



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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For immediate release

October 31, 2014

## Officials break ground on Mayfair Reservoir Expansion in Westchester



Chairman of Finance Mariyana Spyropoulos addresses the crowd while Commissioner Kari Steele, Exec. Director David St. Pierre, Mayor Sam Pulia, Director of Engineering Catherine O'Connor and others look on.



Public officials dig up ceremonial soil to signify the beginning of construction on 33 acre-feet of storage and a new 36" relief sewer in Westchester. The Mayfair Reservoir Expansion project will be completed next year.

A long-awaited flood reduction project in Westchester is underway now that ground has been broken on the Mayfair Reservoir Expansion project.

State Representative Chris Welch, Cook County Commissioner Liz Gorman, Mayor Sam Pulia, Village Trustees, Commissioners from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) and other officials grasped shovels to dig up the ceremonial soil to signify the beginning of construction on 33 acre-feet of storage and a new 36" relief sewer. This work will provide direct flood reduction benefits to an estimated 60 residential structures and will reduce storm-related impacts for approximately 120 homeowners.

"This is a great day for homeowners in Westchester who have been impacted by flooding," said Rep. Welch. "I'm proud to support this initiative, and I will

continue to work with the Village to bring resources to the community to fight urban flooding."

"You have no idea how pleased I am that this project has begun," said Mayor Pulia. "I know we cannot replace those lifelong treasures that were destroyed by Mother Nature's fury in the past, but I can assure you that this administration is committed to solving, to the best of our ability, future flood impacts by partnering with our state elected officials and the expertise provided by MWRD and the engineers at V3 to solve this regional problem together."

The Mayfair Reservoir was placed into service in 1977 and was designed to accommodate a 100 year storm. "As you may have noticed, these storms are happening more frequently than originally anticipated," said Chairman of Finance Mariyana Spyropoulos. "As the second largest landowner in Cook County, it is



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important that we are good stewards of our property. We all know that flooding is the number one concern in the region, so it is vital that we do what we can to help minimize the impacts. Designating

our property for this purpose is a logical step in the effort to reduce flooding in Westchester.”

Commissioner Steele echoed those sentiments. “The District has worked to improve the quality of life for Cook County residents throughout our 125 year history, and this project will definitely improve the quality of life for many Westchester homeowners.”

“Mayor Pulia, Representative Welch and the Village of Westchester have always been good partners to the District,” said President Kathleen Meany. “It’s important to expedite stormwater projects and other crucial flood protection projects to benefit the residents of Cook County and the water environment.”

The MWRD will pay approximately \$2 million for construction which is expected to continue through 2015. The Village is contributing approximately \$465,000 towards design and construction inspection

and awarded the construction contract to Copenhagen Construction Co. The reservoir and additional sewer relief efforts in Westchester are part of the MWRD’s Phase II Stormwater Management Program.



Commissioner Spyropoulos and Westchester Mayor Sam Pulia prepare to cut the Mayfair Reservoir Expansion groundbreaking cake.

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Our Water Environment: **Take it personally**

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