

TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF FEBRUARY 3, 2022

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Mr. Brian Perkovich, Executive Director

..Title

Authority to amend the Ethics Ordinance of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

..Body

Dear Sir:

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago ("District") is committed to the highest standards of legal and ethical conduct in its operations. The State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (Illinois Ethics Act) required all units of local government to adopt ordinances or resolutions regulating political activities and the making and accepting of gifts "in a manner no less restrictive than the provisions of the Act" by May 19, 2004. On April 22, 2004, the Board of Commissioners adopted the District's Ethics Ordinance regulating the political activities and solicitation and acceptance of gifts by the District's officers and employees.

On January 23, 2020, to ensure continued ethical practices in all aspects of District operations, the Board amended the Ethics Ordinance to add new provisions including a code of conduct, heightened conflict of interest provisions for the District's commissioners, officers, employees, and lobbyist registration and reporting requirements. On January 21, 2021, the Board amended the Ethics Ordinance to reduce the annual lobbyist registration fee for all lobbyists from \$300 to \$150.

Effective January 1, 2022, Illinois Public Act 102-664 amended the Illinois Lobbyist Registration Act (Lobbyist Registration Act) and made the Illinois Secretary of State responsible for all lobbyist registration and regulation, and expressly preempted all local lobbyist regulation. So that the District's Ethics Ordinance remains consistent with the Lobbyist Registration Act, as amended, it is recommended that it be further amended to delete those sections relating to lobbyist registration and regulation from the Ordinance.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Executive Director recommend to the Board of Commissioners that the Board approve this amendment to the Ethics Ordinance to eliminate the provisions relating to lobbyist registration and regulation that are now superseded by state law.

Requested, Susan T. Morakalis, General Counsel, STM:EMA:mmv

Disposition of this agenda item will be documented in the official Regular Board Meeting Minutes of the Board of Commissioners for February 3, 2022