



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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## MWRD's Martinez hailed as an advocate by HACIA



*MWRD Senior Diversity Officer Richard L. Martinez, Jr., (right) celebrates a recent award from the Hispanic American Construction Industry Association with MWRD Executive Director Brian A. Perkovich and Vice President Barbara McGowan.*



*On hand to celebrate the honor were MWRD Commissioner Marcelino Garcia (from left), President Kari K. Steele, Diversity Section Administrator Regina Berry, Richard L. Martinez, Jr., his wife Sandi Martinez and Audrey Avila, administrative assistant to Commissioner Frank Avila.*

The Hispanic American Construction Industry Association (HACIA) recently honored an employee of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) for his advocacy in representing minority-owned business enterprises and assuring fair access to government contracts and opportunities.

Richard L. Martinez, Jr., senior diversity officer at the MWRD, was recognized with the Advocacy Award from HACIA at the 40th Anniversary Awards held at Hilton Chicago.

“HACIA is honored to recognize the extraordinary work you have accomplished and the tremendous growth you have attained through hard work, integrity, and professionalism,” HACIA Executive Director Jorge Perez wrote in commending Martinez.

For close to two decades at the MWRD, and 24 years of total government service, Martinez has

been steadfast in his commitment to ensuring that minority, women and small business enterprises (M/W/SBE) are given equal opportunity to participate in MWRD contracts. The MWRD recently also implemented a new policy to increase contracting opportunities for veteran-owned and operated small business enterprises (VBE). In addition to this latest honor, Martinez was also a recipient of the 2016 Outstanding Advocate Award from the Federation of Women Contractors (FWC) and he and Diversity Administrator Regina Berry received the President's Volunteer Service Award also in 2016 from the Obama Administration, recognizing MWRD commitments to strengthen local communities and the nation as a whole.

“We are proud of HACIA's recognition of Rich Martinez and the hard working and talented men and women of our Diversity Section, striving to create new opportunities for minority communities and businesses within *(continued)*

## MWRD's Martinez hailed as an advocate by HACIA (cont.)



*MWRD Senior Diversity Officer Richard L. Martinez, Jr., was praised for his advocacy for minority and small businesses by HACIA.*

Cook County,” said MWRD Vice President Barbara McGowan, who serves as chairman of the MWRD’s Affirmative Action Committee. “Our



*MWRD Commissioner Frank Avila, chairman of Finance, celebrates the Advocacy Award from HACIA with its recipient MWRD Senior Diversity Officer Richard L. Martinez, Jr.*

Diversity staff makes the extra effort to visit job sites and hold vendor outreach fairs to connect with employers and small businesses to ensure they are made aware of these opportunities. Forming strong relationships with organizations like HACIA enables us to make these connections in the communities.”

A 501(c) (6) organization founded in 1979, HACIA works to ensure the equitable participation of its constituents in the construction industry, while also promoting the growth, quality of work, professionalism and integrity of these individuals and businesses.

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### ***Recovering Resources, Transforming Water***

*Established in 1889, the MWRD ([www.mwr.org](http://www.mwr.org)) is an award winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.*