



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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## MWRD leaders lend water management wisdom in Hyderabad, India



Director General of Environment Protection Training and Research Institute Kalyan Chakravarthy (3rd from left) presented an award to MWRD Executive Director David St. Pierre (from left), Commissioner Frank Avila and Dr. Prakasam Tata.

A contingency of leaders and engineers with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) traveled to India to share their knowledge in the pursuit of best management practices in wastewater treatment.

MWRD Chairman of Finance Frank Avila and Executive Director David St. Pierre joined staff to travel to Hyderabad, India to participate in a workshop with the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS and SB) and the Environment Protection Training and Research Institute (EPTRI) in the Indian state of Telangana.

The trip was organized and sponsored by the government of Telangana and Bharathi Theertha, a non-profit organization that aims to improve the education, environment and health of the poverty-stricken in India and the United States. Hyderabad is considered a “water stressed” city due to insufficient wastewater treatment facilities, but it’s also an emerging city.

Due to high growth as an information technology hub



MWRD staff and Commissioner Frank Avila worked with local leaders and assisted in improving water treatment technologies in Hyderabad, India earlier this month. Pictured (L-R): MWRD Electrical Engineer Syama Pappu; Managing Engineer Hitesh Shah; Executive Director David St. Pierre; Sherry Avila and Commissioner Frank Avila.

for India, the city’s infrastructure must keep up to ensure a safe water environment. Telangana’s desire to ensure sustainable growth for the city has required it to make improving water availability and public health conditions a priority. Hyderabad is one of the top 40 largest cities in the world with a population of nearly 7 million.

MWRD representatives visited the plants in Hyderabad, shared their experiences and reviewed best practices for sustainable solutions, improved efficiency, committed governance and reliable management concerning all aspects of protecting the water environment.

“Our trip to India has presented us a wonderful opportunity to tell our success story half way around the world, and most importantly, come to the aid of a region that needs to protect its water environment in the best possible ways,” said Commissioner Avila. “By addressing these water needs we are improving the quality of life in Hyderabad and taking home lessons of our own in dealing with aging infrastructure, emerging technology, changing weather patterns and growing economies.” *(continued)*

## MWRD leaders lend water management wisdom *(continued)*

Hyderabad and the state of Telangana are developing a long-term plan for water sustainability. The EPTRI, which serves as the state agency dedicated to addressing changing weather patterns, is preparing the State Action Plan on Climate Change in addition to a report on the state of the environment for Hyderabad and the state of Telangana. MWRD's contributions and advice will help bolster these reports.

The MWRD serves 10.35 million people in Chicago and 128 suburban communities in an 883.5-square-mile area of Cook County in Illinois. Comprised of a staff of nearly

2,000, the MWRD operates one of the world's largest reclamation plants, in addition to six other plants, 22 pumping stations, 35 flood control and detention reservoirs to provide regional stormwater flood damage reduction, and 560 miles of intercepting sewers and force mains fed by approximately 10,000 local sewer system connections. The MWRD treats an average of 1.3 billion gallons of wastewater each day with total treatment capacity over 2.0 billion gallons per day. The MWRD controls 76.1 miles of navigable waterways, which are part of the inland waterway system connecting the Great Lakes with the Gulf of Mexico.

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### Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

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*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.*