



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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MWRD applauds Gov. Quinn commitment to clean water, flood protection

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) applauds Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn for his commitment to clean water and flood protection. The Governor recognizes the need to address critical infrastructure throughout the state and is doubling the investment in clean water projects through the Illinois Clean Water Initiative (ICWI). He has earmarked \$2 billion for projects such as replacing ancient water mains, upgrading sewers and building wastewater treatment plants statewide.

"To date, we've received 91 clean water applications," the Governor said in his 2014 State of the State address on Jan. 29. "And this year, we'll expand our Clean Water Initiative - and double this investment - to include critical stormwater and flood control projects."

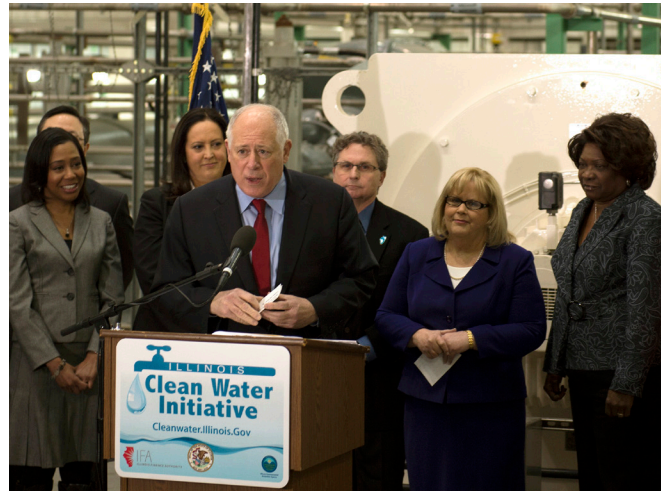
This announcement is part of the Governor's agenda to protect the environment by modernizing water infrastructure throughout the state. In Cook County, the ICWI is helping to meet the clean water needs of more than five million residents and creating thousands of jobs.

"And these are good jobs: jobs for welders, cement masons, truck drivers, operating engineers, pipefitters, painters and carpenters," said Governor Quinn

Local governments can use ICWI funds for a variety of projects, including replacing aging water mains, upgrading water towers, or bringing wastewater treatment facilities in line with federal standards.

"This is excellent news for all of the communities in the District's service area," said MWRD President Kathleen Meany. "This program has already allowed the District to move forward in an expedited manner on disinfection and a variety of flood protection projects. These resources allow the District to meet our obligations in fulfilling our mission while providing meaningful jobs. I strongly encourage local governments to pursue funding for their water infrastructure projects through the Clean Water Initiative."

Governor Quinn launched the ICWI in his 2012 State of the State Address to help local governments facing a critical need to overhaul aging drinking water and wastewater treatment plants and distribution and collection systems. The ICWI is funded with annual federal grants, funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and additional principal and interest from loan repayments. To read the Governor's State of the State address, visit <http://www3.illinois.gov/PressReleases/ShowPressRelease.cfm?SubjectID=2&RecNum=11892>. To learn more about the ICWI, visit www.CleanWater.Illinois.gov.



In the photo: Governor Pat Quinn at the Calumet Water Reclamation Plant on Feb. 13, 2013 announcing funding assistance to the MWRD through the Illinois Clean Water Initiative for projects that are crucial for improving the water environment and protecting public health.

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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.