



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District *of* Greater Chicago

Press Release

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White House Council on Environmental Quality, U.S. EPA invite MWRD Exec. Director to discuss “Financing the Water Infrastructure of the Future”

The White House Council on Environmental Quality in collaboration with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) invited Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) Executive Director David St. Pierre to participate in a nationwide gathering to discuss the future of water infrastructure financing. The meeting will be held at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington, DC on July 1.

Over the past century, 700,000 miles of water infrastructure have been constructed across the country. At four times the length of the national highway system, pipes that provide drinking water to households and take waste to treatment facilities are aging and in need of significant repair and investment.

The U.S. EPA estimates that the cost to upgrade the nation’s drinking and wastewater infrastructure is at least \$635 billion over the next 20 years. However, many communities rely on municipal bonds that are repaid with water utility fees but are finding that option no longer viable. While the U.S. EPA’s State Revolving Loan funds have helped facilitate \$120 billion in financing over the past 25 years, this resource is insufficient to meet expected demand for water infrastructure upgrades. Innovative solutions are required, and this meeting provided the forum to discuss such solutions.

“Utilities should be the model for efficient government,” said Mr. St. Pierre. “Through proper management of resources, utilities can meet the challenge of infrastructure maintenance. I look forward to participating in this vital discussion.”

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Our Water Environment: Take it personally

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