



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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For immediate release

December 10, 2019

## U.S. Minority Contractors Association honors MWRD for excellence in diversity, inclusion

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) was named the recipient of a prestigious award for excellence in promoting diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

The U.S. Minority Contractors Association presented the Legacy Award for Excellence for Diversity and Inclusion to the MWRD Diversity Section. Under the MWRD's Affirmative Action Program, the Diversity Section ensures competitive and equal opportunities for minority-owned, women-owned, veteran-owned and small business enterprises in the award and performances of MWRD contracts. They work behind the scenes to prohibit discrimination and abolish barriers to full participation in MWRD contracts.

"Congratulations to our Diversity staff for their dedication to inclusiveness and working overtime to ensure all businesses receive fair participation on contracts and projects with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago," said MWRD Vice President Barbara McGowan, who serves as chairman of the Board of Commissioners' Affirmative Action Committee. "We encourage a diverse field of talented workers from all backgrounds when it comes to protecting our region's water environment."

The MWRD began development of a program to mitigate discrimination in public contracting in 1975. The MWRD Board of Commissioners first enacted its Affirmative Action Ordinance in 1978, making the MWRD one of the first area agencies to institute an Affirmative Action Program. Today, the MWRD Diversity Section takes extra steps to provide opportunities to qualified businesses. They host and participate in targeted vendor outreach fairs with other local government agencies and work with the prospective minority-owned, women-owned, veteran-owned and small business enterprises to guide them through the process of becoming certified vendors.



*From L to R: MWRD Senior Diversity Officer Eddie Amin-Rasul, Vice President Barbara McGowan and Diversity Administrator Regina Berry celebrate the Diversity Section's Legacy Award for Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion from the U.S. Minority Contractors Association.*

USMCA officials recognized the MWRD Diversity Section at this year's 28th Annual Millennium Builders Award Gala.

"Team MWRD Diversity and Inclusion Staff' has exceeded all expectations in fulfilling and meeting the MWRD's contract minority goals and requirements by working with the USMCA for the last 28 years," said the Rev. Larry Bullcock, president and CEO of the USMCA Board of Directors. "Under the Board of Commissioners Vice President, Hon. Barbara McGowan and Diversity Division Director, Ms. Regina Berry, unprecedented milestones in minority procurement have been reached. Thus, in keeping with the USMCA standard of excellence in recognizing Legacy achievements, our 2019 Legacy Award for Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion Award was presented to the MWRD Public Administrators and staff."

For businesses seeking to work with the MWRD, visit [mwr.org/affirmative-action](http://mwr.org/affirmative-action).

***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.*