director under delegated authority for the period September 1-30, 2026.

This report is broken down into three sections:

- Awards of Construction, non-professional and professional services contracts and change orders and amendments in excess of \$25,000, including credit change orders and amendments in excess of \$25,000;
- Awards of purchase orders in excess of \$90,000; and
- Amendments to the Position Control Register, if applicable.

DISCUSSION:

The Board of Directors' Management Policies and Procedures, as amended by the Board's vote on February 16, 2022, delegate authority to the Executive Director to approve the following:

Construction Contract Awards:

Up to \$3.5 million if the award is to the lowest bidder.

Change Orders:

Up to 25% of the original contract amount or \$1,000,000.00, whichever is less, where the change increases the contract amount, and for a term not exceeding an aggregate of six months; and for any amount and for any term, where the change decreases the contract amount. The delegations for cost increases and time can be restored by Board vote.

Professional Service Contract Awards:

Up to \$1,000,000 and three years with a firm; or up to \$200,000 and two years with an individual.

Non-Professional Service Contract Awards:

Up to \$1,000,000 if a competitive procurement process has been conducted, or up to \$100,000 if a procurement process other than a competitive process has been conducted.

Purchase or Lease of Equipment, Materials or Supplies:

Up to \$3.5 million if the award is to the lowest bidder.

Up to \$15 million for purchases of chemicals that are required for normal day-to-day operations where the award is to the lowest responsive bidder under a competitive procurement.

Amendments:

Up to 25% of the original contract amount or \$500,000, whichever is less, and for a term not exceeding an aggregate of twelve months.

Amendments to the Position Control Register:

Amendments which result only in a change in cost center.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

Recommendations for delegated authority approval include information on the budget/fiscal impact related to the action. For items funded through the capital budget, dollars are measured against the approved capital budget. If the dollars are in excess of the amount authorized in the budget, the amount will be covered within the five-year CIP spending cap. For items funded through the Current Expense Budget, variances are reported monthly and year-end projections are prepared at least twice per year. Staff review all variances and projections so that appropriate measures may be taken to ensure that overall spending is within the MWRA budget.

Construction & Professional Services Delegated Authority Items September 1 – 30, 2026

No.	Date of Award	Title and Explanation	Contract	Amend/CO	Company	Value
C-1	09/10/26	Monitoring and Maintenance of Intrusion Alarm Systems Award of a contract to the lowest and responsive bidder to provide supervised monitoring, non-emergency and emergency repair services of intrusion alarm systems for a term of 1,095 calendar days.	EXE-049	Award	Future Technologies Group, LLC d/b/a New Era Technology, NE	\$172,118.00
C-2	09/21/26	Digester Fixed Cover and Valve and Gate Replacement, Clinton Treatment Plant Hire a Consultant to develop a plan remediation of asbestos containing material; Confirm, alignment of the rake arms, replace the skimmer arm and supporting components, scum through supports and piping; remove sludge from the primary digester; Extend contract term by 27 calendar days from August 25, 2026 to September 21, 2026.	7648	2	Walsh Construction Company II, LLC	\$222,029.83
C-3	09/25/26	Intermediate High Pipeline Improvements, CP1 Section 75A and 47, Belmont, Boston, Newton and Watertown Furnish all materials perform reinforcement of Section 75A Crossing at WASM 2; Demolish abandoned drain hole piping.	7484	2	P. Gioioso & Sons, Inc.	\$320,000.00
C-1	09/25/26	Deer Island Treatment Plant Clarifier Rehabilitation, Phase II Control leakage from secondary clarifier effluent troughs and scum tip tubes; Furnish and install pipe, valves, fittings and appurtenances to allow existing primary gallery C/D sump pumps to discharge into influent channel D in order to perform contract work in channel C; Repair existing concrete and PVC linear inside primary influent channels B and D; Remove and install 36 baffle wall supports in each of the 18 secondary clarifier C tanks; Enlarge the existing influent sluice gate stem penetrations at 39 locations on primary clarifier B and C; Remove and replace the deteriorated concrete in the north side of secondary clarifier tank C15 and replace with new concrete and mortar; Demolish, furnish and install 192 wear strips on return rails in the 48 primary clarifier cross collectors; Remove and dispose remaining abandoned plant water piping and supports inside primary clarifier tanks; Inject urethane crack filler to seal the expansion joint in primary influent channel B; Field modify the upper dewatering gate stem guides in each of the 48 primary clarifier tanks.	7395	5	Walsh Construction Company II, LLC	\$997,128.08

Purchasing Delegated Authority Items September 1-30, 2026

No.	Date of Award	Title and Explanation	Company	Value
P-1	9/4/26	<p>One-Year Purchase Order Contract for Microsoft Unified Enterprise Support—<i>State Contract ITS75</i></p> <p>Microsoft Unified Enterprise Support (formerly Microsoft Premier Services) provides critical, as needed, 24/7 technical support and expert guidance on Microsoft Software Products including Windows operating systems, Exchange, Office Suite, SQL Server, and other Microsoft products that may be used by MWRA staff in the future.</p>	Dell Marketing LP	\$99,517.42
P-2	9/28/26	<p>One-Year Sole Source Purchase Order Contract for Infor Essentials Software Subscriptions</p> <p>This procurement is for a Pre-Production Infor CloudSuite environment so that the MWRA’s MIS and end user departmental teams can receive and test forward releases of new versions of the CloudSuite application. Infor Public Sector, Inc. has been identified as the sole source provider of these subscriptions. The Director of Procurement has approved the sole source nature of this procurement.</p>	Infor Public Sector, Inc.	\$94,913.28
P-3	9/28/26	<p>Purchase Order Contract for Intune Implementation and Migration Services</p> <p>Implementation services to assist with configuring the Microsoft Intune platform and the migration of endpoint devices from WorkspaceOne to Intune. Once completed, MWRA will capitalize on significant cost reductions by phasing out a third-party management system and leverage tighter, native integration with the existing Microsoft security stack.</p>	Worldcom Exchange Inc.	\$191,945.00
P-4	9/28/26	<p>Purchase Order Contract for the Removal and Installation of Activated Carbon</p> <p>This contract provides for the removal of the existing spent high-capacity activated carbon and the delivery, supply, and installation of regenerated activated carbon for four of the ten carbon adsorbers at the Nut Island Headworks Facility.</p>	Carbon Activated Corporation	\$196,875.00
P-5	9/28/26	<p>Six-Month Purchase Order Contract for the Supply and Delivery of Hydrofluorosilicic Acid</p> <p>Hydrofluorosilicic acid is a source of fluoride that is commonly added to public drinking water supplies to help prevent tooth decay as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Compared to the existing contract, the cost has increased by \$4,848.00 per dry ton. A representative from Univar Solutions USA, Inc. stated that the current drastic increase in the cost is due to a variety of factors including global instability resulting in supply deficiencies, import/export disruptions of phosphate and quartz products, and regulatory uncertainty regarding fluoridation.</p>	Univar Solutions USA, Inc.	\$847,730.00

No.	Date of Award	Title and Explanation	Company	Value
P-6	9/30/26	Two-Year Purchase Order Contract for the Supply and Delivery of Propane Gas Western Operations uses propane as the main source of heat and fuel for backup power at 11 different facilities. Compared to the existing contract, prices will decrease by 25% in the first year, and by 30% in the second year.	DiLeo Gas Propane, LLC	\$245,797.00

STAFF SUMMARY

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Stephen Estes-Smargiassi, Executive Director
DATE: October 21, 2026
SUBJECT: Internal Audit Department Activities Report – FY2026



COMMITTEE: Administration, Finance & Audit

X INFORMATION
— VOTE

Claude J. Cormier, Director, Internal Audit
Preparer/Title



RECOMMENDATION:

For information only. Internal Audit annually presents to the Board the results of completed assignments and the status of active and planned assignments. Every quarter, Internal Audit utilizes the Orange Notebook to briefly discuss recently issued reports and to report on the status of open audit recommendations and cost savings. This Staff Summary includes a discussion of activities since Internal Audit's last report to the Board in October 2025.

DISCUSSION:

In FY2026, a total dollar savings of \$1,361,910 was recognized from numerous assignments, including internal audits, management advisory services, consultant incurred cost audits, consultant preliminary reviews, construction labor burden reviews, the true-up and review of HEEC billings, and contract negotiation support.

Internal Audit's goal is to provide sufficient audit coverage to give reasonable assurance that internal management controls are functioning as intended and that only reasonable, allowable and allocable costs are paid to consultants, contractors and vendors. Audit coverage is provided through performance audits that analyze and evaluate MWRA programs and activities to determine if they are being carried out effectively and efficiently, compliance audits that focus on adherence to MWRA policies and procedures, contractual requirements, rules or regulations and management advisory services.

The development of the Annual Audit Plan is based on Internal Audit's risk assessment of program and management controls, as well as input from MWRA senior managers and the MWRA Advisory Board. The actual scheduling and completion of audit assignments depend on staff availability, which can be impacted by control issues needing immediate attention or by unscheduled special requests for management advisory services.

Attachment 1 lists assignments completed since Internal Audit's last report to the Board, assignments currently in process and additional assignments planned to commence in FY2027.

Internal Audits and Management Advisory Services

Internal Audit follows up on open recommendations (quarterly basis). During FY2026, Internal Audit worked with management to close two recommendations. Internal Audit has continued to work with Auditees to close recommendations within 12 months from issuance of the audit report.

MIS Software

Internal Audit completed an audit of MIS Software Management. The objectives of this audit included reviewing the controls and procedures related to financial administration, tracking and monitoring of MIS software installed on assets deployed to, reclaimed from, and transferred to employees, as well as collected from terminated employees. Our recommendation consisted of enhancing controls and procedures for maintaining the Maximo Licensing Application for all active licenses.

Purchasing Card (PCARD) Program

Internal Audit completed an audit of the Purchasing Card (PCARD) Program. The objectives of this review included reviewing the controls and procedures related to the design of the PCARD Program, employee training, and overall compliance with the program based on post audits. Our recommendations consisted of enhancing controls and procedures related to employee training, cardholder user profiles, updating the PCARD User Manual, expanding Record Manager's responsibilities, and post audits.

Uniform Declining Debit Card Program

Internal Audit completed an audit of the Uniform Declining Debit Card Program, a program for staff to buy uniforms. The objectives of this audit included reviewing the controls and procedures related to operating effectiveness of policies and procedures, employee eligibility, and the overall administration and oversight of the program. Our recommendations consisted of enhancing controls and procedures related to program documentation, employee eligibility, policies and procedures, program reconciliation, post audits, and the overall administration and oversight of the program.

Lease Agreements

Internal Audit periodically performs a review of MWRA leased properties including the Chelsea facility and Needham facility. The objective of these reviews is to determine whether escrow accounts (i.e. real estate and insurance) are sufficiently funded to meet future payment obligations, as well as the supportability of applicable operating expenses. During FY26, Internal Audit completed a review of the Chelsea facility lease. The results of this audit determined that escrow balance related to real estate taxes and insurance was underfunded (due to an increase in real estate taxes). Internal Audit worked closely with MWRA staff to anticipate a true-up of the underfunded balance.

Other Management Advisory Services

Annually, Internal Audit provides management advisory services that include calculating MWRA's fringe and indirect cost rates, and providing support and review services to the Fore River Railroad Corporation. Internal Audit supports MWRA's policies and procedures, and approval documentation related to signature authority and approval to pay invoices. Internal Audit provided support to certain internal controls and workflows related to the CloudSuite rollout. This work included creating and maintaining an approval limit matrix for contracts, purchase orders and non-purchase order payments.

In FY2026, the annual savings resulting from internal audits and management advisory services totaled \$259,514.

Policies and Procedures

Policies and procedures provide consistent and clear statements of MWRA's standards to assist employees in the day-to-day management of the Authority's business and operations. Policy and procedure numbers that begin with ADM (Administrative), FIN (Finance), HR (Human Resources) and OP (Operations) are accessible on the MWRA's intranet site, Pipeline. Internal Audit is the official custodian of the policies; it does not develop or approve policies, but reviews all policies prior to final approval.

During FY2026, Internal Audit supported the process to review, edit and update various existing policies as needed.

Contract Audits and Related Reviews

In FY2026, savings of \$1,102,396 were recognized from the following contract audits and other related reviews.

Consultant Incurred Cost Audits

An incurred cost audit determines if billed labor costs are supported by the consultant's time reports and project cost records, other direct costs are supported by valid payments, final indirect costs have been calculated in accordance with the contract, and if final indirect cost rates have been properly applied to labor billings. The extent of fieldwork required to complete an assignment is based on a risk assessment that starts with an invoice analysis and a review of the consultant's annual Consultant Disclosure Statement submittal. Internal Audit examines supporting documentation and overhead rates audited by CPA firms to verify if costs billed are supported.

In FY2026, incurred cost audits were completed with four firms with a total contract value of \$19.1 million. A total of \$161,225 was recovered.

Consultant Preliminary Reviews

When a new contract is awarded for more than \$1 million, Internal Audit performs a consultant preliminary review to determine if the proposed direct labor, indirect costs, other direct costs or multipliers/comprehensive hourly rates are supportable. Internal Audit then notifies Procurement and the Project Manager of any issues, including any unsupported proposed costs that might be available for re-allocation to another cost element.

In FY2026, eight consultant preliminary reviews were completed with a total value of \$24.1 million. All proposed costs were properly supported. A total of \$4,192 is estimated in cost savings.

Consultant Disclosure Statements/Annual Indirect Cost Rate Reviews

Each professional service consultant is required to submit a Consultant Disclosure Statement annually, including an indirect cost rate for the firm's recently completed fiscal year. Internal Audit reviews and approves provisional indirect cost rates proposed by consultants for billing both new and active contracts. The approved provisional indirect cost rates are reported to Project Managers and Procurement as a reference source for reviewing invoices, and pricing contracts and amendments. During FY2026, 55 annual indirect cost rate reviews were completed and letters sent to consultants.

Construction Labor Burden Rate Reviews

A construction labor burden rate review establishes provisional labor burden rates to be used in the pricing of future change orders. Typical adjustments to proposed contractor rates include applying effective versus statutory Federal and State unemployment tax rates, applying appropriate experience modifications and other adjustments to workers' compensation rates, and determining the basis for general liability and umbrella insurances and bond premium.

In FY2026, five construction labor burden rate reviews were completed for contracts with a total value of \$37.4 million. An estimated \$254,983 in cost savings may be achieved on future change orders.

Harbor Electric Energy Company (HEEC) Cross-Harbor Cable

2025 O&M True-Up and Billings: Internal Audit reviewed the annual payment to HEEC for the operations and maintenance (O&M) of the cross-harbor cable. The review included verifying the capacity charge calculation and O&M charges billed by HEEC under the terms of the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) tariff for CY2025. The DPU tariff is based on a capacity charge calculation that includes O&M charges for labor and materials needed to maintain the cable, and insurance for the cable. Internal Audit reviewed the O&M charges and the tariff computation prior to HEEC's filing with DPU, which DPU approved. As a result of the CY2025 true-up, MWRA paid \$415,938, due to significant repair costs related to a transformer that were not estimated, offset by a reduction in interest rates.

MWRA is permitted to pay one-half of the total costs of the project prior to completion with the balance of such costs paid over a 30-year period pursuant to the final terms of a DPU tariff. Under a Memorandum of Understanding and subsequent agreement with HEEC, the Authority has paid a total of \$59.6 million. These payments reduce the return on equity, resulting in significant future cost savings over the pay-back period. The realized cost savings in FY2026 related to this work was \$321,726.

ATTACHMENT:

Status of Internal Audit Assignments FY2026 and FY2027

		Attachment 1
<u>Status of Internal Audit Assignments FY26 and FY27</u>		
<u>COMPLETED</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>IN PROCESS & PLANNED TO START IN FY27</u>
<u>Internal Audit/Management Advisory Services</u>		
MIS Software License Management	Sep-25	Fleet Optimization
Purchase Card Compliance	Jun-26	Confined Space Entry
Uniform Debit Card Program	Jun-26	DITP Warehouse
		Lead Service Line Replacement Program
MWRA Overhead Rate (FY26)	Jul-25	MWRA Overhead Rate (FY27)
<u>Reviews of Agreements and Contracts</u>		
HEEC O&M 2025	May-24	HEEC O&M 2026
	Jun-24	Other facility leases
		NEFCo Financial Review
<u>Consultant Incurred Cost Audits</u>		
SDE, Inc	Q1	Aldea Services
Arcadis	Q2	GEI Consultants
Green International	Q3	JCK Underground
Corrosion Probe	Q4	AECOM
		Arcadis
		Aztec Technologies
		CDM Smith
		CDW Consultants
		Green International Affiliates/HW Lochner
		Hazen & Sawyer
		Jacobs Associates dba Delve Underground
		Jacobs Engineering Group
		Kleinfelder
		PMA Consultants
		Stantec
		Wright-Pierce
<u>Consultant Preliminary Reviews (Over \$1 mill)</u>		
DITP HVAC Replacement (7110) \$8.274M	Q2	MWTP Construction Management (7356) \$151M
Inter. High Pipeline Improvement CP1, Sect. 75A and 47 (8067) \$1.821M	Q2	Metro Tunnel Redundancy Final Des/ESDC (7556) \$135.3M
JJCWT Consulting Services (8131) \$2.000M	Q3	Barge Berth Des/ESDC/REI (6725) \$12.5M
Pipe Bridge Inspections and Structural Assessments (8137) \$758K	Q3	Digestr/Storage Tk REI (7053) \$42M
JJCWT Consulting Services (8130) \$2.000M	Q4	HVAC Equip Replacement REI (7094) \$17M
Agency Wide Technical Assistance (8062) \$4.500	Q4	As-Needed Design 11-1 (7121) \$6M
Hayes Pump Station Rehab. (6668) \$1.759	Q4	Deer Island Dystor Membrane Repl. (7135) \$10.2M
Shaft L Inconnection, Delve (8080) \$2.986	Q4	Centrifuge Replacement Des/ESDC/REI (7137) \$18M
		NIH Storage - Design (7311) \$9.45M
		NIH Storage - Design/CA/RI (7311) \$9.5M
		Clinton WWTP Rehab Des/ESDC/RE (7371) \$9M
		N. Coll. Sewer Syst. Rehab Design/ESDC (7513) \$10.2M
		MAXIMO Upgrade (7650) \$2M
		Sect 14, 53 & 99 Const REI (7682) \$3.6M
		Somerville Marginal CSO Facility Rehab Des/CA (7689) \$3M
		Intercept Renewal 7 REI (7751) \$1.6M
		Siphon Structure Phase 1 REI (7996) \$1.9M
		REI CP-3 (8005) \$2.5M
		WASM3 Des/ESDC CP3 & CP4 (8027) \$12M
		CWTP Infl Cntrl Des/ESDC/REI (8031) \$3.5M
		CSO Updated Control Plan Des (8057) \$5M
		As Needed Des Contract 23 (8063) \$2.5M
		Prision Point Repack Des/CA/RI (8106) \$3.8M
		Chelsea Admin Heat Pumps (8147) \$4M
		Cryo Facility Valve Repl (8150) \$11.9M
		Lonergan Int.Bldg Walkway REI (8160) \$1.5M
		PICS FibLoop Repl Des,ESDC,REI (8215) \$8M
		As-Needed Design 11-2 (8242) \$6M
		As-Needed Design 11-3 (8243) \$6M

		Attachment 1
Status of Internal Audit Assignments FY26 and FY27		
<u>COMPLETED</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>IN PROCESS & PLANNED TO START IN FY27</u>
<u>Construction Labor Burden Rate Reviews (Over \$1 mill)</u>		
Clarifier Rehab Phase 2 CA (7395) \$11.8M	Q1	Siphon Structure Rehab Construction (6225) \$7.2M
Steel Tank/Impr Construction (7493) \$8.7M	Q2	CP-1 Section 68 Construction (6335) \$18M
Section 56 Replacement - Construction (7486) \$9.5M	Q3	Cath Pro Shafts E,L,N&W Const (6439) \$5.6M
Digester Cover Replacement (7648) \$7.0M	Q4	WASM 3 CP2 Rehab of Water Main Section W10 (6543) \$22M
Norumbega Res. Schencks PD Dams Instrumentation (W361) \$400K	Q4	Eastern Seawall Construction - 1 (6724) \$70M
		Chemical Pipe Replacement - Construction (6852) \$9.8M
		Inter Ren 7-Malden & Melrose Constr (7217) \$14.8M
		DI Solar Canopy Project \$10M
		Cottage Farm PCB Abatement Construct. 1 (7389) \$8.9M
		Maint Gar/Wash Bay/Stor Bldg Const (7577) \$6.3M
		Construction (7579) \$1.4M
		Screw Pump Replac Ph 2 Const (7591) \$8.5M
		Shaft 5 Building Improv Constr (7600) \$3.5M
		Caruso, Delauri & Framingham Fuel Tank Repl Constr CP1 (7637) \$2.8M
		CP3 Shafts 7, 7B, 7C, 7D (7670) \$8.6M
		Steel Tank Improv Constr Ph2 (7727) \$11.2M
		HVAC Control System Replacement (7745) \$60M
		Roof Gillis/Bratt/Newt Const (7901) \$1.5M
		CP-3 NEH Improvements (7910) \$31M
		Brutsch T.P. Sodium Hypo Upgrade (8021) \$1M
		Foss Res3 Sluice Gates-Repoint Const (8058) \$1.3M
		Needham Dewatering Drain CP3 (8086) \$12M
		Loneragan Int.Bldg Walkway/Wall Impr. (8138) \$2M
		Wind Turbine No. 1 Replacement DITP (8148) \$3.8M
		Ward Stret Make-Up Air Handler Units Replacement (8151) \$2M
		Norumbega Solar Project (8178) \$10M
		Southborough Paving (8183) \$1M
		Alford St. P.S. Seawall Const (8194) \$2.6M
		Cosgrove Intake Fac Trans Replacement (8240) \$1.4M
		CF & PP Hypo Tank Replacement (8245) \$1M
		Foss Dam Overtopping Repairs (7615B)

STAFF SUMMARY

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Stephen Estes-Smargiassi, Executive Director
DATE: October 21, 2026
SUBJECT: FY27 Financial Update and Summary through September



COMMITTEE: Administration, Finance & Audit

Michael J. Cole, Budget Director
James J. Coyne, Budget Manager
Preparer/Title

X INFORMATION

 VOTE


Thomas J. Durkin
Director, Finance

RECOMMENDATION:

For information only. This staff summary provides the financial results and variance highlights for Fiscal Year 2027 through September 2026, comparing actual spending to the budget.

DISCUSSION:

The total Year-to-Date variance for the FY27 CEB is \$9.1 million, due to lower direct expenses of 8.7% or \$7.4 million, indirect expenses of 1.1% or \$0.5 million, and debt service costs of 0.7% or \$0.8 million, and higher revenue of 0.2% or \$0.5 million.

FY27 Current Expense Budget

The CEB expense variances for FY27 by major budget category were:

- Lower Direct Expenses of \$7.4 million or 8.7% under budget. Spending was lower for Maintenance, Wages & Salaries, Other Services, Fringe Benefits, Professional Services, Other Materials, Training & Meetings, and Chemicals. Spending was higher than budget for Utilities, Workers' Compensation, and Overtime.
- Lower Indirect Expenses of \$0.5 million or 1.1% under budget due primarily to lower Watershed reimbursements.
- Lower Debt Service expenses of \$0.8 million were a result of lower than projected variable interest expense.
- Revenue was \$0.5 million or 0.2% over the estimate driven by Investment Income of \$0.5 million due to higher than projected interest rates.

**FY27 Budget and FY27 Actual Variance by Expenditure Category
(In millions)**

	FY27 Budget	FY27 Actual	\$ Variance	% Variance
Direct Expenses	\$84.7	\$77.3	-\$7.4	-8.7%
Indirect Expenses	\$39.5	\$39.0	-\$0.5	-1.1%
Capital Financing	\$108.0	\$107.2	-\$0.8	-0.7%
Total	\$232.2	\$223.6	-\$8.6	-3.7%

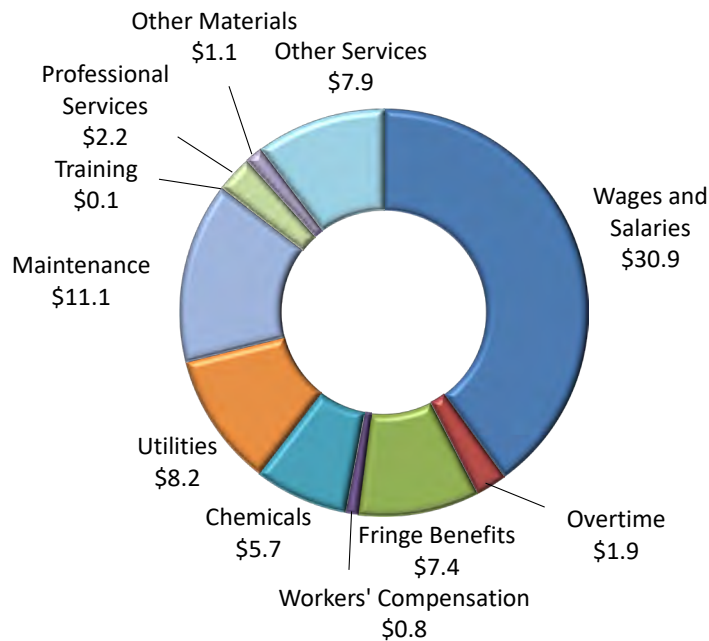
Totals may not add due to rounding

Please refer to Attachment 1 for a more detailed comparison by line item of the budget variances for FY27.

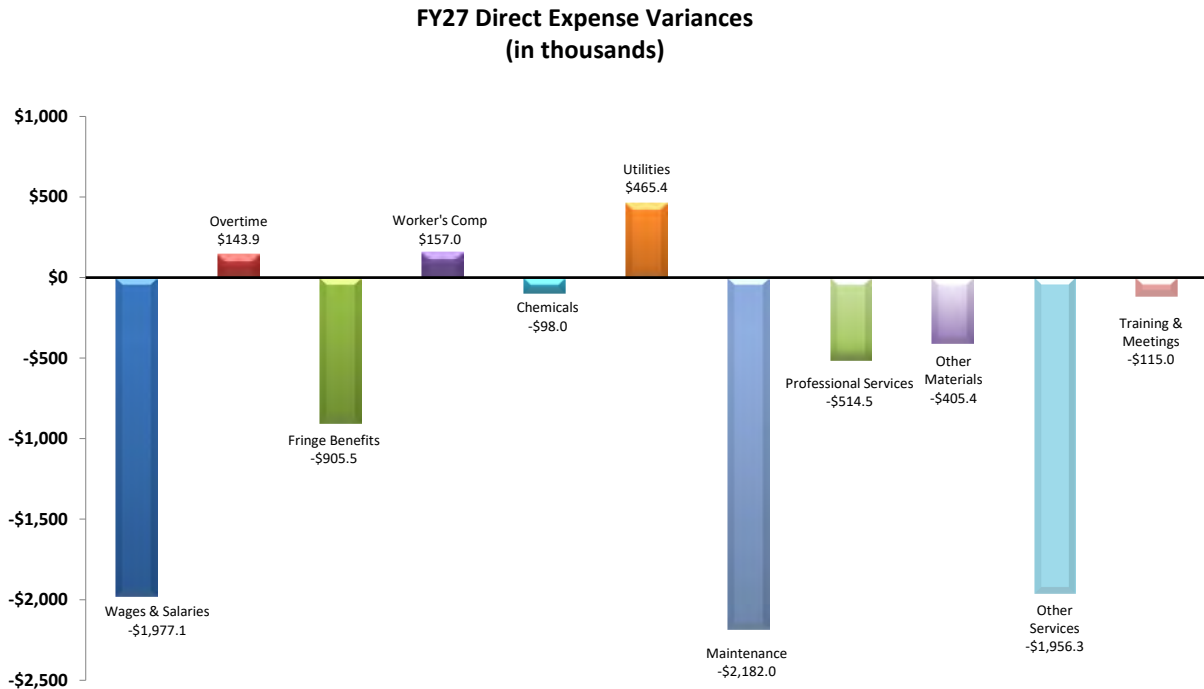
Direct Expenses

FY27 direct expenses through September totaled \$77.3 million, which was \$7.4 million or 8.7% less than budgeted.

**FY27 Direct Expenses
(in millions)**



Spending was lower than budget for Maintenance, Wages & Salaries, Other Services, Fringe Benefits, Professional Services, Other Materials, Training & Meetings, and Chemicals. These were partially offset by higher than budgeted spending for Utilities, Workers' Compensation, and Overtime.



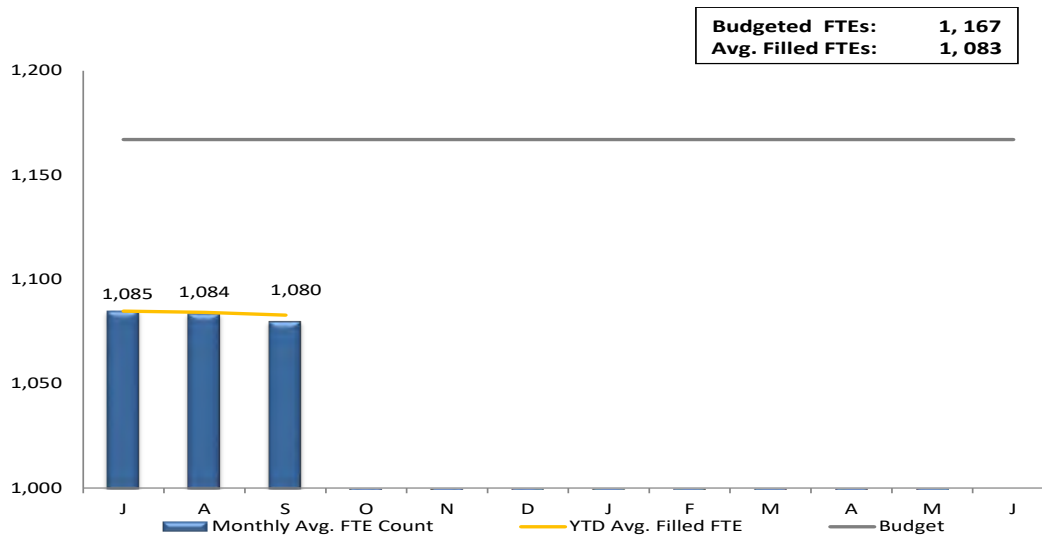
Maintenance

Maintenance spending was lower than budget by \$2.2 million or 16.4%. Maintenance Services were under budget by \$2.9 million driven by lower Building and Grounds Services of \$1.3 million due to less than anticipated services through September and updated schedule for Chestnut Hill Reservoir Gate, Goodnough Dike drain cleaning and relief well redevelopment work, Dams Asset Management Plan, and repair of DITP Primary Battery A elevator service. Lower Plant & Machinery Services of \$1.3 million due to less than anticipated spending through September including delay in some wicket gate work, and duct cleaning for pump stations that was completed earlier than anticipated, and less than anticipated spending for Nut Island Fire Pump 3 and controller replacement. Lower Computer Software Licenses/Upgrades of \$524,000 due to less than anticipated spending for licenses through September. Maintenance Materials were greater than budget by \$764,000 driven by higher Plant & Machinery Materials of \$633,000 and Electrical Materials of \$496,000 due to greater than anticipated spending through September including a DITP spare inverter that was anticipated in FY26 but was received in FY27.

Wages and Salaries

Wages and Salaries were lower than budget by \$2.0 million or 6.0%. Through September, there were 84 fewer average FTEs (1,083 versus 1,167 budget) or 7.2% and lower average salaries for new hires versus retirees. The timing of backfilling vacant positions also contributed to Regular Pay being under budget.

FY27 MWRA Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Position Trend



Other Services

Other Services were lower than budget by \$2.0 million or 19.8% driven by lower than anticipated expenses for Sludge Pelletization of \$1.0 million primarily for the potential PFAS regulation changes requiring landfilling that had no spending but were budgeted for, Lower Grit & Screenings Removal of \$384,000 primarily due to lower quantities and lower Telecommunications of \$198,000.

Fringe Benefits

Fringe Benefits spending was lower than budget by \$905,000 million or 10.9%. This is primarily driven by lower Health Insurance costs of \$651,000, due to fewer than budgeted participants in health insurance plans, increased contribution by external new hires vs. lower contribution rates of staff retiring, and the shift from family to individual plans which are less expensive. Medicare expenses were also lower than budget by \$262,000 through September.

Professional Services

Professional Services were under budget by \$515,000 or 18.8% driven by lower Computer Systems Consultant of \$486,000, Lab & Testing Analysis of \$157,000 and Engineering Services of \$101,000, due to less than anticipated costs through September. These were partially offset by higher Legal Services of \$276,000 due to greater than anticipated spending on outside counsel.

Utilities

Utilities were greater than budget by \$465,000 or 6.0%. Higher than budgeted spending for Electricity of \$518,000 driven by Field Operations of \$296,000 due to Eversource Energy pricing and volume increases with higher supply charges and Deer Island Treatment Plant (DITP) of \$173,000 due to Direct Energy real time charges as well as Eversource Energy for higher pricing.

Other Materials

Other Materials spending was lower than budget by \$405,000 or 27.1% driven by lower Computer Hardware of \$294,000 and Vehicle Expense of \$120,000 due to less than anticipated purchases through September.

Worker's Compensation

Worker's Compensation expenses were higher than budget by \$157,000 or 25.9%. The variance is due to higher than budgeted expenses for Compensation Payments of \$94,000 and Medical Payments of \$77,000, partially offset by lower Administrative Expenses of \$14,000. Due to uncertainties of when spending will happen, the budget was spread evenly throughout the year.

Overtime

Overtime expenses were higher than budget by \$144,000 or 8.2%. Overspending in Field Operations of \$171,000 due to shift coverage and weather events. This is partially offset by lower than budgeted spending in TRAC of \$25,000 due to less than anticipated needs. Year-to-Date rainfall was a major contributor for the greater than anticipated overtime.

Training & Meetings

Training & Meetings were lower than budget by \$115,000 or 64.1% primarily due to less than anticipated spending on meetings and conferences through September.

Chemicals

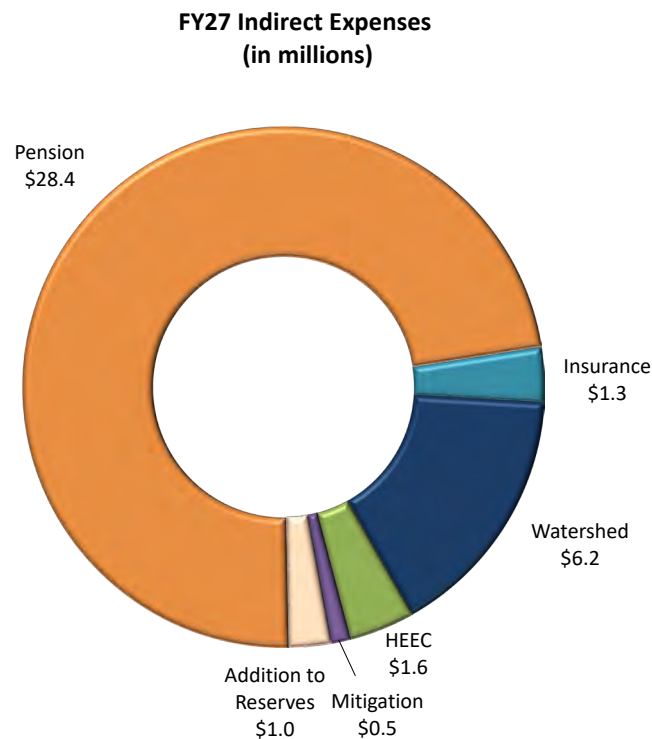
Chemicals were lower than budget by \$98,000 or 1.7%. Lower Activated Carbon of \$174,000 due to the timing of carbon change-outs. Lower Sodium Bisulfite of \$54,000 primarily driven by lower volume at DITP due to lower quantities to dechlorinate the effluent, and Wastewater Operations due to less than anticipated CSO activations. Lower Hydrogen Peroxide of \$50,000 due to warmer weather and elevated H₂S levels in the wastewater. Lower Liquid Oxygen of \$46,000 due to lower dosing at Carroll Water Treatment Plant. This was partially offset by higher Soda Ash of \$138,000 due to flow at the JCWTP and Carbon Dioxide of \$63,000 driven by flow. DITP flows are 22.0% less than planned and the JCWTP flows are 5.7% greater than planned through September. It is important to note that Chemical variances are also based on deliveries which in general reflect the usage patterns. However, the timing of deliveries is an important factor.

Indirect Expenses

Indirect Expenses totaled \$39.0 million, which is \$0.5 million or 1.1% lower than budget. The variance is driven by lower Watershed Reimbursement.

Based on FY27 operating activity only, the Watershed Division is \$1.3 million or 19.4% under budget. Lower spending on Wages & Salaries, Fringe Benefits, and Maintenance drove the variance. When factoring in the FY26 balance forward of \$752,000 which was paid during Q1 of FY27, Watershed Reimbursement is \$556,000 or 8.2% below budget through September 2026.

MWRA reimburses the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Conservation (DCR) and Recreation - Division of Water Supply Protection – Office of Watershed Management for expenses. The reimbursements are presented for payment monthly in arrears. Accruals are being made monthly based on estimated expenses provided by DCR and trued-up monthly based on the monthly invoice. MWRA’s budget is based on the annual Fiscal Year Work Plan approved by the Massachusetts Water Supply Protection Trust. The average FTE count through September is 139.0 on a year-to-date average basis vs. a budget of 151.

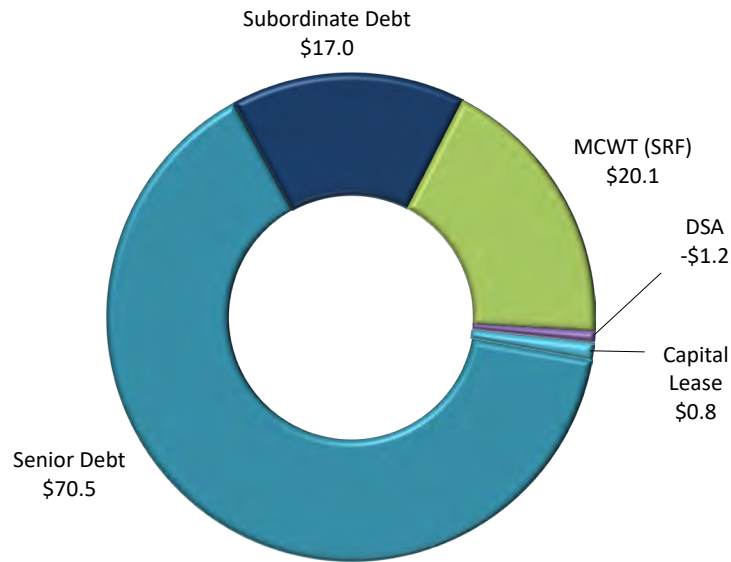


Capital Financing

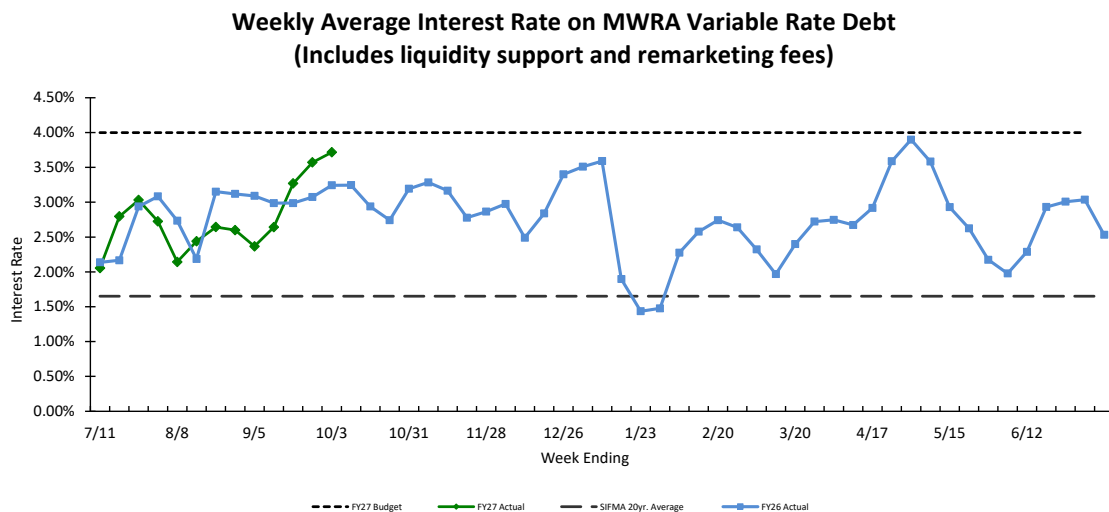
Capital Financing expenses include the principal and interest payments for fixed senior debt, the variable subordinate debt, the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust (SRF) obligation, the costs for the local water pipeline projects, current revenue for capital, Optional Debt Prepayment, and the Chelsea Facility lease payment.

Capital Financing expenses in FY27 through September totaled \$107.2 million which was \$789,000 lower than budget driven by lower than anticipated variable interest expense of \$789,000 due to favorable rates.

FY27 Capital Finance (\$ in millions)



The graph below reflects the FY27 actual variable rate trend by week against the FY27 Budget.



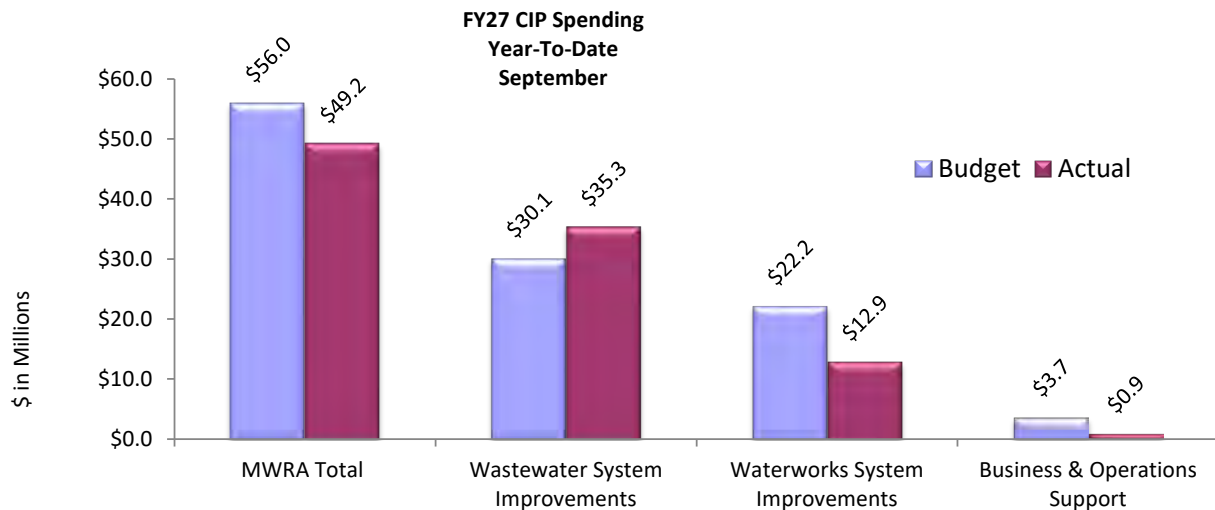
Revenue & Income

Revenues of \$235.3 million were \$0.5 million or 0.2% greater than the estimate driven by Investment Income which was \$0.5 million or 8.6% greater than planned due to higher than assumed interest rates.

FY27 Capital Improvement Program

Capital expenditures in Fiscal Year 2027 through September totaled \$49.2 million, \$6.8 million or 12.1% under planned spending.

After accounting for programs which are not directly under MWRA's control which include the Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) grant/loan program, the Local Water System Assistance loan program, and the community managed Combined Sewer Overflow (CSOs) projects, capital spending totaled \$37.4 million, \$6.2 million or 14.2% under planned spending.



Overall, CIP spending reflects greater than planned spending in Wastewater Improvements (\$5.2 million), less than planned spending in Waterworks (\$9.3 million) and less than planned spending in Business and Operations Support (\$2.7 million). Major variances in Wastewater are primarily due to less than anticipated progress for the Deer Island Treatment Plant (DITP) Clarifier Rehab Phase 2 contract, Somerville Marginal New Pipe Connection, Hayes Pump Station Rehab, and less than anticipated requests for community grants and loans for the I/I Local Financial Assistance Program.

Major variances in Waterworks include greater than anticipated requests for community loans for the Water Loan Program, and greater than planned contractor progress for Section 56 Replacement/Saugus River – Construction, CP-2 NEH Improvements, Section 89/29 Replacement Construction, and CP-2, Sections 25 & 24 – Construction. This was partially offset by design services planned for FY27 performed in FY26 for Metro Water Tunnel Program Final Design/ESDC, less than anticipated expenditures for Administration, Legal & Public Outreach, Notice to proceed later than anticipated for Cathodic Protection Shaft E, N & W Improvements – Construction, less than anticipated services for Owners Representative Services, less than planned contractor progress for Section 75A and 47 Extension - CP-1, and less than planned consultant's progress for WASM 3 - MEPA/Design/CA/RI.

\$ in Millions	Budget	Actuals	\$ Var.	% Var.
Wastewater System Improvements				
Interception & Pumping	6.0	2.2	(3.8)	-63.3%
Treatment	9.6	18.0	8.3	86.4%
Residuals	0.0	(0.0)	(0.0)	-
CSO	2.4	1.4	(1.0)	-42.1%
Other	12.1	13.8	1.7	14.0%
Total Wastewater System Improvements	\$30.1	\$35.3	\$5.2	17.3%
Waterworks System Improvements				
Drinking Water Quality Improvements	0.8	0.3	(0.5)	-59.7%
Transmission	12.1	8.2	(3.9)	-32.5%
Distribution & Pumping	7.9	7.6	(0.3)	-3.8%
Other	1.4	(3.2)	(4.5)	-
Total Waterworks System Improvements	\$22.2	\$12.9	(\$9.3)	-41.7%
Business & Operations Support	\$3.7	\$0.9	(\$2.7)	-74.8%
Total MWRA	\$56.0	\$49.2	(\$6.8)	-12.1%

FY27 Spending by Program:

The main reasons for the project spending variances in order of magnitude are:

Wastewater Treatment: Greater than planned spending of \$8.3 million

- \$7.4 million for Clarifier Rehabilitation Phase 2 Construction due to contractor's progress was greater than anticipated.
- \$0.9 million for Combined Heat & Power Design/ESDC/REI due to consultant's progress greater than anticipated.

Other Waterworks: Less than planned spending of \$4.5 million

- \$2.3 million for Local Financial Assistance due to less than anticipated requests for community loans.
- \$1.8 million for CWTP SCADA Upgrade Construction due to work completed in FY26.
- \$0.2 million for Steel Tank Improvements - Design/CA due to CA services less than anticipated.

Waterworks Transmission: Less than planned spending of \$3.9 million

- \$1.4 million for Waltham Water Pipeline Construction and REI due to less than anticipated contractor progress.
- \$1.7 million for Final Tunnel Design/ESDC due to design services planned for FY27 performed in FY26.
- \$1.0 million for Administration, Legal & Public Outreach due to less than anticipated expenditures.
- \$0.5 million for CWTP Technical Assistance due to lower than projected task order work.
- \$0.5 million for Owners Representative Services due to less than anticipated services.
- \$0.5 million for WASM 3 - MEPA/Design/CA/RI due to less than planned contractor work.
- \$0.4 million for WASM 3 Rehabilitation CP-2 due to contractors progress was less than anticipated.

Interception & Pumping: Less than planned spending of \$3.8 million

- \$1.6 million for Interceptor Renewal⁷, Malden & Melrose-Construction and CA due to slower than anticipated start-up.
- \$1.0 million for Hayes Pump Station Rehab Construction due to contractor progress less than anticipated.
- \$0.6 million for Ward St & Columbus Park Headworks Design/CA due to less than planned consultant progress.
- This underspending was partially offset by \$0.3 million for Somerville-Marginal CSO Design/REI/ESDC due to greater than anticipated consultant progress.

Business & Operations Support: Less than planned spending of \$2.7 million

- \$0.6 million for DITP Wind Turbine 1 Replacement due to less than anticipated contractor progress.
- \$0.5 million for As-Needed Design Contracts due to lower than projected task order work.
- \$0.3 million for FY24-28 Vehicle Purchases due to long lead time on the availability of specific vehicles.
- Instrumentation & Controls IT: \$310k, and Disaster Recovery: \$240k (implementation behind schedule)
- \$0.2 million for Security Equipment & Installation due to project delays including upgrades to communication circuits and cameras.

Other Wastewater: Greater than planned spending of \$1.7 million

- \$1.7 million for Community I/I due to greater than anticipated requests for community grants and loans.

Combined Sewer Overflow: Less than planned spending of \$1.0 million

- \$1.2 million for Somerville Marginal New Pipe Connection due to contractor progress less anticipated.

Water Distribution and Pumping: Less than planned spending of \$0.3 million

- \$1.0 million for Cathodic Protection Shaft E, N & W Improvements – Construction due to Notice to proceed later than anticipated.
- \$0.5 million for Section 75 and 47 Extension CP-1 Construction due to less than planned contractor progress.
- This less than planned spending was partially offset by greater than planned spending of \$0.8 million for Section 56 Replacement/Saugus River Construction and REI due to greater than planned contractor and consultant progress, and \$0.6 million for NEH Improvements Design/ESDC due to greater than planned consultant progress.

Please see Attachment B for detailed FY27 CIP variance explanations of all FY27 for projects.

Construction Fund Balance

The construction fund balance was \$117.1 million as of the end of September. Commercial Paper/Revolving Loan available capacity was \$350 million.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – Variance Summary through September 2026

Attachment 2 – Current Expense Variance Explanations

Attachment 3 – Capital Improvement Program Variance Explanations

ATTACHMENT 1
FY27 Actuals vs. FY27 Budget

	Sep 2026 Year-to-Date				
	Period 3 YTD Budget	Period 3 YTD Actual	Period 3 YTD Variance	%	FY27 Approved
<u>EXPENSES</u>					
WAGES AND SALARIES	\$ 32,870,778	\$ 30,893,643	\$ (1,977,135)	-6.0%	\$ 140,690,530
OVERTIME	1,751,947	1,895,881	143,934	8.2%	6,899,457
FRINGE BENEFITS	8,333,465	7,428,011	(905,454)	-10.9%	33,872,720
WORKERS' COMPENSATION	604,972	761,946	156,974	25.9%	2,419,889
CHEMICALS	5,841,899	5,743,859	(98,040)	-1.7%	19,803,589
ENERGY AND UTILITIES	7,742,032	8,207,451	465,419	6.0%	35,982,505
MAINTENANCE	13,307,132	11,125,090	(2,182,042)	-16.4%	51,991,314
TRAINING AND MEETINGS	179,426	64,438	(114,988)	-64.1%	725,173
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	2,732,142	2,217,630	(514,512)	-18.8%	12,385,894
OTHER MATERIALS	1,494,656	1,089,238	(405,418)	-27.1%	8,129,436
OTHER SERVICES	9,858,889	7,902,635	(1,956,254)	-19.8%	39,376,274
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES	\$ 84,717,339	\$ 77,329,823	\$ (7,387,516)	-8.7%	\$ 352,276,781
INSURANCE	\$ 1,235,769	\$ 1,338,966	\$ 103,197	8.4%	\$ 4,943,076
WATERSHED/PILOT	6,755,182	6,198,702	(556,480)	-8.2%	36,576,199
HEEC PAYMENT	1,591,600	1,591,600	-	0.0%	6,660,088
MITIGATION	478,970	478,970	-	0.0%	1,915,880
ADDITIONS TO RESERVES	1,002,146	1,002,146	-	0.0%	4,008,582
RETIREMENT FUND	28,410,126	28,410,126	-	0.0%	28,410,126
POST EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	-	-	-	---	5,404,129
TOTAL INDIRECT EXPENSES	\$ 39,473,793	\$ 39,020,510	\$ (453,283)	-1.1%	\$ 87,918,080
STATE REVOLVING FUND	\$ 20,142,450	\$ 20,142,450	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 83,672,073
SENIOR DEBT	70,482,000	70,482,000	-	0.0%	312,163,003
DEBT SERVICE ASSISTANCE	(1,234,567)	(1,234,567)	-	0.0%	(1,234,567)
CURRENT REVENUE/CAPITAL	-	-	-	---	22,500,000
SUBORDINATE MWRA DEBT	17,804,794	17,804,794	-	0.0%	63,226,384
LOCAL WATER PIPELINE CP	-	-	-	---	9,530,742
CAPITAL LEASE	804,265	804,265	-	0.0%	3,217,060
VARIABLE DEBT	-	(788,925)	(788,925)	---	-
DEFEASANCE ACCOUNT	-	-	-	---	-
DEBT PREPAYMENT	-	-	-	---	9,850,000
TOTAL CAPITAL FINANCE EXPENSE	\$ 107,998,942	\$ 107,210,017	\$ (788,925)	-0.7%	\$ 502,924,695
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 232,190,071	\$ 223,560,345	\$ (8,629,726)	-3.7%	\$ 943,119,556
<u>REVENUE & INCOME</u>					
RATE REVENUE	\$ 225,169,290	\$ 225,169,290	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 900,677,158
OTHER USER CHARGES	3,503,322	3,310,410	(192,912)	-5.5%	11,770,813
OTHER REVENUE	774,317	949,023	174,706	22.6%	6,762,585
RATE STABILIZATION	-	-	-	---	-
INVESTMENT INCOME	5,448,750	5,918,599	469,849	8.6%	23,909,000
TOTAL REVENUE & INCOME	\$ 234,895,679	\$ 235,347,322	\$ 451,643	0.2%	\$ 943,119,556

ATTACHMENT 2
Current Expense Variance Explanations

Total MWRA	FY27 Budget September	FY27 Actuals September	FY27 Actual vs. FY27 Budget		Explanations
			\$	%	
<u>Direct Expenses</u>					
Wages & Salaries	32,870,778	30,893,643	(1,977,135)	-6.0%	Wages and Salaries were lower than budget by \$2.0 million or 6.0%. Through September, there were 84 fewer average FTEs (1,083 versus 1,167 budget) or 7.2% and , lower average new hire salaries versus retirees. The timing of backfilling vacant positions also contributed to Regular Pay being under budget.
Overtime	1,751,947	1,895,881	143,934	8.2%	Overtime expenses were higher than budget by \$144,000 or 8.2%. Overspending in Field Operations of \$171,000 due to shift coverage and weather events and DITP of \$9,000 due to weather events. Partially offset by lower than budgeted spending in TRAC of \$25,000, Occupational Health & Safety of \$9,000, Engineering & Construction of \$5,000, all due to less than anticipated needs. Year-to-Date rainfall was a major contributor for the geater than anticipated overtime.
Fringe Benefits	8,333,465	7,428,011	(905,454)	-10.9%	Fringe Benefits spending was lower than budget by \$905,000 million or 10.9%. This is primarily driven by lower Health Insurance costs of \$651,000, due to fewer than budgeted participants in health insurance plans, increased contribution by external new hires vs. lower contribution rates of staff retiring, and the shift from family to individual plans which are less expensive. Medicare expenses were also lower than budget by \$262,000 through September.
Worker's Compensation	604,972	761,946	156,974	25.9%	Worker’s Compensation expenses were higher than budget by \$157,000 or 25.9%. The variance is due to higher than budgeted expenses for Compensation Payments of \$94,000 and Medical Payments of \$77,000, partially offset by Administrative Expenses of \$9,000. Due to uncertainties of when spending will happen, the budget was spread evenly throughout the year.
Chemicals	5,841,899	5,743,859	(98,040)	-1.7%	Chemicals were lower than budget by \$98,000 or 1.7%. Lower Activated Carbon of \$174,000 due to the timing of carbon change-outs. Lower Sodium Bisulfite of \$54,000 primarily driven by lower volume at DITP due to lower quantities to dechlorinate the effluent, and Wastewater Operations due to less than anticipated CSO activations. Lower Hydrogen Peroxide of \$50,000 due to due to warmer weather and elevated H2S levels in the wastewater. Lower Liquid Oxygen of \$46,000 due to lower dosing at Carroll Water Treatment Plant. This was partially offset by higher Soda Ash of \$138,000 due to flow at the JCWTP and Carbon Dioxide of \$63,000 driven by flow. DITP flows are 22.0% less than planned and the JCWTP flows are 5.7% greater than planned through September. It is important to note that Chemical variances are also based on deliveries which in general reflect the usage patterns. However, the timing of deliveries is an important factor.

ATTACHMENT 2
Current Expense Variance Explanations

Total MWRA	FY27 Budget September	FY27 Actuals September	FY27 Actual vs. FY27 Budget		Explanations
			\$	%	
Utilities	7,742,032	8,207,451	465,419	6.0%	Utilities were higher than budget by \$465,000 or 6.0%. Higher than budgeted spending for Electricity of \$518,000 driven by Field Operations of \$296,000 due to Eversource Energy pricing and volume increases with higher supply charges and Deer Island Treatment Plant (DITP) of \$173,000 due to Direct Energy real time charges as well as Eversource Energy for higher pricing.
Maintenance	13,307,132	11,125,090	(2,182,042)	-16.4%	Maintenance spending was lower than budget by \$2.2 million or 16.4%. <i>Maintenance Services</i> were lower than budget by \$2.9 million driven by Building and Grounds Services of \$1.3 million due to less than anticipated services through September and updated schedule for Chestnut Hill Reservoir Gate, Goodnough Dike drain cleaning and relief well redevelopment work, Dams Asset Management Plan, and repair of DITP Primary Battery A elevator service. Plant & Machinery Services of \$1.3 million due to less than anticipated spending through September including delay in some wicket gate work, and duct cleaning for pump stations that was completed earlier than anticipated, and less than anticipated spending for Nut Island Fire Pump 3 and controller replacement. Computer Software Licenses/Upgrades of \$524,000 due to less than anticipated spending for licenses through September. <i>Maintenance Materials</i> were greater than budget by \$764,000 driven by Plant & Machinery Materials of \$633,000 and Electrical Materials of \$496,000 due to greater than anticipated spending through September including a DITP spare inverter anticipated in FY26 that was received in FY27.
Training & Meetings	179,426	64,438	(114,988)	-64.1%	Training & Meetings were lower than budget by 115,000 or 64.1% primarily due to less than anticipated spending on meetings and conferences driven by MIS (\$57,000), Admin Director's Office (\$12,000), Tunnel Redundancy (\$8,000), partially offset DITP of \$9,000 and Operations Administration of \$5,000.
Professional Services	2,732,142	2,217,630	(514,512)	-18.8%	Professional Services were lower than budget by \$514,000 or 18.8% driven by Computer Systems Consultant of \$486,000, Lab & Testing Analysis of \$157,000 and Engineering Services of \$101,000, due to less than anticipated costs through September. These were partially offset by higher Legal Services of \$276,000 due to greater than anticipated spending on outside counsel.

ATTACHMENT 2
Current Expense Variance Explanations

Total MWRA	FY27 Budget September	FY27 Actuals September	FY27 Actual vs. FY27 Budget		Explanations
			\$	%	
Other Materials	1,494,656	1,089,238	(405,418)	-27.1%	Other Materials spending was lower than budget by \$405,000 or 27.1% driven by lower Computer Hardware of \$294,000 and Vehicle Expense of \$120,000 due to less than anticipated purchases through September.
Other Services	9,858,889	7,902,635	(1,956,254)	-19.8%	Other Services were lower than budget by \$2.0 million or 19.8% driven by lower than anticipated expenses for Sludge Pelletization of \$1.0 million primarily for the potential PFAS regulation changes requiring landfilling that had no spending but were budgeted for, Grit & Screenings Removal of \$384,000 primarily due to lower quantities and Telecommunications of \$198,000.
Total Direct Expenses	84,717,338	77,329,822	(7,387,516)	-8.7%	
<u>Indirect Expenses</u>					
Insurance	1,235,769	1,338,966	103,197	8.4%	Higher payments/claims of \$110,000 partially offset by lower premiums of \$6,000 than budgeted.
Watershed/PILOT	6,755,181	6,198,702	(556,479)	-8.2%	Lower Watershed Reimbursement is \$556,000 less than budget driven by lower spending on Wages & Salaries, Fringe Benefits, and Maintenance.
HEEC Payment	1,591,596	1,591,596	-	0.0%	
Mitigation	478,970	478,970	-	0.0%	
Addition to Reserves	1,002,146	1,002,146	-	0.0%	
Pension Expense	28,410,126	28,410,126	-	0.0%	
Post Employee Benefits	-	-	-		
Total Indirect Expenses	39,473,788	39,020,506	(453,282)	-1.1%	

ATTACHMENT 2
Current Expense Variance Explanations

Total MWRA	FY27 Budget September	FY27 Actuals September	FY27 Actual vs. FY27 Budget		Explanations
			\$	%	
Debt Service					
Debt Service	107,998,940	107,210,016	(788,924)	-0.7%	Capital Financing was \$789,000 lower than the budget due to lower variable rate debt expense of \$789,000 as a result of lower than anticipated interest rates.
Debt Service Assistance	-		-		
Total Debt Service Expenses	107,998,940	107,210,016	(788,924)	-0.7%	
Total Expenses	232,190,066	223,560,344	(8,629,721)	-3.7%	
Revenue & Income					
Rate Revenue	225,169,290	225,169,290	-	0.0%	
Other User Charges	3,503,322	3,310,410	(192,912)	-5.5%	
Other Revenue	774,317	949,023	174,706	22.6%	Other Revenue was \$175,000 or 22.6% greater than budget due to Energy Revenue of \$99,000, and Emergency Water Supply of \$87,000.
Rate Stabilization	-	-	-		
Investment Income	5,448,750	5,918,599	469,849	8.6%	Investment Income is over budget due to higher than assumed interest rates.
Total Revenue	234,895,679	235,347,322	451,643	0.2%	
Net Revenue in Excess of Expenses	2,705,613	11,786,978	9,081,364		

ATTACHMENT 3
FY27 CIP Variance Report (\$000s)

	FY27 Budget September	FY27 Actuals September	Actuals vs. Budget		Explanations
			\$	%	
Wastewater					
Interception & Pumping (I&P)	\$5,954	\$2,188	(\$3,766)	-63.3%	<u>Less than planned spending</u> Interceptor Renewal 7, Malden & Melrose-Construction and CA: \$1.6M (slower than anticipated start-up) Hayes Pump Station Rehab - Construction: \$966k, and Siphon Structure Rehabilitation Construction: \$419k (less than planned contractor progress) Ward St & Columbus Park Headworks Design/CA: \$561k: (less than planned consultant progress) <u>Greater than planned spending</u> Somerville-Marginal CSO Design/REI/ESDC: \$342k (greater than anticipated consultant progress)
Treatment	\$9,634	\$17,961	\$8,326	86.4%	<u>Greater than planned spending</u> Clarifier Rehabilitation Phase 2 Construction and ESDC: \$7.4M (contractor's progress greater than anticipated) Combined Heat & Power Design/ESDC/REI: \$891k (consultant's progress greater than anticipated)
Residuals	\$0	-\$4	(\$4)	-	
CSO	\$2,432	\$1,409	(\$1,023)	-42.1%	<u>Less than planned spending</u> Somerville Marginal New Pipe Connection: \$1.2M (contractor progress less than anticipated)
Other Wastewater	\$12,103	\$13,792	\$1,689	14.0%	<u>Greater than planned spending</u> I/I Local Financial Assistance: \$1.7M (greater than anticipated requests for community grants and loans)
Total Wastewater	\$30,124	\$35,345	\$5,222	17.3%	

ATTACHMENT 3
FY27 CIP Variance Report (\$000s)

	FY27 Budget September	FY27 Actuals September	Actuals vs. Budget		Explanations
			\$	%	
Waterworks					
Drinking Water Quality Improvements	\$844	\$340	(\$504)	-59.7%	<u>Less than planned spending</u> CWTP Technical Assistance: \$504k (lower than projected task order work)
Transmission	\$12,094	\$8,162	(\$3,932)	-32.5%	<u>Less than planned spending</u> Metropolitan Water Tunnel Program Final Design/ESDC: \$1.7M (design services planned for FY27 performed in FY26) Administration, Legal & Public Outreach: \$978k (less than anticipated expenditures) Owners Representative Services: \$500k (less than anticipated services) WASM 3 -MEPA/Design/CA/RI: \$460k (consultants progress less than planned), and WASM 3 Rehabilitation CP-2: \$419k (less than anticipated contractor progress) <u>Greater than planned spending</u> Land Acquisition: \$225k (watershed land acquisitions greater than anticipated)
Distribution & Pumping	\$7,899	\$7,599	(\$300)	-3.8%	<u>Less than planned spending</u> Cathodic Protection Shaft E, N & W Improvements - Construction: \$975k (Notice to proceed later than anticipated) Section 75 Extension - Construction CP-1: \$526k (less than planned contractor progress) <u>Greater than planned spending</u> Section 56 Replacement/Saugus River - Construction and REI: \$821k (greater than planned contractor and consultant progress) NEH Improvements Design/ESDC: \$550k: (greater than planned consultant progress) Section 89/29 Replacement Construction: \$302k (greater than planned contractor progress)
Other Waterworks	\$1,367	(\$3,166)	(\$4,534)	-	<u>Less than planned spending</u> Local Water Pipeline Financial Assistance Program: \$2.3M (less than anticipated distributions for the Community Water Loan Program) CWTP SCADA Upgrade Construction: \$1.8M (contract completed in FY26) Steel Tank Improvements - Design/CA: \$248k (CA services less than anticipated)
Total Waterworks	\$22,204	\$12,935	(\$9,269)	-41.7%	

ATTACHMENT 3
FY27 CIP Variance Report (\$000s)

	FY27 Budget September	FY27 Actuals September	Actuals vs. Budget		Explanations
			\$	%	
Business & Operations Support					
Total Business & Operations Support	\$3,658	\$922	(\$2,736)	-74.8%	<u>Less than planned spending</u> DITP Wind Turbine 1 Replacement: \$602k (less than anticipated contractor progress) As-Needed Design Contracts: \$486k (lower than projected task order work) Instrumentation & Controls IT: \$310k, and Disaster Recovery: \$240k (implementation behind schedule) FY24-28 Vehicle Purchases: \$267k (long lead time on the availability of specific vehicles) Security Equipment & Installation: \$234k (delays with projects including upgrades to communication circuits and camera upgrades)
Total MWRA	\$55,986	\$49,202	(\$6,784)	-12.1%	

STAFF SUMMARY

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Stephan Estes-Smargiassi, Executive Director
DATE: October 21, 2026
SUBJECT: Bond Defeasance of Future Debt Service



COMMITTEE: Administration, Finance & Audit

X VOTE
____ INFORMATION

Matthew R. Horan, Deputy Director, Finance/Treasurer
Preparer/Title


Thomas J. Durkin
Director of Finance

Consistent with MWRA's multi-year rates management strategy, MWRA staff are recommending the execution of an approximately \$27.5 million defeasance in November 2026 to reduce future year rate increases. The \$27.5 million in available funds is derived from the use of \$24.0 million remaining from the FY26 positive budget variance, and an estimated \$3.5 million in escrow earnings. These funds will be used to prepay debt service coming due in FY28 through FY33 (\$25.7 million in principal and \$1.8 million in interest).

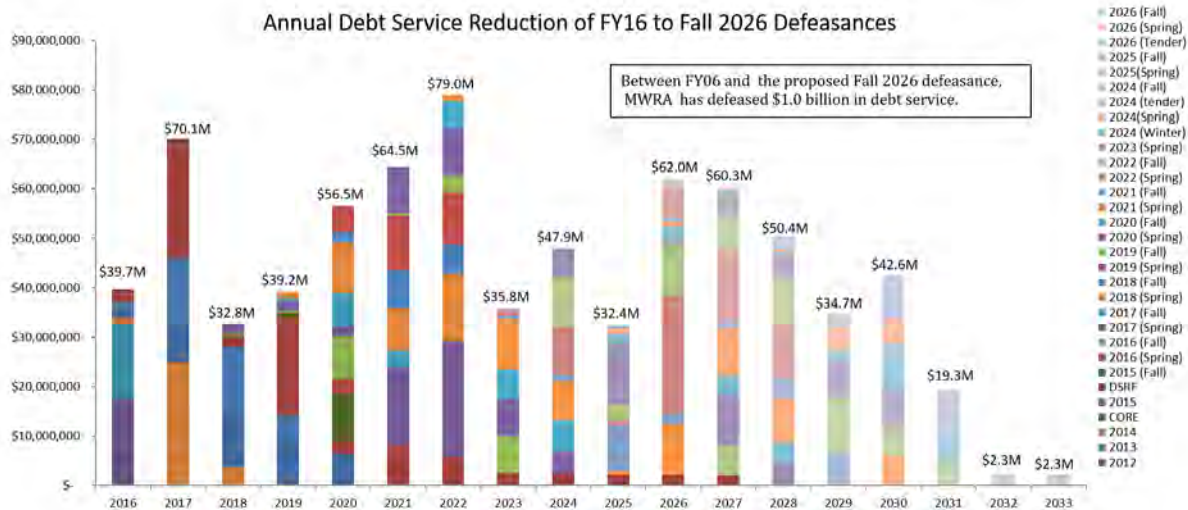
RECOMMENDATION:

To authorize the Executive Director or his designee, on behalf of the Authority, to enter into, execute and deliver all necessary agreements and other instruments and to take such other actions necessary to effectuate the redemption and defeasance of an aggregate principal amount of \$25,710,000 of outstanding MWRA senior bonds including to cause the escrow of cash and/or securities in an amount necessary to fund such redemption and defeasance, in order to reduce the debt service requirement by \$28.0 million in the FY27 through FY30 timeframe.

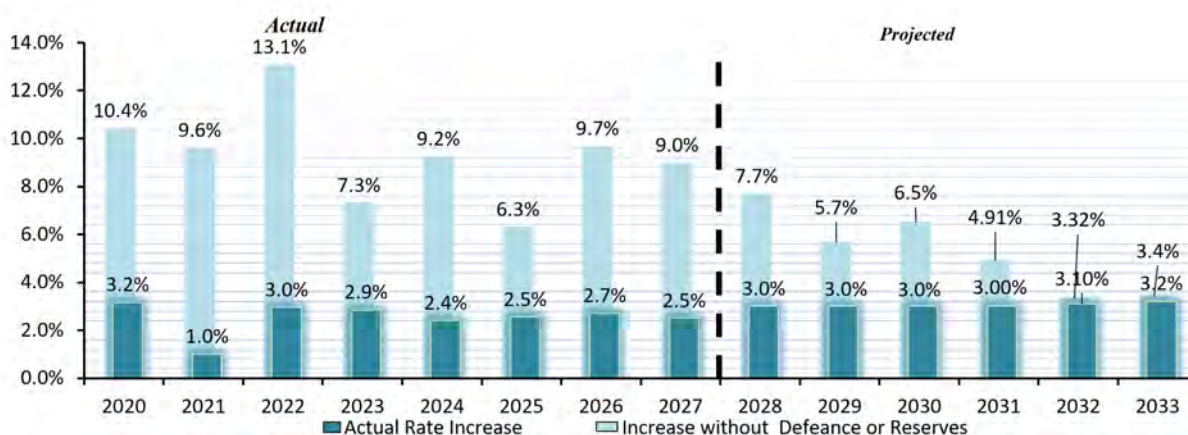
DISCUSSION:

MWRA has approximately \$25.9 million available from the FY26 budget, and staff are proposing to use a portion of those funds and estimated escrow earnings of \$3.5 million to execute a defeasance of outstanding debt. The defeasance would reduce future year debt service and continue to manage the impact of assessment pressures on the member communities.

MWRA's ongoing use of defeasances has had a significant impact in lowering future debt service payments and limiting annual rate revenue increases. From 2006 through this proposed transaction, MWRA has defeased \$1.0 billion in debt service to reduce future year rate revenue requirements. The following chart details the multi-year impact of those defeasances.



The application of these defeasances has had a significant impact on rate increases. The following chart shows the estimated rate increase without the application of the defeasances.



Staff reviewed all bonds available to be defeased, and have identified the maturities of the bonds in the following table as the most advantageous defeasance candidates.

Series	Maturity	Call Date	Principal	Defeasance Cost ¹
2019E	August 1, 2028	August 1, 2028	\$ 1,995,000	\$ 2,040,346
2019E	August 1, 2029	August 1, 2029	\$ 2,040,000	\$ 2,134,778
2019E	August 1, 2030	August 1, 2029	\$ 2,090,000	\$ 2,191,281
2019E	August 1, 2031	August 1, 2029	\$ 2,140,000	\$ 2,247,984
2019E	August 1, 2032	August 1, 2029	\$ 2,195,000	\$ 2,310,150
2019E	August 1, 2033	August 1, 2029	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 2,370,285
2021B	August 1, 2031	August 1, 2031	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,400,000
2021C	August 1, 2030	August 1, 2031	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 6,349,200
2021C	August 1, 2031	August 1, 2031	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,418,000
Total			\$ 25,710,000	\$ 27,462,025

(1) Defeasance costs is only anticipated funds from surplus and does not included current year deposits.

The following table details the annual budget savings by fiscal year for the proposed FY26 fall defeasance.

Budget Reduction by Fiscal Year						Total CEB Reduction
2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	
\$ 2,630,986	\$ 2,630,639	\$ 8,633,250	\$ 9,516,210	\$ 2,312,717	\$ 2,310,143	\$ 28,033,945

The proposed defeasance reduces debt service by a total of \$28.0 million between FY28 and FY33. The total debt service reduction attributable to the defeasance is approximately \$0.6 million higher than the defeasance cost because the 2019 Series E the bonds maturing after August 1, 2029 are callable prior to their maturity date. The payment of these bonds on the call date will yield interest savings, as a result of paying off the bonds prior to maturity without interest accruing. Since 2006, MWRA has avoided \$55.2 million in interest by defeasing callable bonds.

The funds will be utilized to purchase governmental securities in an amount sufficient to make all future interest and principal payments on the bonds to be defeased, offset by the interest earned on the securities. Due to the high short-term reinvestment rates, for defeasance staff primarily selected the federally taxable 2019 Series E and 2021 Series C bonds since they have maturities within the targeted defeasance period and are not subject to the same earnings restrictions as the tax-exempt bonds. The interest rate owed to the taxable bonds holders range from 1.94% to 2.673%, while MWRA can earn between 4.14% and 4.96% on the escrow investments. These higher earnings rates result in approximately \$1.4 million in addition investment earnings, which MWRA would not have been able to retain if the bonds were tax-exempt.

The governmental securities purchased will be deposited with an escrow agent (bond trustee). Once established, an escrow is irrevocable, replacing any future debt service payments due for the bonds being escrowed, and therefore reducing the rate revenue requirement. Establishing an escrow reduces debt service requirements for each fiscal year from the time it is executed until the defeased bonds mature.

Establishing an escrow to defease debt requires that MWRA's bond counsel draft an agreement to this effect and an independent verification agent must certify that the funds in the escrow are sufficient to pay the remaining debt service. Bonds that are escrowed to maturity are not included in the MWRA's debt cap or debt service coverage calculations. Staff will continue to monitor market conditions and the maturities available to be defeased to ensure that the bonds selected provide MWRA with the highest available debt service savings.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

The tender and defeasance combined will decrease FY28 through FY33 debt service requirement by \$28.0 million. In addition to the fiscal year budgetary reductions shown below, these transactions together resulted in \$0.6 million in avoided interest expenses, which are direct savings for the MWRA's ratepayers. The cost associated with bond counsel and financial advisory services will be paid out of the Treasury Department's professional services budget.

STAFF SUMMARY

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Stephen Estes-Smargiassi, Executive Director
DATE: October 21, 2026
SUBJECT: 2025 Deer Island Outfall Monitoring Overview



COMMITTEE: Wastewater Policy & Oversight

X INFORMATION
 VOTE

Rebecca Weidman, Deputy Chief Operating Officer
David Wu, Director, Environmental Quality
Christopher Goodwin, Prog. Mgr., Environmental Monitoring
Preparer/Title


Kathleen M. Murtagh, P.E.
Chief Operating Officer

RECOMMENDATION:

For information only.

DISCUSSION:

Calendar year 2025 marked the 34th consecutive year of wastewater discharge monitoring, and 25 years since the effluent discharge moved to Massachusetts Bay from Boston Harbor. MWRA monitors the Deer Island Treatment Plant effluent, as well as the water, sediment and the health of fish and shellfish in Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bays. MWRA monitored baseline conditions in Boston Harbor, Massachusetts Bay, and Cape Cod Bay starting in the early 1990s, and began discharge monitoring when the Massachusetts Bay outfall became operational in September 2000. Monitoring is designed to reveal potential environmental impacts from the Deer Island discharges.

Under the current National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for Deer Island, MWRA must submit the *Outfall Monitoring Overview* to federal and state regulatory agencies each year by November 15. The *Outfall Monitoring Overview* report summarizes the monitoring results. Required monitoring includes measurements of the Deer Island's effluent, and of receiving water, sediments, and fish and shellfish. As in previous years, MWRA has not identified any adverse impacts of Deer Island's discharge, a finding with which regulators, their Science Advisory Panel, and public interest groups agree. This staff summary provides the Board of Directors with highlights of the 2025 *Outfall Monitoring Overview* and the ongoing 2026 monitoring, as well as a summary of any special monitoring efforts and collaborations with the Science Advisory Panel.

Summary of Contingency Plan Exceedances in 2025 and 2026

The Deer Island NPDES permit¹ requires MWRA to monitor the Deer Island effluent and the

¹ The current NPDES permit expired in 2005. EPA released a draft Deer Island NPDES permit on May 31, 2023. MWRA submitted comments on the draft permit. A final permit has not been issued as of October 1, 2026.

ambient waters around the Massachusetts Bay outfall. MWRA carefully analyzes monitoring data to identify changes to the Bay's ecosystem that may be related to the outfall. Key results are compared to 95 thresholds contained in MWRA's Contingency Plan.² In 2025, there were two exceedances of the ambient monitoring thresholds, and two exceedances of effluent monitoring thresholds.

- June 2025: *Alexandrium catenella*. MWRA observed high cell counts of *Alexandrium catenella*, a harmful algal bloom species known for causing "red tide" in this region. A widespread bloom was observed throughout the Gulf of Maine in 2025. The Contingency Plan threshold for *Alexandrium* was exceeded in early June, and weekly response monitoring was conducted until the bloom subsided in mid-July. Analysis of the available data indicated that the bloom originated in the Gulf of Maine and *Alexandrium* cells were brought south to Massachusetts Bay by natural means. There was no evidence of a link to the outfall.
- November 2025: *Pseudo-nitzschia* spp. During the summer of 2025, MWRA observed high cell counts of the genus *Pseudo-nitzschia*, a harmful algal bloom species with the potential to produce domoic acid, the cause of amnesic shellfish poisoning (ASP). The abundance of these organisms exceeded the Contingency Plan threshold for the May to August 'summer' period as established during baseline monitoring from 1992 to 2000. As with *Alexandrium*, high abundances of *Pseudo-nitzschia* were observed region wide by MWRA and other agencies. There is no rapid response survey requirement for *Pseudo-nitzschia* under the current NPDES permit. There was no evidence of a link to the outfall, no domoic acid toxicity was observed in the region, and no shellfishing closures related to *Pseudo-nitzschia* were issued by state agencies.

There were two effluent monitoring threshold exceedances for acute toxicity.

- June 2025: Deer Island effluent toxicity. Deer Island undergoes four toxicity effluent tests every month that evaluate the potential impact of the effluent on three animal species. The acute toxicity test on the inland silverside minnow (*Menidia beryllina*) showed that at an effluent concentration of 42.6% there was mortality to half of the test population. This is below the permit limit of 50% effluent concentration. The outfall has an assigned dilution factor of 70:1; dye studies of the outfall under stratified water column conditions, such as those that would be seen in the month of June, indicate that dilution would be closer to 94:1. These real-world dilutions are far greater than the roughly 1:1 dilution (42.6%) that the *Menidia* acute test indicated was toxic. Therefore, MWRA does not believe that these results represent any adverse impacts to Massachusetts Bay. MWRA analysis of historical data alongside the test conditions indicates that ammonia levels driven by high pH (>8) during the test may have contributed to higher fish mortality.

² The Contingency Plan is a requirement of the current NPDES permit. It contains 20 effluent thresholds and more than 70 numeric thresholds for Massachusetts Bay conditions calculated from environmental monitoring data (e.g. annual average chlorophyll levels near the outfall). An exceedance of a threshold does not necessarily indicate environmental harm; instead, it indicates conditions different from baseline (i.e., pre-outfall) conditions. An exceedance requires rapid notification to EPA, DEP, the Science Advisory Panel, and the public. Some exceedances (e.g. harmful algal blooms, known informally as "red tide") can lead to enhanced sampling for further evaluation of the event. The Contingency Plan requirement was eliminated in the draft NPDES permit issued in 2023.

- December 2025: Deer Island effluent toxicity. In December, the acute toxicity test on the mysid shrimp (*Mysidopsis bahia*) showed that at an effluent concentration of 2% there was mortality to half of the test population. MWRA does not believe that these results represent any adverse impacts to Massachusetts Bay. MWRA analysis of historical data alongside these test conditions indicates that a relatively high concentration of total organic carbon and carbonaceous biological oxygen demand may have contributed to low oxygen conditions during the test, resulting in the death of the organisms.

In both toxicity exceedances, there were no operational upsets or significant process changes at Deer Island, and all other permit limits were met. All toxicity tests since July 2025, apart from the December 2025 mysid shrimp test, met permit limits. In 2026, there have been no Contingency Plan exceedances for toxicity to date.

Summary of Effluent Quality Monitoring in 2025

- The Deer Island Treatment Plant earned a Silver Peak Performance Award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies for fewer than five violations of permit limits in 2025.
- 2025 was a below average year for total rainfall, apart from heavy rains in May. Almost all effluent (greater than 99%) received full secondary treatment. In very wet weather, primary-treated flow is diverted around the secondary process and then blended with the secondary effluent before disinfection and discharge, meeting all permit requirements.
- Total suspended solid loads from effluent were about 12 metric tons per day. Over the past two decades, the total solids load has been about 10% of what had been discharged to the Harbor in 1990–1991 (Figure 1).

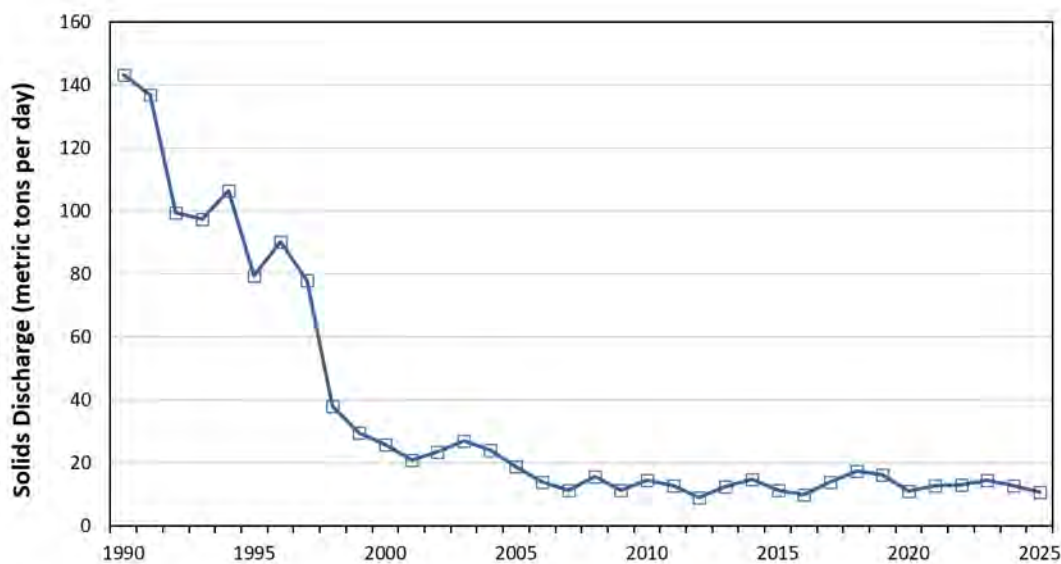


Figure 1. Annual Total Suspended Solids Discharges

- Metal loads in the effluent remain at low levels. Like solids, metal loads have decreased significantly since 1990 (Figure 2).

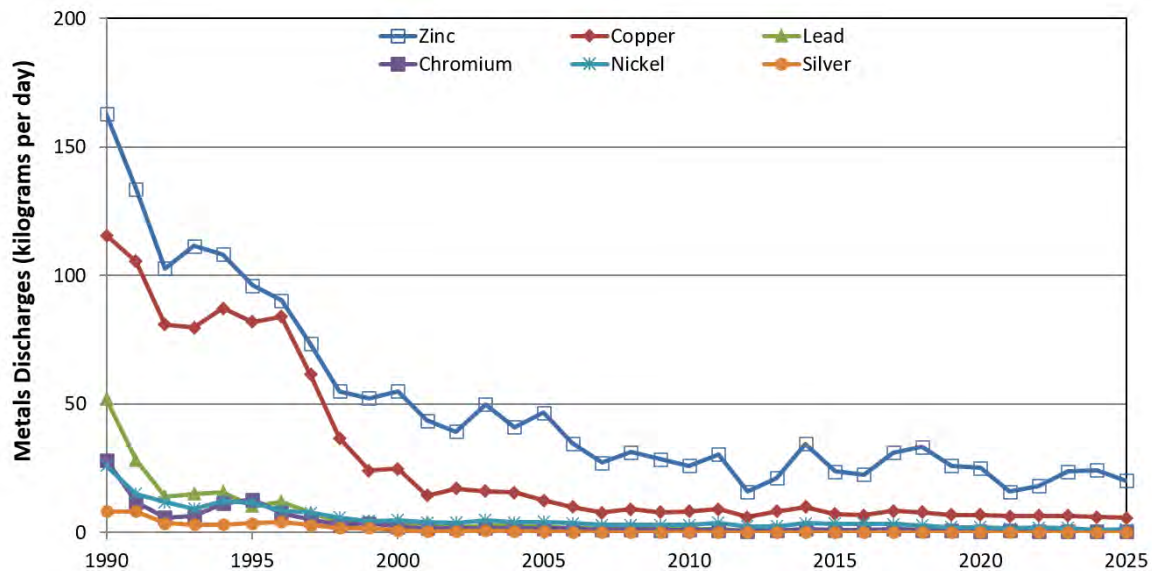


Figure 2. Annual Loads of Metals

- Total effluent nitrogen load in 2025 was below the Contingency Plan caution threshold following an exceedance in 2024 (Figure 3). The reasons for the variability in the effluent nitrogen load are not entirely clear, but do not appear to have a strong correlation to annual rainfall.

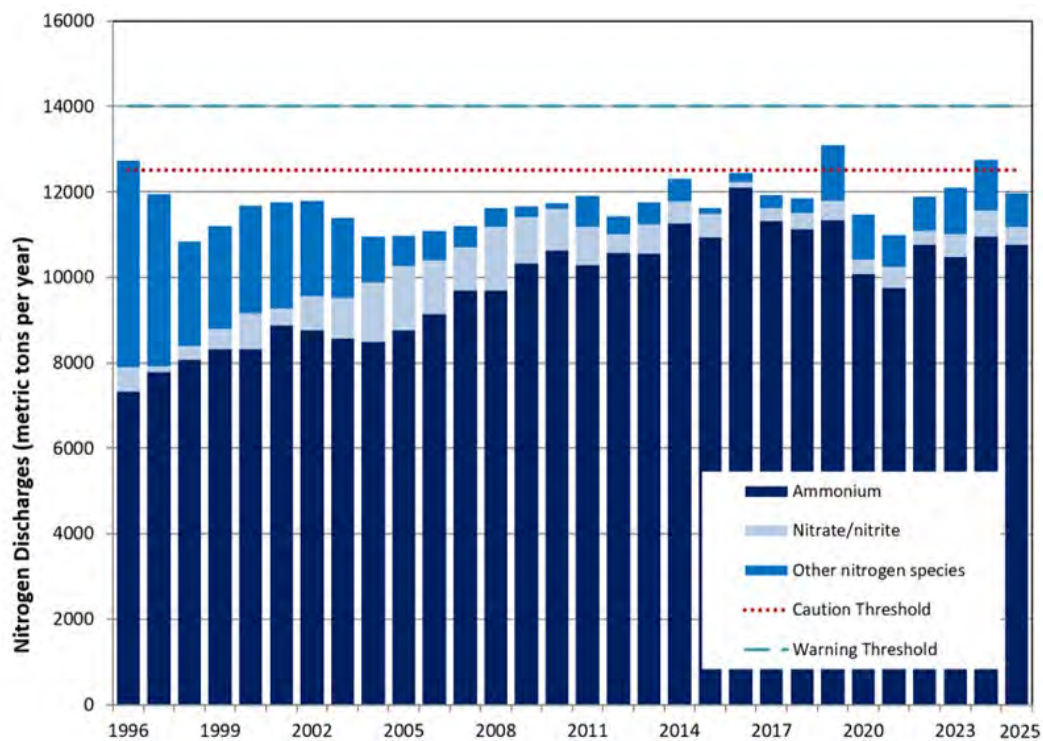


Figure 3. Annual Effluent Nitrogen Load

Summary of Environmental Monitoring Results in 2025

Water Quality Monitoring: Nutrients

The monitoring plan was designed to address concerns as to whether effluent nitrogen would cause excess phytoplankton growth, which could decrease the amount of oxygen in the water; change the species or abundance of plankton, potentially impacting the food web adversely; or increase blooms of harmful algal species. Therefore, sampling focuses on the potential nitrogen impacts (especially those of ammonium, a nitrogen compound) as only about 30% of nitrogen is removed during treatment. After the outfall was relocated in 2000 from the Harbor to its current offshore location, ammonium levels increased near the outfall, but not throughout the Bay (Figure 4; panels N21 and N18 are the stations closest to the outfall). Intermittent, higher than usual results at locations farther from the outfall are likely the result of variable ocean currents and other natural conditions.

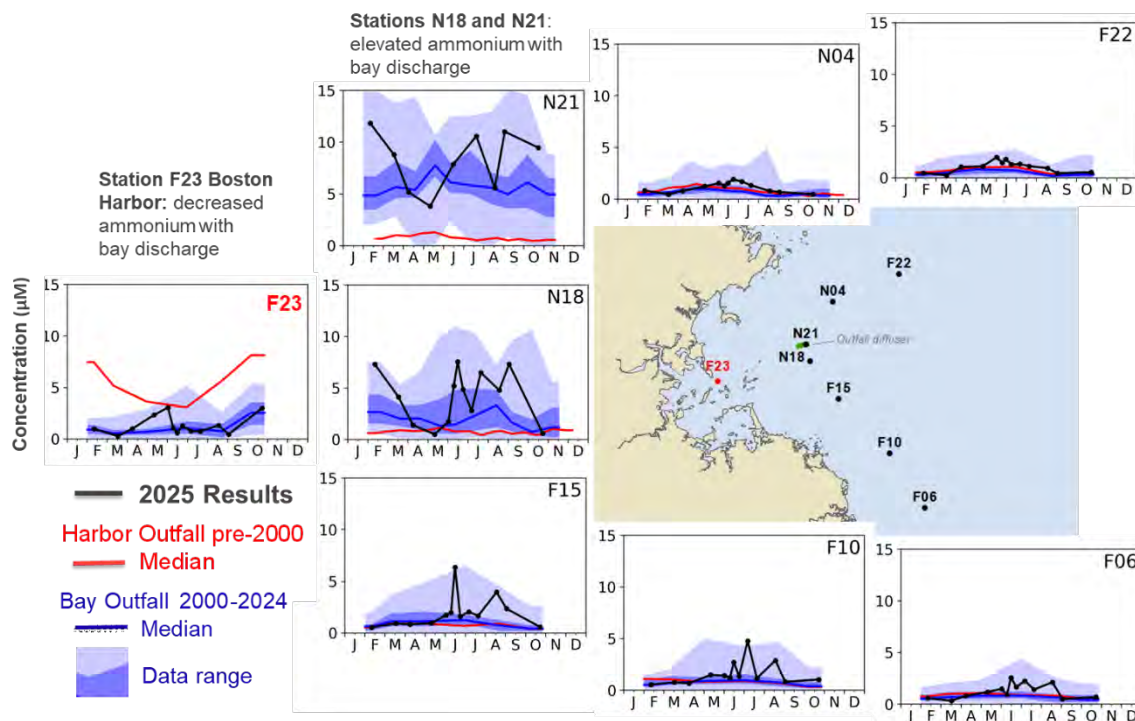


Figure 4. Massachusetts Bay Ammonium Concentrations

Water Quality Monitoring: Plankton

The monitoring plan requires MWRA to monitor phytoplankton communities, including potential and confirmed nuisance species. To date, monitoring data has shown the outfall does not affect phytoplankton growth or species composition.

In 2025, a bloom of *Alexandrium catenella* triggered a Contingency Plan exceedance and permit-required weekly response sampling. *Alexandrium* can produce toxins that result in paralytic shellfish poisoning, or “red tide”. High abundances of *Alexandrium* were observed north of Massachusetts Bay in early May. Monitoring performed by the state Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) detected toxin at locations south of Boston in late May, triggering the weekly response surveys. These surveys documented high abundances throughout the Bay in June, during which time DMF issued a precautionary shellfishing closure along the South Shore. As with previous

blooms, there was no evidence that the outfall was a factor in bloom initiation, strength, or duration.

A bloom of the potentially toxic diatom genus *Pseudo-nitzschia* also peaked in June 2025. *Pseudo-nitzschia* has been more abundant during the summer in recent years, and its peak abundance in June triggered a Contingency Plan exceedance for the summer season (May – August). Like *Alexandrium*, this bloom occurred throughout the region with no evident link to the outfall. State fisheries agencies did not detect any toxin that can be produced by this genus, nor did they issue any closures due to *Pseudo-nitzschia*. There is no rapid response survey requirement for *Pseudo-nitzschia* under the current NPDES permit.

Water Quality Monitoring: Dissolved Oxygen

Before the outfall was relocated offshore in 2000, there was concern that effluent nutrients might lead to excess phytoplankton growth at the new outfall location. If that occurred, it could cause oxygen levels to decline when the phytoplankton cells die and decay, so MWRA closely monitors oxygen conditions. Oxygen conditions in Massachusetts Bay are strongly seasonal: oxygen declines through summer due to warm water and the lack of mixing. Oxygen increases in the fall when water temperatures cool and winds increase. These conditions increase the mixing of atmospheric oxygen with the Bay waters and mix high oxygen surface waters down to the bottom. Dissolved oxygen levels in 2025 followed this cycle. Unlike many recent years, the lower levels of oxygen in the summer were above Contingency Plan thresholds; no exceedances were reported.

Monitoring the Sea Floor near the Outfall and in the Harbor



Figure 5. Polychaete Worm from Massachusetts Bay

Sea floor habitat (the benthos) is a major component of a healthy marine ecosystem and is of particular interest in studies of pollutant effects because many contaminants ultimately end up in the sediments.

MWRA's benthic monitoring assesses the health of animal communities and physically characterizes the sediments (Figure 5). Diverse groups of animals including polychaete worms (the dominant animals in the soft sediments near the outfall), mollusks, and crustaceans typical of New England were observed in 2025, and the species assemblages were driven by sediment size and depth, not by proximity to the outfall.

Fish and Shellfish Monitoring

Flounder are a fish that live in close contact with the bottom sediments. This makes their health, especially the rates of liver disease, an indication of the effects of sea floor contaminants. During the 1970s and 1980s, fin rot and liver disease (including liver tumors) associated with contaminant exposure were common in winter flounder taken from Boston Harbor. Sampling of flounder has continued as part of MWRA's monitoring since 1991. The flounder study has documented substantial declines in tumor precursors as the flounder population recovered in the Harbor with no increased tumor precursors in fish caught near the Massachusetts Bay outfall. Catching the required flounder has been more challenging in recent years due to decreasing flounder

populations, technical challenges (e.g., torn nets and entangled lobster traps), and a decrease in fishing boat availability.

In 2025, the percentage of flounder containing tumor precursors reached a record low near the outfall (2%). Importantly, liver tumors have not been observed in flounder from the Harbor since 2004 and have never been observed in flounder caught near the outfall.

Continuous Monitoring

As required by the NPDES permit, MWRA continues to contribute to the costs related to maintaining instrumentation on the A01 buoy located in Massachusetts Bay and managed by the University of Maine. Dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll, and turbidity are reported to MWRA, along with other physical and chemical parameters. These data are used to monitor regional conditions unrelated to the outfall that can help to inform the results of MWRA's Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bay monitoring.

Boston Harbor Ecosystem Health

MWRA analysis continues to document the improved water quality in Boston Harbor because of the Boston Harbor Project. Utilizing data collected twice per month by MWRA Department of Laboratory Services staff, this analysis of environmental controls documents a shift from a wastewater driven system to one driven by physical mixing and natural processes. For example, with high wastewater solids present in the Harbor before 2000, light availability was the most limiting factor for phytoplankton growth. Since the completion of the Boston Harbor Project, phytoplankton growth is more strongly correlated with nutrient availability. Boston Harbor is now in a new regime characterized by seasonal river flow and tides, stable productivity of the ecosystem, and improved water clarity.

Summary of Information Outreach Efforts

MWRA informs the public, area environmental groups, and colleagues in academia and the wastewater industry about the findings from its monitoring. In 2025 and 2026 staff:

- shared outfall, Harbor, and river monitoring results with municipalities, regional watershed associations, and interested citizens;
- met periodically with researchers and students from universities (e.g., Boston University, Northeastern University) to share results of MWRA's monitoring, learn about current academic research, and discuss emerging issues of environmental concern;
- presented analysis of environmental controls in Boston Harbor at the New England Estuarine Research Society (NEERS) spring meeting. Staff also participated in advisory and oversight committees for regional monitoring and outreach groups, including the Sea Grant College program, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Partnership and the Northeast Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems. Staff promote outreach and information gathering on issues important to MWRA. Staff also assist on tours of the Deer Island Treatment Plant to answer questions about the environmental monitoring programs; and

- staff will post the 2025 *Outfall Monitoring Overview* on MWRA's website and issue a summary of results.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

The FY27 Current Expense Budget for required Harbor and outfall monitoring, including the water column, sediment, fish and shellfish monitoring, water quality modeling, and instrumented buoys, is approximately \$2.1 million. A draft NPDES permit for DITP was released in 2023. Staff have budgeted appropriately for monitoring under the current NPDES permit if the draft permit is not finalized. If the draft NPDES permit was finalized and issued immediately, there would be no impact to the FY27 budget.

STAFF SUMMARY

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Stephen Estes-Smargiassi, Executive Director
DATE: October 21, 2026
SUBJECT: MWRA Industrial Waste Report #42: Industrial Pretreatment Program
Annual Report to EPA for FY26



COMMITTEE: Wastewater Policy & Oversight

 X INFORMATION
 VOTE

Rebecca Weidman, Deputy Chief Operating Officer
Matthew Dam, Director, TRAC
Preparer/Title


Kathleen M. Murtagh, P.E.
Chief Operating Officer

RECOMMENDATION:

For information only

DISCUSSION:

MWRA's Toxic Reduction and Control (TRAC) Department operates the Industrial Pretreatment Program to control the level of toxic substances discharged into the sanitary sewer system from commercial and industrial sources. Through permits, inspections, sampling, and enforcement the program helps to keep excessive levels of toxics out of the sanitary sewer system to: (a) protect worker health and safety; (b) protect municipal and MWRA infrastructure; (c) prevent interference with the operation of the Deer Island and Clinton Wastewater Treatment Plants; (d) prevent the pass-through of pollutants into receiving waters; and (e) enable MWRA to beneficially reuse its residuals for the production of fertilizer.



Figure 1: Annual Significant Industrial User Inspection

MWRA is required by its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations [40 CFR 403.12(i)] to submit an annual report to the EPA and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) that describes the activities and accomplishments of MWRA's Industrial Pretreatment Program. For FY26, following the EPA's Cross-Media Electronic Reporting Regulation (CROMERR), which sets legal standards for submitting electronic environmental compliance reports, MWRA's Annual Industrial Waste Report must be completed electronically using EPA's NPDES Electronic Reporting Tool Pretreatment Program Report (NETPPR) portal. This is the second year that the Annual Report will be completed electronically. Staff will submit the FY26 electronic Annual Report (Industrial Waste Report #42)

to EPA and MassDEP on or before October 31, 2026, which is the required submittal deadline.

FY26 Overview and Accomplishments

Approximately 3% of the total flow to the Deer Island and Clinton treatment plants comes from permitted sewer user facilities. TRAC currently oversees approximately 2,200 permitted sewer users. There were 171 facilities that met MWRA's definition of Significant Industrial User (SIU) during FY26. SIUs require substantial oversight due to the nature of the pollutants they discharge and/or the volume of their flows. Some of the highlights included in the report are described below.

Reassessment of Local Limits

In FY26, TRAC began the reassessment of technically based industrial discharge limits for the Deer Island Treatment Plant (DITP). This reassessment is a requirement of the EPA and the requirements for the reassessment are found in the NPDES permit. A contract was awarded to review and extract relevant information from existing data, including industrial discharge, influent, effluent, residential and background discharge, infiltration, sludge, air quality, and operational records. Using this data, MWRA is in the process of conducting a local limits analysis in accordance with the EPA – New England's Reassessment of Technically Based Industrial Discharge Limits requirements. Although a bulk of the analysis is complete, staff are waiting on the final DITP NPDES permit to complete the analysis.

PFAS Updates

TRAC updated the Sewer Use Discharge Permit applications to include the requirement for industries to test for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) when submitting a permit application. In addition to the industrial data, TRAC continued to collect and test PFAS samples throughout the collection system and at permitted industries. During FY26, TRAC collected and tested 91 industries for PFAS and collected an additional 128 PFAS samples throughout the collection system. This data will help to provide a better picture of industrial PFAS sources by industry type, as well as characterize the primary sources of influent PFAS- specifically what are the industrial versus domestic loadings. TRAC continues to work with industries to reduce industrial sources of PFAS.

Significant Industrial Users

A SIU is defined by EPA regulations and includes those sewer users subject to federal categorical standards, permitted users with flows equal to or above 25,000 gallons per day, or those users that MWRA determines have a reasonable potential to violate MWRA's regulations. There were 171 industries that met the definition of SIU at some point during FY26. At the end of FY26, there were still 171 SIUs regulated by MWRA. The number of SIUs can vary during the year as a result of companies going out of business, a change in their pretreatment processes, or a new company being added.

TRAC met EPA's requirements for inspections and sampling in FY26, inspecting all of the 171 SIUs and sampling 151 SIUs. In FY26, 25 SIUs were not sampled for the following reasons: seven SIUs did not discharge during the year; one SIU changed status from a non-SIU to SIU in FY26; and 17 SIUs hold non-discharging SIU permits and, therefore, cannot be sampled. Pursuant to MWRA's Deer Island NPDES permit, EPA requires TRAC to issue 90% of MWRA's SIU permits within 120 days of the industries' current permit expiration dates, or MWRA's receipt of a Sewer Use Discharge Permit Application, whichever is later, and 100% within 180 days. TRAC issued

or renewed 69 permits to SIUs during FY26. Of significance, 65 (or 94%) of those SIU permits were issued within 120 days of the permit expiration date or receipt date of the permit application, 68 of the SIU permits were issued within 180 days of the permit expiration date or receipt date of the permit application, and one SIU permit was issued over 180 days. The one SIU permit issued after 180 days was due to extenuating circumstances related to a bankruptcy filing and failure to pay permit fees.

The Clinton Medium Wastewater Treatment Facilities General NPDES permit in effect during FY26 requires staff to issue all permits in the Clinton sewer service area within 90 days of their application received date or previous expiration date, whichever is later. Two permits were issued to industries in the Clinton area; all permits were issued within the 90-day timeframe.

Inspections and Monitoring Programs

Staff are responsible for permitting, inspecting, and monitoring a variety of other types of facilities to minimize the discharge of toxics to the sewer and assist other MWRA programs. In FY26, staff conducted 1,433 industrial/commercial facility inspections of other regulated industries, 120 inspections associated with the septage program, including inspections of haulers and septage receiving sites, and 1,231 inspections of oil/water separators. There are ten septage receiving sites and more than 4,000 gas/oil separators within MWRA's service area.

TRAC's monitoring staff conducted 1,441 sampling events to characterize wastewater flow from SIU and non-SIU permitted facilities. In addition, TRAC's monitoring staff conducted an additional 1,395 monitoring events to support MWRA's NPDES permits, MWRA's local discharge limits program, to evaluate discharges to the sewer in response to emergencies, and other MWRA projects.



Figure 2: Annual Monitoring event of an SIU

TRAC continues to implement strategies to deal with emerging contaminants such as PFAS. In FY26 TRAC's monitoring staff conducted a total of 91 PFAS sampling events at industrial users' facilities, 100 sampling events for local discharge limits to better understand where PFAS are coming into the collection system and 12 sampling events for NPDES permit compliance.

Emergency Response/Community Assistance

During FY26, TRAC participated in three investigations conducted at industries within the MWRA sewer district. These investigations help to protect the collection system, provide interagency collaboration, and assist municipalities with identifying substances within the sanitary sewer or storm sewer.

While performing a routine inspection at a permitted facility, the contact of that facility reported an oily substance flowing through the fence of the neighboring metals recycling facility. MWRA does not permit the metal recycling facility as they do not have an industrial discharge. MWRA staff involved MassDEP and notified the municipality of the oily substance flowing from the

property and into the storm drain. MWRA staff performed a full facility inspection with MassDEP and participated in dye testing to verify that the catch basin did not connect to a combined sewer.

Another emergency response came in through the MWRA Operations Control Center (OCC) from a permitted frozen food processing facility that reported a release of sulfuric acid to the MWRA sewer. MWRA collected wastewater samples from two locations in the sewer downstream of the facility. Samples collected showed pH results lower than typical, demonstrating that the collection system was influenced by the release, but there was no impact to the collection system or to the DITP. The municipality was notified of the release.

A third investigation involved an anonymous complaint made to a municipality of an illicit discharge by a local business. MWRA initially conducted the investigation with representatives of the municipality and then additional state agencies were contacted. MWRA notified both the MassDEP and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) of the findings. MWRA followed up the initial inspection with another inspection with MassDEP. The investigations showed that the local business was improperly storing waste solids within its facility; that facility needed to have an oil water separator installed for the type of processes being conducted. This wastewater discharge was being dumped on MBTA property. MWRA subsequently issued a cease-and-desist order to the business. MassDEP is evaluating other regulatory actions.



Figure 3- Garage floor drain emptying into blocked manhole



Figure 4- Closeup of blocked manhole

MWRA will be presenting a case study on the MWRA's and MassDEP's response to this case at the annual New England Industrial Pretreatment Coordinators Conference this month in Nashua, New Hampshire. The case study may also be presented during the annual National Association of Clean Water Agencies Conference next spring.

Enforcement Program

During this year, the total number of SIUs in Significant Noncompliance¹ was 25, which is an increase from the 21 SIUs in FY25. In the last quarter of FY26, only 10 SIUs were in Significant Noncompliance.

In FY26, TRAC issued 231 Notices of Violations to industrial and commercial facilities, compared to 415 in FY25. This difference can primarily be attributed to the biennial dental compliance report

¹MWRA is required to annually update EPA regarding SIUs that meet EPA's definition of Significant Noncompliance. Each industrial user is evaluated for Significant Noncompliance four times during the year. MWRA evaluates each SIU based on discharge and reporting requirements.

that was due in FY25. A total of 32 other higher-level enforcement actions were issued in FY26 in response to a variety of persistent discharge and reporting violations, down from 57 higher-level enforcement actions in FY25. In FY26, TRAC identified 34 gas/oil separators requiring trap warning letters due to problems with maintenance or accessibility, compared to 11 in FY25.

TRAC assessed a total of \$0 in penalties and collected a total of \$0 in penalties in FY26 against permitted sewer users, compared to \$0 in penalties assessed and \$68,000 collected in FY25. The amount of penalties assessed and collected can vary significantly from year to year as a result of the timing of the penalty issuance, assessment of the penalty, resolution of any administrative appeal, and collection.

Program Cost Recovery

MWRA's Incentive and Other Charges Program continues to recover a substantial portion of MWRA's costs of inspecting, monitoring and permitting industrial sewer users. The total amount billed under the program in FY26 was \$3,064,127, a decrease from \$3,150,524 in FY25. As of September 2026, collections for FY26 bills were \$3,128,000 (compared to \$3,089,000 in FY25); over 100% recovery of the amount invoiced, which can be attributed to permittees paying FY25 fees in FY26 and finance charges collected on late payments.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACTS:

In FY26, the TRAC Department recovered \$3,128,000 or 53% of the Department's actual Current Expense Budget (CEB) spending of \$5,851,000 through Permit Charges. FY26 revenue of \$3,128,000 was a decrease of \$29,000 over FY25. This year included a 3.0% increase to the permitting and monitoring charges. The decrease in percent recovered from the Department's actual CEB spending is due to a reduction in the number of permittees due to companies going out of business as reflected in the decrease in the amount billed in FY26. In FY27, permitting and monitoring charges will increase by another 3.0%.

STAFF SUMMARY

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Stephen Estes-Smargiassi, Executive Director
DATE: October 21, 2026
SUBJECT: Cryogenic Facility Valve Replacement
Walsh Construction Company II, LLC
Contract 8150



COMMITTEE: Wastewater Policy and Oversight

 INFORMATION

 X VOTE



Michele S. Gillen

Director of Administration

Chad Whiting, Director, DITP
Richard Adams, Manager, DITP Engineering Services
John Riccio, Program Manager
Preparer/Title



Kathleen M. Murtagh, P.E.

Chief Operating Officer

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve the award of Contract 8150, Cryogenic Facility Valve Replacement, to the lowest responsive and eligible bidder, Walsh Construction Company II, LLC and to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute said contract in the bid amount of \$8,580,000 for a contract term of 900 calendar days from the Notice to Proceed.

DISCUSSION:

A critical element of Deer Island Treatment Plant's (DITP) wastewater treatment process is the introduction of oxygen into its secondary reactors. By generating high purity oxygen on-site, the facility significantly reduced the footprint of secondary treatment operations. DITP uses fractional distillation to produce 90-150 tons of Gaseous Oxygen (GOX) per day and up to 12 tons of Liquid Oxygen (LOX) per day, depending on operating parameters. The oxygen produced in this facility is essential for consistently meeting effluent permit requirements.



Figure 1 – Cryogenic Compressor Cooling Towers

Inside the oxygen generation facility, atmospheric air is compressed by one of four main air compressors (MAC) and chilled by one of three R-134 chiller trains. This chilling process condenses and removes moisture prior to the air entering the molecular sieves, which strip out



Figure 2 – Molecular Sieves and Cold Boxes

remaining carbon dioxide, hydrocarbons and moisture. The air is then cooled to sub-zero temperatures in one of two cold boxes, separating it into LOX, GOX and waste nitrogen. The resulting GOX flows to the secondary reactors to sustain the respiration of the microorganisms in the biological treatment process. Meanwhile, the LOX is directed to a 1,000-ton storage tank, where it can be vaporized using one of two shell-and-tube vaporizers. LOX storage is critical; it provides emergency back-up oxygen in the event the Oxygen Generation Facility goes offline due to power outage or interruption in air compression and enables demand response, reducing MWRA’s electrical costs and supporting grid stability.

The scope of work in Contract 8150 targets aging infrastructure within the oxygen generation system, including the replacement of original automated flow control valves that are nearing the end of their useful life. This scope of work also includes the internal inspection of the 1,000-ton LOX Storage Tank, which is regulated by the Office of the State Fire Marshall under 502 CMR 5.00 – *Permit and Inspection Requirements of Above Ground Storage Tanks of More Than Ten Thousand Gallons Capacity*. Additionally, the scope of work includes replacing four (4) Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC’s); one on each of the four main air compressors.

Procurement Process

Contract 8150 was advertised in the Central Register, the Boston Herald, El Mundo, Banner Publication, the Dorchester Reporter, and COMMBUYS and was bid utilizing MWRA’s e-procurement system (Event 6671-7) in accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 30. To encourage broader participation and competition, Authority staff proactively conducted outreach to multiple contractors capable of performing the scope of work. From these efforts, four bids were received and opened on August 14, 2026. The bid results are as follows:

Walsh Construction Company II, LLC	\$ 8,580,000
Methuen Construction Company	\$ 9,675,490
<i>Engineer’s Estimate</i>	<i>\$ 9,700,000</i>
Harding & Smith, LLC	\$10,763,368
WES Construction Corporation	\$15,705,000

The Authority interviewed the lowest responsible bidder, Walsh Construction Company II, LLC’s (Walsh) project management team, including the Chief Estimator, Project Manager, Construction Manager, and Business Group Leader, to evaluate their understanding of the bid documents and their ability to execute the scope of work for the amount bid. Following these discussions, it was determined that Walsh has a clear understanding of the scope of work and that its bid price includes all elements of the work.

Walsh's bid was \$1,120,000 (11.55%) below the Engineer's Estimate. The difference between the bid price and the Engineer's Estimate was related to, among other things, the means and methods of performing work within the LOX Storage Tank and lower materials costs. Walsh intends to perform the LOX Storage Tank inspection with a certified tank inspector utilizing the roof hatch for access and performing the inspection with a camera in lieu of the need to set up staging which significantly reduced the overall labor hours required to perform the internal tank inspection. The Engineer's Estimate anticipated a higher-effort approach requiring the erection of staging both outside and inside the LOX Storage Tank. In addition, Walsh carried a lower material cost for piping, valves, supports and insulation than the quotes received by staff while developing the Engineer's Estimate.



Figure 3 – LOX Storage Tank

Staff have determined the bid is complete, reasonable, and includes payment of prevailing wages. Reference checks for Walsh were performed and returned favorable results. Based on the foregoing, staff believe Walsh possesses the skill, ability, and integrity necessary to perform the work for the price bid.

Therefore, staff recommend awarding Contract 8150 to Walsh Construction Company II, LLC as the lowest responsible and eligible bidder.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACTS:

The FY27 CIP includes \$11,900,000 for Contract 8150. The award amount is \$8,580,000, or \$3,300,000 million below the budgeted CIP amount.

MBE/WBE PARTICIPATION:

The minimum MBE/WBE participation requirements established for this project are 7.24% and 3.6%, respectively. Despite Walsh's solicitation efforts, they fell short of both these goals achieving 0% MBE and 3.13% WBE participation. On August 19, 2026, Walsh submitted a full waiver request for MBE participation and a partial waiver request for WBE participation. Following a thorough review, the Authority's Affirmative Action and Compliance Unit determined that Walsh demonstrated due diligence in its attempts to meet the MBE/WBE participation goals and accepted both waiver requests.

STAFF SUMMARY

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Stephen Estes-Smargiassi, Executive Director
DATE: October 21, 2026
SUBJECT: Technical Assistance Consulting Services – Deer Island Treatment Plant
Contract 7981, Amendment 1
AECOM Technical Services, Inc.



COMMITTEE: Wastewater Policy & Oversight

 INFORMATION
 X VOTE

Chad A. Whiting, Director, Deer Island Treatment Plant
Richard J. Adams, Manager, Engineering Services
Preparer/Title


Kathleen M. Murtagh, P.E.
Chief Operating Officer

Deer Island Technical Assistance Contract 7981 (AECOM) is the one of three Contracts for which staff are requesting extensions of time for Board approval. No additional funding is required. The other two time-only extensions being proposed are Deer Island Technical Assistance Contract 7982 (CDM) and Deer Island Technical Assistance Contract 8018 (Hazen & Sawyer, P.C). These three contracts have ongoing projects, executed through task orders, that will extend beyond the current end dates of the contracts because construction of those projects is not yet complete. Staff are of the opinion that the on-board consultants' project teams are in the best position to complete the assigned projects in a timely and cost-effective manner rather than attempting to restart the process with a new consultant.

RECOMMENDATION:

To authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve Amendment 1 to Contract 7981, Technical Assistance Consulting Services – Deer Island Treatment Plant, with AECOM Technical Services, Inc. to extend the contract term by 40 months from December 1, 2026, to April 1, 2030, with no increase in contract value.

DISCUSSION:

On October 18, 2023, the Board approved Contract 7981 to AECOM Technical Services, Inc. for a three-year term in an amount not-to-exceed \$2,400,000. A Notice to Proceed was issued for this Contract effective December 1, 2023.

Contract 7981 is one of three technical assistance (TA) contracts for which staff are requesting an amendment. Over the past 28 years, MWRA has awarded many as-needed technical assistance contracts to supplement in-house staff on high priority or unanticipated projects for the Deer Island Treatment Plant and to provide expertise on short-term and/or high-priority assignments requiring specialized engineering disciplines that are not cost effective for MWRA to maintain on an in-house basis. The contracts may also provide Engineering Services During Construction (ESDC) and Resident Engineering/Inspection (RE/I) services. These technical assistance contracts provide for a wide variety of design and inspection services, including:

- professional services on high priority or unanticipated projects;
- professional smaller priority projects such as roof replacements and internal and external chemical tank inspections;
- professional services for equipment and process upgrades and repairs at the Deer Island Treatment Plant, Clinton Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Biosolids facility located in Quincy, Massachusetts; and
- ensuring adequate resources are available to quickly respond when emergency or unanticipated situations arise.

These contracts include resources to support several specialized engineering disciplines such as architecture, geotechnical, surveying, fire protection, control systems, chemical, corrosion and odor control, permitting, and security. The contracts are written to ensure that adequate resources are available to quickly and comprehensively respond to MWRA's needs, particularly when emergency or unanticipated situations arise.

The Deputy Chief Operating Officer is required to approve task orders up to and including \$50,000 and the Chief Operating Officer must approve any task order greater than \$50,000 up to and including \$100,000. When a Task Order greater than \$100,000 is needed, the Chief Operating Officer will confer with the Executive Director prior to approval.

Examples of projects already completed under Contract 7981 include:

- performed mechanical pipe stress analysis to ensure new buried chemical piping systems are supported and secured appropriately;
- performed mechanical pipe stress analysis to ensure the existing digester gas lines are supported and secured appropriately at the Clinton Wastewater Treatment Plant;
- performed a constructability review on the upcoming Contract 7052 Deer Island Residuals Facility Rehabilitation contract which included a project risk assessment; and
- performed a condition assessment on the internal and external above-ground storage tanks on Deer Island.

Recently, staff have been relying more heavily on the TA contracts to design capital projects due to low response rates to some RFQ/Ps for design projects, especially for project values under approximately \$2 million dollars. In addition, many projects performed under the TA contracts (which include permitting, design and construction), average over three years to complete. For many of these projects a three-year TA contract does not provide for sufficient time to complete the work. To keep the project work advancing and to complete projects already underway Staff are requesting time extensions for Contract 7981. This will prevent significant delays and additional costs associated with bringing aboard new consultants which will require Staff to bring them up to speed with projects already assigned.

This Amendment

The timing and scope of TA services required are not always predictable. In some instances, unforeseen project delays arise, and the projects assigned no longer coincide with the TA contract's expiration date. Staff are of the opinion that the on-board consultants' project team are in the best position to complete the assigned projects in a timely and cost-effective basis rather than attempting to restart the process with a new consultant.

This amendment will allow AECOM Technical Services, Inc. to complete projects that have been assigned that would otherwise not be completed by the original contract term. The following ongoing task orders can be completed within the requested time extension to the contract thereby maintaining the design-related knowledge and expertise from design through the construction phase:

- Motor Control Center (MCC) and Switchgear Replacement Design, ESDC, Limited RE/I
The consultant will complete the design and provide ESDC and limited RE/I services for the replacement of five low voltage MCC's located in the NMPS and Winthrop Terminal Facility and the replacement of two low voltage switchgears located in the Administration/Laboratory building on Deer Island. Construction is expected to be awarded in July 2027 and be completed in early 2030.
- Residuals Odor Control Roofing System Replacement Design, ESDC, Limited RE/I
The consultant has completed the design and will provide ESDC with limited RE/I services for the replacement of the roofing membrane system on the Residuals Odor Control building. Construction is expected to be awarded in December 2026 and be completed in early 2028.
- East Odor Control and NMPS Roofing System Replacement Design, ESDC, Limited RE/I
The consultant will complete the design and provide ESDC and limited RE/I services for the replacement of the East Odor Control building and on the older roof on the NMPS building. A construction contract is expected to be awarded in September 2027 with construction completed in early 2029.
- Biosolids Facility Sink Hole Investigation
The consultant will complete an investigation, perform a root cause analysis and propose remediation options to repair the sinkhole recently identified near the pier of the biosolids facility located in Quincy, Massachusetts. Study and Repair report expected in April 2027.

As of September 2026, \$1,617,670 or 67.4% of the total contract amount of \$2,400,000 has been committed to be executed and pending proposed task orders, including those listed above. In addition, staff have identified task orders with an estimated value of approximately \$400,000 that are important to move forward with over the next several months. In particular performing an assessment, technology review and locations for new dewatering lines serving the Primary and Secondary Clarifiers and the Residuals complex at Deer Island. There may be additional smaller projects assigned, but all will be completed within the requested contract time extension and will not exceed the current value of the contract.

Staff intend to pursue procurement of future Authority-wide TA contracts with greater values and longer contract terms before the end of the proposed time extension period.

CONTRACT SUMMARY:

	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>NTP</u>
Original Contract	\$2,400,000	36 Months	12/1/2023
Amendment 1:	<u>\$0</u>	<u>40 Months</u>	Pending
Amended Contract Amount:	\$2,400,000	76 Months	

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

Amendment 1 is for a time extension only and will have no budgetary impact.

MBE/WBE PARTICIPATION:

Due to the specialized and uncertain nature of this work, no minimum MBE or WBE participation requirements were established. However, AECOM Technical Services, Inc. proposed 5.17% WBE in its proposal.

STAFF SUMMARY

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Stephen Estes-Smargiassi, Executive Director
DATE: October 21, 2026
SUBJECT: Technical Assistance Consulting Services – Deer Island Treatment Plant
Contract 7982, Amendment 1
CDM Smith Inc.



COMMITTEE: Wastewater Policy & Oversight

 INFORMATION
 X VOTE

Chad A. Whiting, Director, Deer Island Treatment Plant
Richard J. Adams, Manager, Engineering Services
Preparer/Title


Kathleen M. Murtagh, P.E.
Chief Operating Officer

RECOMMENDATION:

To authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve Amendment 1 to Contract 7982, Technical Assistance Consulting Services – Deer Island Treatment Plant, with CDM Smith Inc. to extend the contract term by 37 months from December 1, 2026, to January 1, 2030, with no increase in contract value.

DISCUSSION:

On October 18, 2023, the Board approved Contract 7982 to CDM Smith Inc. for a three-year term in an amount not to exceed \$2,400,000. A Notice to Proceed was issued for this Contract effective December 1, 2023.

Contract 7982 is one of three technical assistance (TA) contracts for which staff are requesting an amendment. Over the past 28 years, MWRA has awarded many as-needed technical assistance contracts to supplement in-house staff on high priority or unanticipated projects for the Deer Island Treatment Plant and to provide expertise on short-term and/or high-priority assignments requiring specialized engineering disciplines that are not cost effective for MWRA to maintain on an in-house basis. The contracts may also provide Engineering Services During Construction (ESDC) and Resident Engineering/Inspection (RE/I) services. These technical assistance contracts provide for a wide variety of design and inspection services, including:

- professional services on high priority or unanticipated projects;
- professional services for smaller priority projects such as roof replacements and internal and external chemical tank inspections;
- professional services for equipment and process upgrades and repairs at the Deer Island Treatment Plant, Clinton Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Biosolids facility located in Quincy, Massachusetts; and
- ensuring adequate resources are available to quickly respond when emergency or unanticipated situations arise.

These contracts include resources to support several specialized engineering disciplines such as architecture, geotechnical, surveying, fire protection, control systems, chemical, corrosion and odor control, permitting, and security. The contracts are written to ensure that adequate resources are available to quickly and comprehensively respond to MWRA's needs, particularly when emergency or unanticipated situations arise.

The Deputy Chief Operating Officer is required to approve task orders up to and including \$50,000 and the Chief Operating Officer must approve any task order greater than \$50,000 up to and including \$100,000. When a Task Order greater than \$100,000 is needed, the Chief Operating Officer will confer with the Executive Director prior to approval.

- An example of a project already completed under Contract 7982 includes Clinton WWTP landfill survey and maintenance planning.

Recently, Staff have been relying more heavily on the TA contracts to design capital projects due to the frequent low response rate to some RFQ/Ps for design projects, especially for project values under approximately \$2 million dollars. In addition, many projects performed under the TA contracts (which include permitting, design and construction), average over three years to complete. For many of these projects a three-year TA contract does not provide for sufficient time to complete the work. To keep the project work advancing and to complete projects already underway Staff are requesting a time extension for Contract 7982. This will prevent significant delays and additional costs associated with bringing aboard new consultants that will require Staff to bring them up to speed with projects already assigned.

This Amendment

The timing and scope of TA services required are not always predictable and, in some instances, there are unforeseen project delays that arise and the projects assigned no longer coincide with the TA contract's expiration date. Staff are of the opinion that CDM's project team is in the best position to complete the assigned projects in a timely manner and using a cost-effective basis rather than attempting to restart the process with a new consultant.

This amendment will allow CDM Smith Inc. to complete projects that have been assigned that would otherwise not be completed by the original contract term. The following on-going task orders can be completed within the requested time extension to the contract thereby maintaining the design-related knowledge and expertise from design through the construction phase.

- DITP Reception Training Building Window and Door Replacement Design, ESDC, Limited RE/I
The consultant is currently 90% complete with the design documents and will also provide ESDC with limited RE/I services during the construction phase for the replacement of 100+ windows and eight exterior doors. The design will also include modifications to the north entrance ramp to ensure it is ADA compliant. Construction is expected to be awarded in April 2027 and be completed in late 2028.
- Clinton WWTP Decommissioning of the Equalizer Tank Design, ESDC, RE/I services REI Services

The consultant will complete the design and provide ESDC and RE/I services for the decommissioning of the existing underground Equalizer tank which is not in service. Construction is expected to be awarded in October 2027 and be completed in late 2029.

- Clinton WWTP Landfill No. 4 Concept Design
The consultant will perform a concept design that will be used as the basis for a future design expanding the existing landfill at the Clinton WWTP to include a fourth cell (there are presently three cells at this location). Concept design will include determining permitting requirements and is expected to be completed in July 2027.
- CIP Support Services
The consultant is providing support services to assist staff in the development of a strategy, schedule and prioritization of future CIP projects in the upcoming years. Services will also include Contractor outreach and the development of project controls. Deliverables are expected to be completed and delivered in early 2027.

As of September 2026, approximately \$1,279,326 or 53.3% of the total contract amount of \$2,400,000 has been committed to be executed and/or pending proposed task orders, including those listed above.

There may be additional smaller projects assigned, but all will be completed within the requested contract time extension and will not exceed the current value of the contract.

Staff will pursue procurement of future Authority-wide TA contracts with greater values and longer contract terms before the end of the proposed time extension period.

CONTRACT SUMMARY:

	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>NTP</u>
Original Contract	\$2,400,000	36 Months	12/1/2023
Amendment 1:	<u>\$0</u>	<u>37 Months</u>	Pending
Amended Contract Amount:	\$2,400,000	73 Months	

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

Amendment 1 is for a time extension only and will have no budgetary impact.

MBE/WBE PARTICIPATION:

Due to the specialized and uncertain nature of this work, no minimum MBE or WBE participation requirements were established. However, CDM Smith Inc. proposed 10% MBE participation in its proposal.

STAFF SUMMARY

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Stephen Estes-Smargiassi, Executive Director
DATE: October 21, 2026
SUBJECT: Technical Assistance Consulting Services – Deer Island Treatment Plant
Contract 8018, Amendment 1
Hazen and Sawyer, P.C.



COMMITTEE: Wastewater Policy & Oversight

 INFORMATION
 X VOTE

Chad A. Whiting, Director, Deer Island Treatment Plant
Richard J. Adams, Manager, Engineering Services
Preparer/Title


Kathleen M. Murtagh, P.E.
Chief Operating Officer

RECOMMENDATION:

To authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve Amendment 1 to Contract 8018, Technical Assistance Consulting Services – Deer Island Treatment Plant, with Hazen and Sawyer, P.C. to extend the contract term by 48 months from December 1, 2026, to December 1, 2030 with no increase in contract value.

DISCUSSION:

On October 18, 2023, the Board approved Contract 8018 to Hazen and Sawyer, P.C. for a three-year term in an amount not-to-exceed \$2,400,000. A Notice to Proceed was issued for this Contract effective December 1, 2023.

Contract 8018 is one of three technical assistance (TA) contracts for which staff are requesting an amendment. Over the past 28 years, MWRA has awarded many as-needed technical assistance contracts to supplement in-house staff on high priority or unanticipated projects for the Deer Island Treatment Plant and to provide expertise on short-term high-priority assignments requiring specialized engineering disciplines that are not cost effective for MWRA to maintain on an in-house basis. The contracts may also provide Engineering Services During Construction (ESDC) and Resident Engineering/Inspection (RE/I) services. These technical assistance contracts provide for a wide variety of design and inspection services, including:

- professional services on high priority or unanticipated projects;
- professional services for smaller priority projects such as roof replacements and internal and external chemical tank inspections;
- professional services for equipment and process upgrades and repairs at the Deer Island Treatment Plant, Clinton Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Biosolids facility located in Quincy, Massachusetts; and
- ensuring adequate resources are available to quickly respond when emergency or unanticipated situations arise.

These contracts include resources to support several specialized engineering disciplines such as architecture, geotechnical, surveying, fire protection, control systems, chemical, corrosion and odor control, permitting, and security. The contracts are written to ensure that adequate resources are available to quickly and comprehensively respond to MWRA's needs, particularly when emergency or unanticipated situations arise.

The Deputy Chief Operating Officer is required to approve task orders up to and including \$50,000 and the Chief Operating Officer must approve any task order greater than \$50,000 up to and including \$100,000. When a Task Order greater than \$100,000 is needed, the Chief Operating Officer will confer with the Executive Director prior to approval.

Examples of projects already completed under Contract 8018 include:

- DITP Roofing Replacements, Various buildings;
- Biosolids Facility Equipment Replacement Filed Investigation and development of the Revit Model;
- DITP Hydro Turbine Replacement Feasibility Study and; and
- DITP Wind Turbine Replacement Marketplace Evaluation.

Recently, Staff are relying more heavily on the TA contracts to design capital projects due to the frequent low response rate to RFQ/Ps for design projects, especially for project values under approximately \$2 million dollars. In addition, many projects performed under the TA contracts (which include permitting, design and construction), average over three years to complete. For many of these projects a three-year TA contract does not provide for sufficient time to complete the work. To keep the project work advancing and to complete projects already underway Staff are requesting a time extension for Contract 8018. This will prevent significant delays and additional costs associated with bringing aboard new consultants which will require Staff to bring them up to speed with projects already assigned.

This Amendment

The timing and scope of TA services required are not always predictable and, in some instances, there are unforeseen project delays that arise and the projects assigned no longer coincide with the TA contract's expiration date. Staff are of the opinion that Hazen & Sawyer's project team is in the best position to complete the assigned projects in a timely manner and using a cost-effective basis rather than attempting to restart the process with a new consultant.

This amendment will allow Hazen and Sawyer, P.C. to complete projects that have been assigned that would otherwise not be completed by the original contract term. The following on-going task orders can be completed within the requested time extension to the contract thereby maintaining the design-related knowledge and expertise from design through the construction phase.

- DITP Dystor Gas Tank Geodome Replacement Design, ESDC, Limited RE/I services REI Services The consultant is currently 90% complete with the design documents and will provide ESDC with limited RE/I services during the construction phase for the replacement of the two Dystor Gas Tank Geodome membranes. Construction is expected to be awarded in April 2027 and be completed in July 2028.

- Biosolids Facility Equipment Replacement Phase 2 Design, ESDC and Limited RE/I services REI Services
The consultant will complete the design and provide ESDC and limited RE/I Services for the various mechanical, electrical and controls for process related equipment. Construction is expected to be awarded in October 2027 and be completed in late 2030.
- Deer Island Wind Turbine Replacement Design and ESDC
The consultant completed the design to replace the damaged Wind Turbine No 1 and the construction package was awarded by the Board on December 10, 2025. Construction is expected to be completed by February 2027.
- DITP Restroom Upgrade
The consultant will complete the design and provide ESDC and limited RE/I Services for the restroom upgrades on the third and fourth floor of the Administration/Laboratory Building. Construction is expected to be awarded in October 2027 and be completed in late 2028.

As of September 2026, approximately \$2,168,388 or 90.3% of the total contract amount of \$2,400,000 has been committed to by executed and/or pending proposed task orders, including those listed above. There may be additional smaller projects assigned, but all will be completed within the requested contract time extension and will not exceed the current value of the contract.

Staff intend to pursue procurement of future Authority-wide TA contracts with greater values and longer contract terms before the end of the proposed time extension period.

CONTRACT SUMMARY:

	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>NTP</u>
Original Contract	\$2,400,000	36 Months	12/1/2023
Amendment 1:	<u>\$0</u>	<u>48 Months</u>	Pending
Amended Contract Amount:	\$2,400,000	84 Months	

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

Amendment 1 is for a time extension only and will have no budgetary impact.

MBE/WBE PARTICIPATION:

Due to the specialized and uncertain nature of this work, no minimum MBE or WBE participation requirements were established. However, CDM Smith Inc. proposed 1.5% MBE and 3% WBE in its proposal.

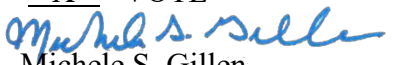
STAFF SUMMARY

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Stephen Estes-Smargiassi, Executive Director
DATE: October 21, 2026
SUBJECT: October 2026 PCR Amendments

COMMITTEE: Personnel and Compensation

Wendy Chu, Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer
Preparer/Title

 INFORMATION
 X VOTE


Michele S. Gillen
Director, Administration

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve amendments to the Position Control Register included in the attached chart.

DISCUSSION:

The Position Control Register (PCR) lists all positions of the Authority, filled and vacant. It is updated as changes occur and published at the end of each month. Any changes to positions during the year are proposed as amendments to the PCR. All amendments to the PCR, except those resulting only in a change in title or cost center, must be approved by the Personnel and Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors. All amendments resulting in an upgrade of a position by more than one grade level, and/or an increase in annual cost by \$10,000 or more must be approved by the Board of Directors after review by the Personnel and Compensation Committee.

October 2026 PCR Amendments

There are three PCR Amendments this month.

Organizational Changes:

1. Creation of one Security Services Coordinator (Deer Island), position in the Executive Division, Security Department (Unit 6F, Grade 10) to meet department needs.
2. Title and grade change to one filled position in the Executive Division, Security Department from a Manager, Security Services (Unit 6F, Grade 12) to Senior Program Manager, Security Services (Unit 6F, Grade 13) per union agreement.
3. Creation of one Senior Program Manager, Operations (Wastewater) position in the Operations Division, Wastewater Transport Department (Unit 9, Grade 30) to meet department needs.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

The annualized budget impact of the PCR amendments will be a maximum cost of \$317,287. Staff will ensure that the costs associated with the PCR amendment will not result in spending over the approved FY27 Budget.

ATTACHMENTS:

Job Descriptions

MASSACHUSETTS WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY

POSITION CONTROL REGISTER AMENDMENTS

[illegible]

PCR AMENDMENTS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL - October 21, 2026

[illegible]

**MWRA
POSITION DESCRIPTION**

POSITION: Security Services Coordinator (Deer Island)

DIVISION: Executive

DEPARTMENT: Security

BASIC PURPOSE:

Oversees and coordinates MWRA Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Plant (DITP) physical security systems and access control procedures to ensure operations continuity and safety and security of personnel, property and equipment.

Oversees DITP security guard services including 24/7 intrusion alarm monitoring by security guards and responds to security incidents.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED:

Works under the general supervision of the Senior Program Manager, Security Services.

SUPERVISION EXERCISED:

Supervises DITP security guard services including 24/7 intrusion alarm monitoring by security guards and responds to security incidents.

In the absence of the Senior Program Manager, Security Services, and/or Senior Program Manager Cybersecurity may provide guidance to the Security Assistant and Security Specialist as needed.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Updates and administers operating/maintenance standards, policies and standard operating procedures (SOP) for security, locks, key control, intrusion, motion detections devices and other systems and activities relating to facility access and physical security at DITP.
- Manages the DITP private security personnel and supports the activities of private security contractors in coordination with the MWRA Security Services Coordinator and Manager of Physical Security.
- Manages DITP ID badging, for employees, visitors, and contractors.
- Collaborates with DITP Operations to ensure compliance with security requirements for all public tours.
- Manages the DITP parking and vehicle database.
- Develops, reviews and updates an audit program to ensure that DITP meets MWRA security standards and provides a secure working environment.

- Manages the DITP Physical Security systems and access control procedures to ensure operation continuity and to ensure the safety and security of personnel, property and equipment.
- Reviews performance of DITP's electronic security systems and assesses the need for system updates.
- Assists with the selection and implementation of updated electronic security systems.
- Conducts risk assessments and evaluates alternatives for mitigating vulnerabilities including physical hardening improvements, use of technology, and changes in policies and procedures.
- Assists Human Resources as needed with any security concerns involving DITP investigations.
- Collaborates with the DITP Occupational Health and Safety Program personnel to assist with updates and training exercises with respect to Evacuation Training, Security and Integrated Contingency Plan (ICP) awareness.
- Works in close coordination with DITP Operations and Construction and Engineering staff to coordinate the secure on-boarding and access of construction contractors at DITP.
- Serves as the primary investigator for any Deer Island security events involving Contractors (As long as there is no known MWRA employee involvement).
- Manages Card access, including producing identification access cards for DITP Contractors.
- Communicates with outside public safety agencies regarding the MWRA's security operations at DITP.

SECONDARY DUTIES:

- Performs related duties as required.
- Option to serve as member of the DITP Emergency Response Team (ERT) and as an emergency responder.
- Supports the Security Department's efforts at all MWRA facilities and assets as needed.
- May respond to any other MWRA asset or facility if needed to handle a security matter.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Education and Experience:

- (A) Bachelor's degree required preferably in Criminal Justice, Homeland Security, Security Management, Global Security, or Security and Risk Analysis; and
- (B) At least three (3) years of professional physical security, investigations, and/or law enforcement experience; or

- (C) Any equivalent combination of education and experience.

Necessary Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- (A) Excellent interpersonal, written, and oral communications skills.
- (B) Competency utilizing Microsoft Office products such as Outlook, Word, and Excel.
- (C) Working knowledge of access management, intrusion alarm and video surveillance software, preferred.
- (D) Demonstrated interpersonal, written and oral communication skills.
- (E) Understanding of physical security concepts and incident investigations as may be obtained in law enforcement, military or public safety related fields.
- (F) Ability to maintain confidentiality and exercise discretion and tact in sensitive matters.
- (G) Ability to plan, organize, direct, train and assign duties to subordinates.
- (H) Must be available to be part of 24/7 on-call rotation for security incident response.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Valid Massachusetts Class D Motor Vehicle Operator's license or driver's license from another state.

Participates in weekend/holiday/off-hours on-call coverage to support the Authority in any Security matters.

May be required to report to work at any time should an emergency situation occur.

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT USED:

Hand tools, mobile radio, telephone, beeper, personal computer including word processing and other software, copy and fax machine.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodation may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to use hands to finger, handle, feel or operate objects, tools, or controls and reach with hands and arms. The employee occasionally is required to sit, stand and walk. The employee is frequently required to climb or balance; stoop, kneel, crouch, or crawl; taste or smell.

The employee must frequently lift and/or move up to 10 pounds and occasionally lift and/or move up to 25 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, distance, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus.

WORK ENVIRONMENT:

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee regularly works in an office environment. The employee occasionally works in outside weather conditions. The employee occasionally works near moving mechanical parts and is occasionally exposed to wet and/or humid conditions and vibration. The employee occasionally, precarious places and is occasionally exposed to fumes or airborne particles, toxic or caustic chemicals, and risk of electrical shock.

The noise level in the work environment is usually loud in field settings, and moderately quiet in office settings.

October 2026

**MWRA
POSITION DESCRIPTION**

POSITION: Manager, Security Services

DIVISION: Executive

DEPARTMENT: Security and Emergency Response

BASIC PURPOSE:

Oversees and coordinates MWRA physical security systems and access control procedures to ensure operations continuity and safety and security of personnel, property and equipment. Oversees security guard services including 24/7 intrusion alarm monitoring by security guards and responds to security incidents.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED:

Reports to the Director, Security and Emergency Response.

SUPERVISION EXERCISED:

Exercises direct supervision of Security Specialist and Administrative Systems Coordinator in the absence of the Director as well as 3rd party security guard and security system maintenance contractor's staff and other contract resources as needed.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Maintains access control plans for MWRA facilities including implementation of electronic security and key control strategies. Coordinates with Operations and Procurement to acquire, install, and maintain security equipment. Assists in developing access control plans as needed.
- Oversees the security badge entrance system. Ensures access rights (badges and keys) are granted for new MWRA employees and revoked for those restricted or who have left employment.
- Develops, updates and administers operating/maintenance standards, policies and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for security, locks and key control, intrusion and motion detection devices, fire alarms, cameras, video-cameras, and other systems and activities relating to facility access.
- Develops and oversees maintenance contracts for electronic security equipment. Serves as the liaison to various site and facility supervisors regarding proper maintenance and

operation of electronic security equipment.

- Ensures staff schedule fire alarm inspections by local fire department and electrical inspectors. Approves orders for related equipment. Evaluates staff service recommendations and reviews reports on facility fire alarms.
- Reviews performance of electronic security systems and assesses the need for system updates. Oversees procurement and installation of updated electronic security systems.
- Working with the Procurement department, oversees the procurement contracts for private security personnel. Administers contracts for private security personnel and oversees the activities of private security contractors.
- Responds to security incidents, documents the occurrence, and recommends corrective measures. Conducts confidential investigations.
- Provides support to Human Resources and seniors managers on investigations involving MWRA employees.
- Acts as a liaison to federal, state, and local law enforcement and emergency preparedness authorities including Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Collaborates with these agencies regarding responses to security threats, logistical support, jurisdictional issues, and security enhancement tactics.
- Conducts risk assessments and evaluates alternatives for mitigating vulnerabilities including physical hardening improvements, use of technology, and changes in policies and procedures.
- Serves as a member of the MWRA Security Task Force. Approved for access to Security-Most Sensitive documents.
- Audits MWRA facilities to ensure compliance with MWRA security standards and provides a secure working environment.
- Notifies MWRA Occupational Health and Safety Department of any hazardous conditions. Coordinates with Occupational Health and Safety Department on security/safety matters as needed.
- Coordinates with Emergency Planning to assure that security staff are appropriately trained on all MWRA emergency response plans; reviews and provides input on emergency response plans.
- Oversees the tracking and implementation of recommendations for improvement based

on the audit findings including monitoring performance against operational needs and requests.

- Assists managers and the Training Unit with development and delivery of security-related training.
- Delivers training at new employee orientation session which covers workplace security and the active shooter video.
- Communicates with outside public safety agencies regarding the MWRA's security operations.
- Retrieves and reviews documents as needed. Develops spreadsheets and compiles contract information. Prepares reports and communications necessary to carry out the activities of the Authority's security program. Gathers, analyzes, and prepares information and data to be presented to the Executive Office and Senior Managers.
- Develops and maintains tracking logs for security incidents and the access systems, audits the quality of the data and ensures its timely update.

SECONDARY DUTIES:

Performs related duties as required.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Education and Experience:

- (A) A four (4) year college degree in business administration, public administration, criminal justice, or a related field; and
- (B) Five (5) to Seven (7) years of public sector administration required, including at least (1) one year of supervisory experience. Experience in contract administration, alarm response, and physical security systems preferred; or
- (C) Any equivalent combination of education or experience.

Necessary Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- (A) Demonstrated knowledge and skills in structuring, analyzing and presenting data.
- (B) Working knowledge of database management.
- (C) Strong technical project management and organizational skills, previous experience with

manual and automated document tracking is preferred.

- (D) Demonstrated interpersonal, written and oral communication skills.
- (E) Understanding of physical security concepts and incident investigations as may be obtained in law enforcement, military or public safety related fields.
- (F) Ability to maintain confidentiality and exercise discretion and tact in sensitive matters.
- (G) Ability to plan, organize, direct, train and assign duties to subordinates.
- (H) Must be available to be part of 24/7 on-call rotation for security incident response.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Valid Massachusetts Class D Motor Vehicle Operator's license required.

Participates in the Security on-call rotation.

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT USED:

Office machines as normally associated with the use of telephone, personal computer, including word processing and other software, copy and fax machine.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

The physical demands described are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of the job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is required to sit, talk or hear. The employee is frequently required to use hands to finger, handle or operate objects including office equipment, controls and reach with hands and arms. The employee is occasionally required to stand and walk.

The employee may frequently be required to lift and/or move up to 10 pounds and occasionally lift and/or move up to 50 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision and the ability to focus.

WORK ENVIRONMENT:

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job.

While performing the duties of this job the employee regularly works in an office environment.

The employee occasionally works in outside weather conditions and at remote field sites and facilities that are industrial in nature.

The noise level in the work environment is a moderately quiet in office setting and frequently loud at remote facilities.

November 2019

**MWRA
POSITION DESCRIPTION**

POSITION: Senior Program Manager, Security Services

DIVISION: Executive

DEPARTMENT: Security Department

BASIC PURPOSE:

Oversees and manages MWRA physical security systems and access control procedures to ensure operations continuity and safety and security of personnel, property and equipment. Oversees security guard services including 24/7 intrusion alarm monitoring by security guards and responds to security incidents. Conducts confidential investigations and participates in strategic planning to ensure the Authority has maximum protection and minimal vulnerability as the challenges/potential threats grow in the public sector. Reviews the security posture at all MWRA facilities to ensure the best possible protection and safeguards are implemented and followed.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED:

Reports to the Director of Security.

SUPERVISION EXERCISED:

Exercises direct supervision of Security Coordinator and Deer Island Security Department personnel.

in the absence of the Director, exercises direct supervision of the Security Specialist, Senior Program Manager Cybersecurity, and Security Assistant.

Supervises third party security guard and security system maintenance contractor's staff and other contract resources as needed.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Maintains access control plans for all MWRA facilities including implementation of electronic security and key control strategies. Coordinates with Operations and Procurement to acquire, install, and maintain security equipment.
- Oversees the security badge access control system. Ensures security staff award the correct access rights (badges and keys) for new MWRA employees and contractors and ensures timely revocation of access for those restricted or who have left employment.
- Develops, updates and administers operating/maintenance standards, policies and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for security, locks and key control, intrusion and motion detection devices, fire alarms, cameras, video-cameras, and other systems and activities relating to facility access.
- Develops and oversees maintenance contracts for electronic security equipment. Serves as the liaison to various site and facility supervisors regarding proper maintenance and operation of electronic security equipment.
- Reviews all significant security incidents and events determining if improvements need to be made to procedures, video camera coverage, alarms, and/or barriers.

- Reviews performance of electronic security systems and assesses the need for system updates. Oversees procurement and installation of updated electronic security systems.
- Working with the Procurement department, oversees the procurement contracts for private security personnel. Administers contracts for private security personnel and oversees the activities of private security contractors.
- Responds to security incident including after hours, documents the occurrence, and recommends corrective measures.
- Organizes, plans and distributes the Security Department's On-Call rotation schedule to requisite personnel.
- Provides complex strategic analysis, factfinding and data interpretation for Human Resources and senior managers on investigations involving MWRA employees.
- Serves as SecD primary investigator for any sensitive security investigations not handled by Human Resources such as property damage, theft, incidents involving trespassers, visitors, or the general public.
- Acts as a key liaison to federal, state, and local law enforcement and emergency preparedness authorities including Massachusetts State Police, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Collaborates with these agencies regarding responses to security threats, logistical support, jurisdictional issues, and security enhancement tactics.
- Communicates with all other outside public safety agencies regarding the MWRA's security operations.
- Can serve as MWRA's primary tactical liaison with law enforcement, investigative and regulatory agencies during special events such as accidents, spills, pipe breaks, etc or in critical unexpected events and emergencies.
- Conducts risk assessments and evaluates alternatives for mitigating vulnerabilities including physical hardening improvements, use of technology, and changes in policies and procedures for all MWRA facilities.
- Serves as a member of the MWRA Security Task Force. Approved for access to Security-Most Sensitive documents.
- Audits all MWRA facilities to ensure compliance with MWRA security standards and provides a secure working environment.
- Oversees the tracking and implementation of recommendations for improvement based on the audit findings including monitoring performance against operational needs and requests.
- Notifies MWRA Occupational Health and Safety Department of any hazardous conditions. Coordinates with Occupational Health and Safety Department on security/safety matters as needed.

- Coordinates with Emergency Planning unit to assure that security staff are appropriately trained on all MWRA emergency response plans; reviews and provides input on emergency response plans.
- Communicates with appropriate MWRA Operations Department personnel regarding security incidents and potential improvements.
- Serves as subject matter expert and resource for Training Unit with curriculum development and delivery of security-related training for employees and contractors.
- Delivers training at new employee orientation session and presents at contractor sessions which covers the importance of workplace security and the active threat considerations..
- Works proactively with managers in the Engineering and Construction department during the design phase and throughout the projects to add or improve security capabilities for MWRA projects.
- Retrieves and reviews security documents as needed. Develop spreadsheets and compiles contract information. Prepares reports and communications as necessary to carry out the activities of the Authority's security program. Gathers, analyzes, and prepares information and data to be presented to the Executive Office and Senior Managers.
- Develops and maintains tracking logs for security incidents and access systems, audits the quality of the data and ensures its timely update.
- Develops and delivers training for the: contractor security orientation.
- Manages MWRA ID badging and visitor systems.
- Assists with the planning, coordination and logistics of special events to ensure MWRA employee and visitor security

SECONDARY DUTIES:

Performs related duties as required.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Education and Experience:

- (A) A Bachelor's degree in business administration, public administration, criminal justice, or a related field; and
- (B) At least seven (7) years of security administration preferably in the public sector including at least two (2) years of supervisory experience. Experience in contract administration, alarm response, and physical security systems; or
- (C) Any equivalent combination of education or experience.

Necessary Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- (A) Demonstrated knowledge and skills in structuring, analyzing and presenting data.
- (B) Working knowledge of database management.
- (C) Strong technical project management and organizational skills, previous experience with manual and automated document tracking is preferred.
- (D) Demonstrated interpersonal, written and oral communication skills.
- (E) Understanding of physical security concepts and incident investigations as may be obtained in law enforcement, military or public safety related fields.
- (F) Ability to maintain confidentiality and exercise discretion and tact in sensitive matters.
- (G) Ability to plan, organize, direct, train and assign duties to subordinates.
- (H) Must be available to be part of 24/7 on-call rotation for security incident response.
- (I) Ability to build rapport and proactively form and maintain positive working relationships with outside local, county, state, and regional government agencies and public safety organizations.
- (J) Ability to use good judgment and perform complex investigations of workplace incidents often under tight time constraints.
- (K) Ability to make effective decisions in a rapidly changing environment.
- (L) Ability to determine what needs to be escalated to Director or other executive team managers, especially during a crisis or emergency.
- (M) Ability to stay current with trends and risks in the ever-changing public safety/security field.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Valid Massachusetts Class D Motor Vehicle Operator's license or driver's license from another state required.

Participates in the Security on-call rotation for night and weekend coverage.

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT USED:

Office machines as normally associated with a professional office environment, including the use of telephones, personal computers, typical office software, email, videoconference applications, copiers, scanners, and fax machines.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

The physical demands described are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of the job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is required to sit, talk or hear. The employee is frequently required to use hands to finger, handle or operate objects including office equipment, controls and reach with hands and arms. The employee is occasionally required to stand and walk.

The employee may frequently be required to lift and/or move up to 10 pounds and occasionally lift and/or move up to 50 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision and the ability to focus.

WORK ENVIRONMENT:

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job.

While performing the duties of this job the employee regularly works in an office environment. The employee occasionally works in outside weather conditions and at remote field sites and facilities that are industrial in nature.

The noise level in the work environment is moderately quiet in office setting and frequently loud at remote facilities. Position may be eligible to telework up to two days per week.

October 2026

**MWRA
POSITION DESCRIPTION**

POSITION: Senior Program Manager, Operations (Wastewater)

DIVISION: Operations

DEPARTMENT: Wastewater Operations

BASIC PURPOSE:

Oversees the 24-hour operations of wastewater operations facilities including wastewater pumping stations, combined sewer overflow facilities, and headworks facilities. Directs the shift operations activities of assigned personnel to ensure efficient and effective operation of all wastewater facilities to optimize performance and meet permit requirements. Provides operations personnel with needed resources and support.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED:

Works under the general supervision of the Director, Wastewater Operations and Maintenance or Manager, Operations (Wastewater).

SUPERVISION EXERCISED:

Exercises general supervision of the Program Manager and Operations Supervisors.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Oversees the twenty-four (24) hour operations of all wastewater facilities under the control of the Wastewater Operations Control Center (OCC).
- Ensures proper readiness, staffing and operation of all wastewater facilities during wet weather events. Responsible for creating and implementing wet weather staffing plans, and participating in management's storm coverage rotation.
- Coordinates with Operations Engineering staff on all wastewater pumping stations, Combined Sewer Overflow facility (CSO), and headworks facilities to optimize operations for proper treatment and flow control. Monitors facility flow control performance and identifies process control deficiencies.
- Updates operational procedures in accordance with control strategies. Works with SCADA and Operations Engineering staff to implement the wastewater facility SCADA changes.
- Works with MIS staff and Director, Wastewater Operations and Maintenance to establish priorities and ensure responsive computer systems and scanner hardware/software.

- Coordinates with the Maintenance Department and establishes priorities to assure successful facility operation.
- Plays an active role in capital project design, construction, and startup activities. Participates in the preparation of performance certification criteria and evaluation reports.
- Administers operational records and procedures required for all twenty-four (24) hour Wastewater Transport facilities.
- Oversees personnel management for the department. Ensures that major initiative and policy changes are properly communicated to all staff. Identifies organizational needs and makes recommendations to Director, Wastewater Operations and Maintenance to address changing needs.
- Collaborates with the Manager, Training and Development to provide opportunities for technical, supervisory and managerial training and education for all Wastewater Operations employees.
- Oversees staff productivity monitoring and continual improvement through staff skills development, strategic planning, standard operating procedures (SOP) improvements and research, and implementation of technology advances. Maximizes effective use of the Maximo maintenance software and related computer programs.
- Manages the department's safety programs, maximizing employee involvement, supporting the Authority-wide safety program, and making inspections. Acts as liaison to the Manager, Occupational Safety and Health. Immediately notifies Occupational Safety and Health of any safety issues or risks that need attention.
- Oversees periodic review, and updating of SOPs and Facility Operations and Maintenance (O&M) manuals, and ensures all staff are properly trained.
- Assists with budget management for Wastewater Transport.
- Establishes emergency response procedures and oversees training and practice drills.
- Ensures consistency and uniformity of work rules in accordance with established policies and procedures. Identifies needed improvements to work practices.
- Mentors and guides junior employee performance and morale.
- Supports and participates in MWRA recruiting efforts.

SECONDARY DUTIES:

- Performs related duties as required.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Education and Experience:

- (A) A Bachelor's degree in civil or environmental engineering, or related field; and
- (B) Thorough knowledge of planning, operations and maintenance of wastewater utilities as normally acquired through at least eight (8) years of experience in a wastewater facility, of which a minimum of four (4) years must be in a management or supervisory capacity; and
- (C) Experience in operating large wastewater facilities preferred; or
- (D) Any equivalent combination of education or experience.

Necessary Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- (A) Excellent working knowledge of the operation and maintenance of a large metropolitan sewer system.
- (B) Excellent interpersonal, written and oral communication skills.
- (C) Demonstrated ability to plan, organize, direct, train and assign duties to subordinates.
- (D) Demonstrated successful experience managing in a union environment with a diverse workforce.
- (E) Proficient in the use of personal computers and associated Microsoft Office Suite programs, databases, data presentation & analysis tools.
- (F) Working knowledge of SCADA and of computerized maintenance management systems and procedures. Knowledge of statistical process control and work process continuous improvement preferred.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Is required to be part of an on-call rotation for emergencies and wet weather 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

A valid Massachusetts Class D Motor Vehicle Operator's license or equivalent license from another state.

A Massachusetts Grade IV Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator's license.

A Massachusetts Grade IV Wastewater Collection Systems Operator Certification (or the ability to obtain within one year of appointment).

Registered Professional Engineer (P.E.) is preferred.

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT USED:

Office machines as normally associated with a professional office environment, including the use of telephones, personal computers, word processing and other software, email, videoconference applications, copiers, scanners and fax machines.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to use hands to finger, handle, feel or operate objects, including office equipment or controls and reach with hands and arms. The employee frequently is required to sit and talk or hear. The employee is occasionally required to stand and walk; climb or balance; stoop, kneel, crouch, or crawl; taste or smell.

The employee must frequently lift and/or move up to 10 pounds, occasionally lift/or move up to 25 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, distance vision, depth perception and the ability to adjust focus.

WORK ENVIRONMENT:

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee regularly work in an office environment. The employee occasionally exposed to outdoor weather conditions. The employee is occasionally exposed to fumes and airborne particles.

The noise level in the work environment is a moderately quiet in office setting.

October 2026

October 1, 2026

Rebecca Tepper, Chair
Board of Directors
Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
2 Griffin Way
Chelsea, MA 02150

RE: Formal Objection – Draft Updated CSO Control Plan and Proposed Cost Allocation

Dear Secretary and Chair Tepper:

I am writing as a resident and taxpayer of Norwood, Massachusetts, to express my strong opposition to the proposed \$1.3 billion Draft Updated Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Plan, particularly the proposed allocation of 60% of the project costs to the broader MWRA regional system.

I emphatically disagree with imposing such a substantial financial burden on Norwood ratepayers for infrastructure improvements located primarily in Cambridge and Somerville, from which our community will receive no direct local infrastructure improvements.

According to the estimates presented by the Norwood Board of Selectmen, Norwood's share of the proposed financing would amount to approximately **\$36 million over the debt-service period**. This is an extraordinary obligation to impose on a community that has no combined sewer overflow facilities of its own and will receive little direct benefit from the proposed construction.

I recognize the importance of protecting our regional waterways and addressing environmental concerns associated with combined sewer overflows. However, environmental responsibility must be accompanied by fiscal responsibility and an equitable distribution of costs among the communities involved.

Of particular concern is the dramatic escalation in the project's estimated cost. The October 2025 draft contemplated an expenditure of approximately \$870 million. The April 2026 proposal increased that figure to \$1.3 billion—an increase exceeding \$400 million in just six months.

Compounding this increase is a revised cost-sharing arrangement that, according to the Norwood Board of Selectmen, would place nearly 90% of the additional financial burden on MWRA wastewater communities, while Cambridge and Somerville would experience comparatively modest increases.

I find this allocation fundamentally inequitable and unacceptable.

Norwood residents already bear the costs of maintaining our own municipal infrastructure, funding essential public services, and meeting our existing obligations to the MWRA. Adding tens of millions of dollars in debt service for improvements outside our community places further pressure on local water and sewer rates and, ultimately, on the residents and businesses who must pay them.

Furthermore, I am concerned that committing such substantial regional resources to this project could compromise the MWRA's ability to fund other critical capital improvements that directly benefit all member communities, including the continued reliable operation of the Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Plant.

I respectfully urge the MWRA Board of Directors to reconsider the current proposal and give serious consideration to the following:

1. Reevaluate the previously proposed \$870 million CSO Control Plan and other less costly alternatives, with particular attention to the additional environmental benefits achieved relative to their substantially higher costs.
2. Renegotiate the proposed cost-sharing arrangement with Cambridge and Somerville to ensure that the communities receiving the most direct infrastructure benefits assume a more equitable share of the financial responsibility.
3. Reject any further expansion of the project that would increase the already substantial financial obligations imposed on Norwood and other regional ratepayers without clearly demonstrated and proportionate benefits.

Norwood has been a longstanding member of the MWRA and has consistently fulfilled its financial obligations. That membership, however, should not be interpreted as an open-ended commitment to subsidize disproportionately expensive infrastructure projects benefiting other municipalities.

The principle of regional cooperation should not come at the expense of fairness to individual member communities.

I strongly support the concerns expressed by the Norwood Board of Selectmen in its September 2026 correspondence and urge the MWRA Board to take those concerns seriously before committing Norwood ratepayers to decades of additional financial obligations.

I emphatically oppose the proposed cost allocation and request that these objections be entered into the official public comment record for the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Stephen P. Konetchy

Norwood, Massachusetts

Received 10/1/26

Officers

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Ernest Cook, Vice President
Marian Lazar, V.P. Publications
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Ronald Brown, Treasurer

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Hugh Mattison
Clint Richmond
Deborah Rivers
John Shreffler
Marilyn Ray Smith



September 30, 2026

Dear Secretary Tepper and the MWRA Board of Directors,

The Brookline GreenSpace Alliance (BGSA) strongly urges the MWRA to adopt a new and better long-term plan to control sewage discharges into the Charles River, Mystic River, and Alewife Brook. The current plan, dated April 30, 2026, and submitted to state and federal environmental agencies on June 2, does not do enough to eliminate Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs).

The Charles River Watershed is a vital part of the ecosystem of Eastern Massachusetts. The BGSA is an advocate for the health of that regional system. We also recognize that Brookline is a member community of the MWRA and therefore affects and is affected by the MWRA's policies, plans, and decisions.

Thanks to the leadership of the MWRA since the 1980s, great progress has been made in cleaning up Boston Harbor and reducing pollution in the Charles River and its tributaries. Instead of abandoning or scaling back these efforts, it is now time to finish the job by eliminating sewage inflows into the Charles, Mystic, and Alewife Brook and making them safe for swimming, boating, and other recreational activities.

For the sake of the environment, public health, and the regional economy, we ask the MWRA to revise the current draft long-term plan so that it does not allow sewage discharges during large rainstorms. Due to climate change, the region will most likely have many intense rainstorms and rainy years during the coming decades. The MWRA should adopt a robust plan that anticipates these changes and eliminates the CSOs that dump sewage into the Charles and other waterways after heavy rain. Doing anything less would mean reneging on long-standing commitments to clean up the Charles and Greater Boston's other rivers and failing to prepare for the future effects of climate change.

The BGSA realizes that the Charles River and other waterways are also contaminated by stormwater runoff, and that problem needs to be addressed by communities in the watershed. The MWRA, however, has responsibility for sewage flows, and the MWRA needs to act to eliminate pollution from CSOs.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean M. Lynn-Jones".

Sean M. Lynn-Jones
President, Brookline GreenSpace Alliance

SELECT BOARD

Allyson Hamilton, Chair
Glenn Maffei, Vice Chair
Mark Gallivan, Clerk
James O'Neil
Benjamin Barrett



Walpole Town Hall
135 School Street
Walpole, MA 02081
Phone (508) 660-7277

October 6, 2026

Rebecca Tepper, Chair
Board of Directors,
Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
2 Griffin Way
Chelsea, MA 02150

RE: Draft Updated CSO Control Plan Comments

Dear Secretary and Chair Tepper:

On behalf of the Town of Walpole, I am writing to express our concerns regarding the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan currently under consideration by the MWRA and the Cities of Somerville and Cambridge.

As a community that is part of the MWRA regional wastewater system, the Town of Walpole has a significant and direct interest in the decisions made regarding major wastewater infrastructure investments and the resulting financial obligations to sewer communities.

The current Draft Updated CSO Control Plan represents a substantial investment in the region's wastewater infrastructure. We understand that the estimated cost of the current plan is approximately \$1.3 billion, compared with approximately \$870 million for the plan presented in October 2025. This represents an increase of more than \$400 million and warrants careful consideration of the necessity, scope, and long-term financial impact of the proposed work.

For the Town of Walpole, the financial implications are significant. Based on current projections, Walpole's anticipated cost associated with this project through 2072 is approximately \$18,324,534. This represents a substantial long-term obligation for the Town and its sewer ratepayers.

At the same time, Walpole is preparing for another significant and necessary investment in its wastewater infrastructure. In the coming fiscal years, the Town anticipates undertaking the development of a PFAS treatment facility, with an estimated cost in the region of \$21 million. This project represents a significant local capital commitment and is necessary to address evolving regulatory and environmental requirements and to protect the long-term reliability of Walpole's wastewater system.

The PFAS facility is only one component of the substantial infrastructure investments facing the Town. Walpole must also continue to fund the ongoing replacement, rehabilitation, and upgrading of its water mains, as well as improvements to water storage tanks and pump stations. These investments are necessary to maintain the existing systems, address aging infrastructure, improve reliability, and ensure that the Town can continue to provide safe and dependable water and wastewater services to its residents and businesses.

Unlike a single capital project with a defined completion date, these infrastructure needs represent an ongoing responsibility for the Town. Water mains require continued replacement and rehabilitation, storage facilities require periodic improvements and maintenance, and pump stations require upgrades to maintain their operational reliability. These are essential investments that municipalities must make simply to keep their existing systems functioning properly and to meet the needs of current and future residents.

As a sewer community, Walpole understands the importance of maintaining a reliable and environmentally responsible regional wastewater system. We recognize that significant investments are sometimes necessary to meet regulatory requirements, protect water quality, and maintain the long-term integrity of the system. At the same time, communities that fund the MWRA system must have confidence that major capital expenditures are necessary, appropriately scoped, and provide benefits commensurate with their cost.

The magnitude and duration of Walpole's projected financial obligations make it particularly important that the MWRA carefully evaluate the additional costs associated with the current proposal. An obligation extending through 2072 affects multiple generations of sewer ratepayers and must be considered alongside the substantial wastewater, water, and other infrastructure needs facing communities throughout the MWRA service area.

The Town of Walpole therefore respectfully requests that the MWRA Board of Directors carefully evaluate the following:

- Whether the increase in the estimated project cost from approximately \$870 million to \$1.3 billion is fully justified by measurable environmental and operational benefits;
- Whether the scope of the proposed CSO work can be achieved in a manner that minimizes unnecessary costs to the sewer communities that ultimately fund the MWRA system;
- Whether the proposed allocation of costs among MWRA communities is transparent, equitable, and appropriately reflects the costs and benefits associated with the project;
- Whether additional or expanded project components are necessary to meet applicable environmental and regulatory requirements, or whether there are more cost-effective approaches that could achieve the same objectives; and
- Whether the long-term financial impact on sewer communities, including the approximately \$18.3 million projected obligation for Walpole through 2072, has been adequately considered in evaluating the proposed plan.

Walpole supports responsible investment in regional wastewater infrastructure and recognizes the importance of continued progress toward the Commonwealth's environmental goals. However, responsible investment also requires careful stewardship of the financial resources provided by the communities that make up the MWRA sewer system.

For Walpole, an estimated \$18,324,534 obligation through 2072 is a significant commitment. When considered alongside the Town's anticipated \$21 million PFAS treatment facility and the continuing need to invest in water main replacements and upgrades, water storage tank improvements, pump station improvements, and other essential infrastructure, it is clear that Walpole faces substantial and ongoing capital requirements to maintain its systems.

These competing needs make it particularly important that regional projects be carefully evaluated, appropriately prioritized, and delivered as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible. Walpole must be able to meet its own necessary infrastructure obligations while also fulfilling its responsibilities as a participant in the regional wastewater system.

We respectfully urge the MWRA Board to conduct a thorough review of the current Draft Updated CSO Control Plan, including its increased cost and long-term financial implications for sewer communities. We

further encourage the Board to consider whether the objectives of the plan can be achieved while limiting unnecessary financial impacts on the communities and ratepayers that rely upon and fund the MWRA wastewater system.

Thank you for considering the Town of Walpole's perspective and the significant long-term financial commitment that this proposal represents for our sewer community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Allyson Hamilton", with a stylized, flowing script.

Allyson Hamilton
Chair, Walpole Select Board



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

Senator PATRICIA D. JEHLLEN
2ND MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
MEDFORD, SOMERVILLE, CAMBRIDGE AND
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CHAIR
JOINT COMMITTEE ON AGING AND
INDEPENDENCE

VICE CHAIR
JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND
JOINT COMMITTEE ON REVENUE

LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
JUDICIARY
CANNABIS POLICY

October 14, 2026

MWRA Board of Directors
2 Griffin Way
Chelsea, MA 02150

RE: MWRA Draft Updated Combined Sewer Overflow Long-Term Control Plan

Dear Chair Tepper and Members of the MWRA Board of Directors,

As senators of the Charles River, Mystic River, and Alewife Brook community watersheds, we are deeply concerned with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's (MWRA) proposal to allow Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) to continue to be dumped into these waters, as would be permitted under the MWRA's Draft Updated Combined Sewer Overflow Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP).

We commend the MWRA for reducing sewage discharges into Boston Harbor. The harbor cleanup transformed the quality of life in the region, yielding tangible economic benefits, including an expanded port, improved ecosystem services, enhanced access to the waterfront, and tens of billions in real estate investment. The implementation of a 25-year storm level of control along the South Boston beaches, for example, has significantly reduced beach closures and earned recognition for some of the safest urban beaches in the country, enabling millions of annual visits to waterfront beaches and parks.

And yet, despite this progress, millions of gallons of raw and undertreated sewage discharges continue to flow into the Charles River, Mystic River, and Alewife Brook every year, threatening human health and the environment. We have heard from constituents who experienced flooding

in their homes as a result of CSO discharges and others who suffered from gastrointestinal sickness from exposure to raw sewage. The MWRA's Draft LTCP would allow these dangerous conditions to persist indefinitely, allowing continued discharge of raw sewage into our waterways and perpetuating ongoing, significant risks to human health, safety, and the environment. Such pollutants stifle our ability to improve equitable access to our rivers and to create new opportunities to grow a reliable outdoor recreational economy through expanded swimming, boating, and fishing. Our constituents paid to build, maintain, and operate the Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Plant and implement other infrastructure upgrades throughout the region, and they deserve for the MWRA to protect them from raw sewage exposure.

We call on the MWRA to implement a 2050, 25-year storm level of control for the Charles River, the Mystic River, and the Alewife Brook under the Final Updated LTCP, analogous to what was done for Boston Harbor beaches. The MWRA has a unique opportunity to end CSOs in our critical waterways so we can finally achieve the vision of the federal Clean Water Act for "fishable" and "swimmable" rivers and keep Massachusetts residents safe and healthy while stimulating local economies. We urge the MWRA to recommend virtual CSO elimination for the Charles, Mystic, and Alewife in MWRA's Final Updated Combined Sewer Overflow Long-Term Control Plan and expect you to fulfill your obligations.

Respectfully,



Senator Patricia D. Jehlen
Second Middlesex

Cc: Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
MWRA Board of Advisors



**WATER SUPPLY CITIZENS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
to the Mass. Water Resources Authority

Received 10/07/26

485 Ware Road
Belchertown MA 01007
(413) 213-0454
fax: (413) 213-0537
email: info@wscac.org

VII
10/21/26

To:

Massachusetts Water Resources Commission (WRC)
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

From:

Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee (WSCAC)
485 Ware Road
Belchertown, MA 01007
Email: info@wscac.org

Re: Public Comment

Project: Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) Interbasin Transfer Act (ITA) Application

Proposal: 20 Million Gallons per Day (MGD) Rate Increase Request (Donor Basin Review)

Source Basins: Chicopee River Basin (Quabbin Reservoir) and Nashua River Basin (Wachusett Reservoir)

September 30, 2026

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) request to increase its current interbasin transfer rate by 20 million gallons per day (MGD) to accommodate future expansion across multiple public water systems. The Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee (WSCAC) commends MWRA for reducing system-wide water use from more than 330 MGD in the 1980s to approximately 200 MGD today (Figure 1). WSCAC neither supports nor opposes the 20 MGD donor basin review exemption because the request is legal under 313 CMR 4.10. However, WSCAC's neutral position on this request does not constitute support for allocating water beyond demonstrated need.

As WSCAC considers this future expansion, it recognizes that PFAS and other contaminants may increase demand for MWRA water and that admitting communities whose existing supplies become unsafe may be necessary. However, decisions about which communities to admit should be based on demonstrated need and on the importance of keeping rising MWRA water demand in check. These decisions should also account for more frequent droughts linked to climate change and the potential for substantial increases in water demand from AI data centers, which could further strain the water supply. WSCAC's position on the 20 MGD request assumes that future admissions will follow MWRA's Admission of New Community to MWRA Water System policy (OP.10), which requires applicants to continue using local water sources to the maximum feasible extent and to protect them under MEPA and MassDEP guidelines. WSCAC asks that these requirements be rigorously applied when considering future admissions to ensure that any approved increase is allocated efficiently. MWRA should also require strict water conservation measures in these receiving communities.

These potential increases in demand must be weighed against the water needed to sustain the environment and its valuable ecosystem services (Figures 2 and 3). WSCAC notes that current system use of approximately 200 MGD is below MWRA's registered amount of 312 MGD and the reservoirs' safe yield of 300 MGD, as shown in the MWRA presentation at the MWRA–WSCAC ITA meeting on August 25, 2026 (slide 11). Even with this margin, WSCAC asks the Commission to assess how the proposed additional transfer would affect downstream flows and ecosystem services. This assessment should also consider recent increases in water demand in the MWRA service area. According to MWRA's July 2026 Water Use Report, total year-to-date water supplied through July 2026 was 4.5% higher than in the same period in 2025. In addition to the potential demand arising from PFAS and other contaminants described above, population and housing growth could further increase demand for MWRA water. As demand grows, increasingly severe droughts related to climate change could place greater pressure on water in the environment than on water used by people.

To assess these effects, WSCAC asks MWRA to quantify the water needed to protect ecosystem services in the upper and lower Swift River basin and to meet other donor basin commitments, including hatchery withdrawals and the needs of all Quabbin towns. At the August 25 meeting, MWRA explained that the hatchery typically uses about 6.2 MGD, that this water returns to the Swift River, and that it is counted as a withdrawal for safe-yield accounting. The presentation lists an approved hatchery amount of 7 MGD, which differs from typical use (presentation, slide 7). The illustrative amounts of 30 MGD for downstream releases and 40 MGD for a combined environmental allowance are not established in these materials. MWRA should provide the applicable release requirements, explain how they vary with hydrologic conditions, quantify other donor basin commitments, and show how each is accounted for in its safe-yield and demand calculations. This accounting should avoid deducting the hatchery withdrawal or other commitments twice.

Along with quantifying donor basin commitments, WSCAC asks MWRA to calculate and retain a substantial, unallocated margin of safety to account for future hydrologic uncertainty. At the August 25 meeting, MWRA noted that climate change could shift the timing and pattern of water availability and that its planning does not assume a potential increase in reservoir yield (presentation, slide 10). WSCAC proposes a 10 MGD reserve for consideration. Based on the 300 MGD safe yield shown in the MWRA presentation (slide 11), the 260 MGD demand scenario leaves a difference of $300 - 260 = 40$ MGD. Deducting the proposed 10 MGD reserve from this difference would leave $40 - 10 = 30$ MGD. This is an illustrative WSCAC proposal, not a reserve established by MWRA's analysis. MWRA should explain the appropriate reserve in light of future climate uncertainty, donor basin needs, and system reliability. Maintaining local water systems as backups would provide additional protection.

Continued conservation is central to balancing future demand with the protection of downstream flows and ecosystem services. WSCAC's decision not to oppose donor basin approval of the proposed increase assumes that MWRA will continue to promote water conservation aggressively, thereby creating capacity to admit new members without significantly increasing system-wide demand above current levels. WSCAC believes that MWRA should encourage all its member communities to comply with the Massachusetts Water Conservation Standards fully. In particular, MWRA should consider offering subsidized loans to member communities to install fixed-network radio meter-reading systems that alert customers to possible leaks and provide data on their water-use efficiency. MWRA should also encourage member communities to adopt steeply ascending water rate structures that amplify the incentive to

conserve water, as well as rebate programs that incentivize the use of water-efficient plumbing fixtures, such as high-efficiency toilets and clothes washers.

Despite impressive improvements in water conservation since the 1980s, substantial potential remains to improve water use efficiency. In 2024, MassDEP statistics show median residential use at about 50 residential gallons per capita per day (RGPCD), while the most water-efficient communities averaged less than 30 RGPCD. Improving water use efficiency should go hand in hand with reducing carbon emissions to ensure a sustainable future.

With these demand pressures, environmental needs, and conservation opportunities in mind, WSCAC asks the Water Resources Commission to evaluate reasonable instream flows and the cumulative effects of the proposed additional 20 MGD, including under drought conditions, and consider the water conservation requirements discussed above during the review of the donor basin application.

Sincerely,

Moussa Siri, WSCAC Executive Director

Cc: Vandana M. Rao, Executive Director, Water Resources Commission
Steve Estes-Smargiassi, Interim Executive Director, MWRA
Kathy Baskin, Director of Planning & Sustainability, MWRA
Mathew Romero, MWRA Advisory Board Executive Director
Kristin MacDougall, Public Affairs /Assistant to the Board of Directors (MWRA)

Illustration Figures

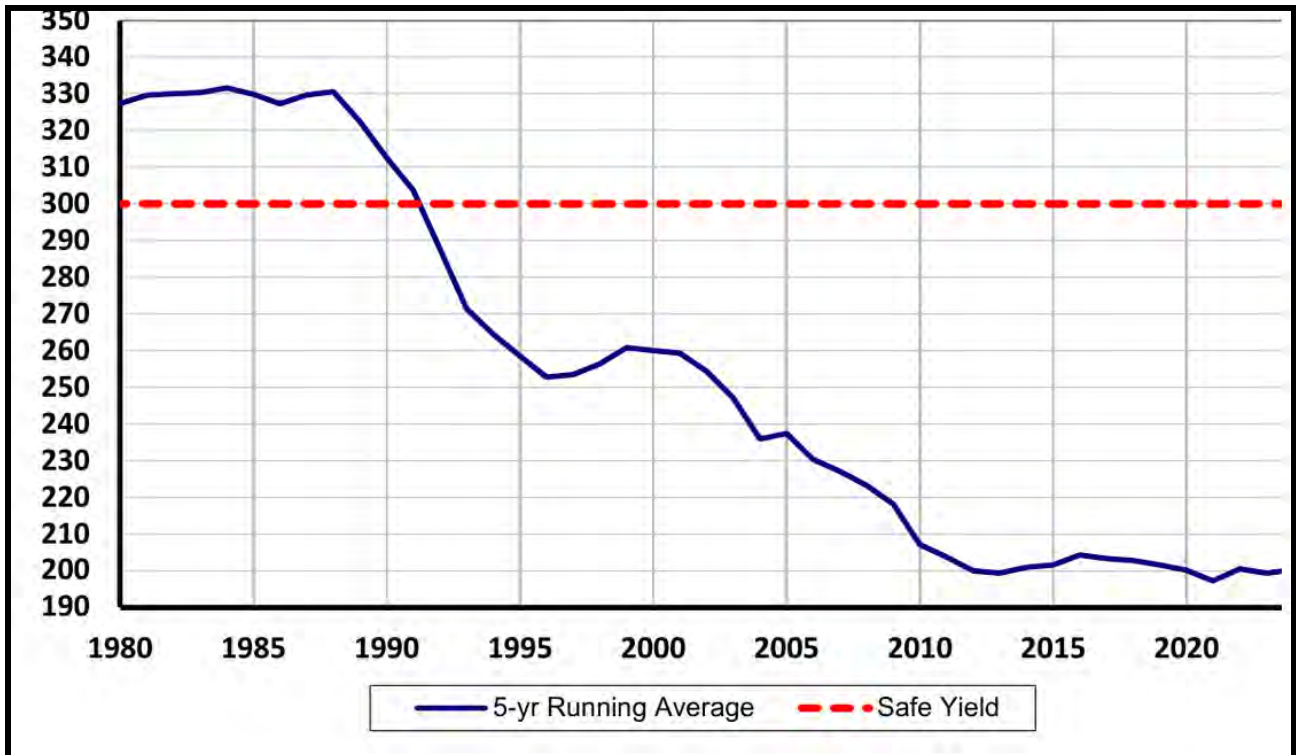


Figure 1. MWRA water demand and safe yield, 1980–2024. Chart provided with the comments.

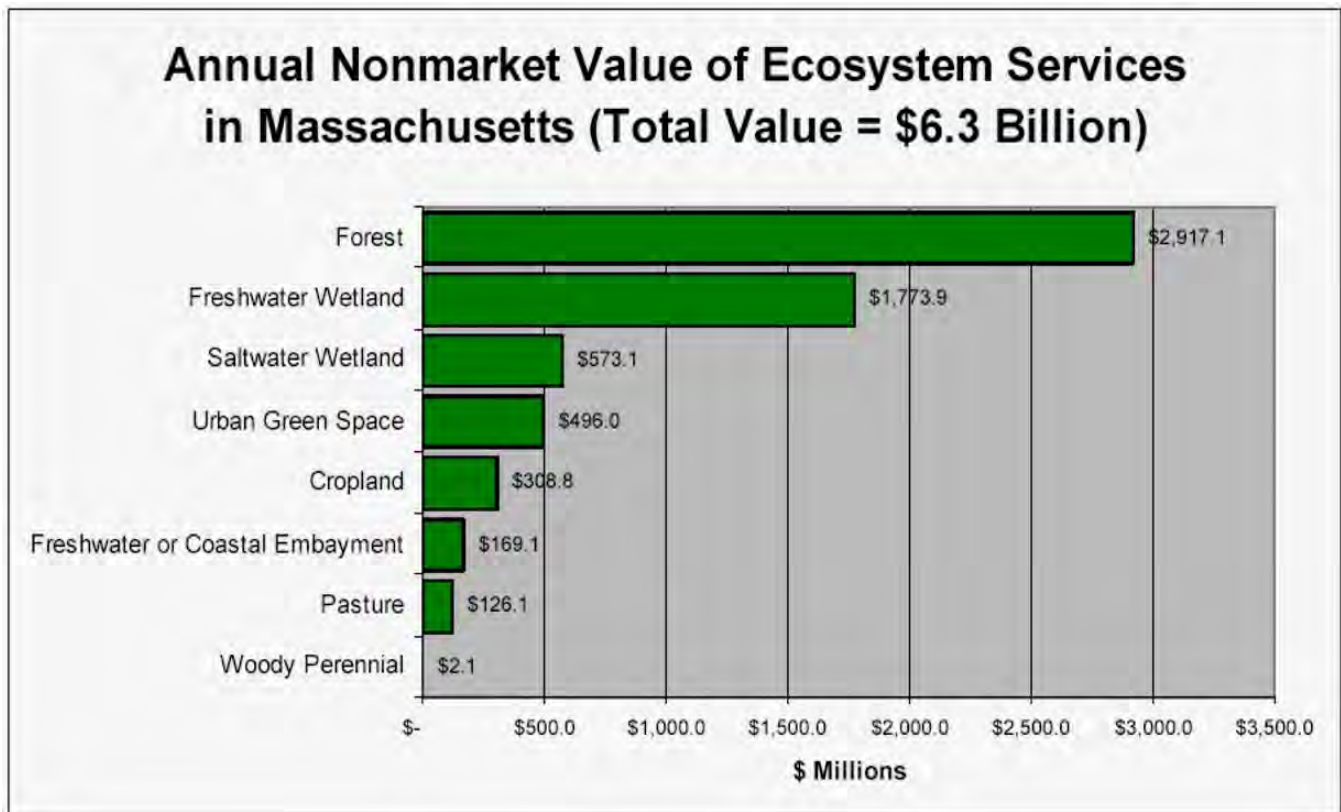


Figure 2. Estimated annual nonmarket value of ecosystem services in Massachusetts based on 1999 land cover data (Source: Losing Ground At What Cost? – Technical Notes, Mass Audubon by Gund Institute, University of Vermont).

Nonmarket Ecosystem Service Value Estimates by Land Cover Type

Land Use Type	Ecosystem Services Used in Valuation	# Data Sources	Mean Total \$acre/yr (2001 dollars)	Min value	Max value
Freshwater Wetland	Disturbance Prevention; Freshwater Regulation & Supply, Waste Assimilation, Aesthetic/Amenity, Soil Retention	13	\$15,452	\$7,684	\$31,772
Saltwater Wetland	Disturbance Prevention, Nutrient Regulation, Habitat, Recreation	10	\$12,580	\$9,991	\$24,457
Freshwater or Coastal Embayment	Freshwater Regulation and Supply, Habitat, Recreation, Aesthetic/Amenity	25	\$983	\$64	\$2,985
Forest	Climate and Atmosphere, Disturbance Prevention, Habitat Refugium, Recreation	8	\$984	\$407	\$1,998
Cropland	Aesthetic/Amenity, Soil Retention, Pollination	3	\$1,387	\$1,387	\$1,387
Pasture	Aesthetic/Amenity, Pollination	2	\$1,381	\$1,381	\$1,381
Woody Perennial	Pollination	1	\$49	\$49	\$49
Urban Green Space	Waste Assimilation, Recreation	3	\$3,430	\$2,692	\$4,167

Figure 3. Ecosystem service value estimates by land cover type and individual services used in the calculation (Source shown in figure: Losing Ground: At What Cost? Technical Notes).