

TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR BOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 18, 2025

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Mr. John P. Murray, Executive Director

..Title

Adopt Ordinance O25-013 establishing the minimum qualifications and duties for MWRD's Inspector General and convening search and selection committees for appointing MWRD's Inspector General

..Body

Dear Sir:

On April 18, 2019, the Board of Commissioners (Board) passed Ordinance O19-003 establishing the Cook County Office of Independent Inspector General (OIIG) as MWRD's Inspector General. On the same date, the Board authorized the MWRD to issue a purchase order and enter into an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with Cook County to allow the OIIG to serve as MWRD's Inspector General for an initial three-year period in an amount not to exceed \$600,000.00 annually. The IGA commenced May 17, 2019 and, as extended, expired May 16, 2025.

In anticipation of the expiration of the IGA, on April 3, 2025, the Board adopted Ordinance O25-010 establishing an Office of Interim Inspector General and setting forth the minimum qualifications and duties for the Interim Inspector General. On that same date, the Board authorized the MWRD to enter into an agreement with attorney Patrick Blanchard to serve as the MWRD's Interim Inspector General. On September 4, 2025, the Board adopted Ordinance O25-011 amending Ordinance O25-010 to clarify confidentiality provisions, allow public statements regarding inefficient or wasteful management, and to correct non-substantive grammatical errors. On December 4, 2025, the Board approved a motion to extend Patrick Blanchard's term as MWRD's Interim Inspector General to June 30, 2026.

The OIIG and the Interim Inspector General have served as the MWRD's Inspector General over the last six years promoting integrity, efficiency, accountability and transparency in MWRD operations. MWRD is ready to commence the process of appointing its own Inspector General which is authorized by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Act, 70 ILCS 2605/4. Section 4 requires that the Board (if not entering into an IGA with another unit of local government to provide Inspector General services) appoint from outside its own number an Inspector General and establish minimum qualifications and duties for the Inspector General by ordinance. Therefore, the Board's adoption of the attached Ordinance establishing the minimum qualifications and duties for MWRD's Inspector General and convening the search and selection committees for the appointment process is recommended.

The Chicago Bar Association (CBA) has agreed to convene a search committee for the MWRD Inspector General. The CBA is uniquely qualified to perform this search as it possesses a high degree of professional skill and has performed these same duties for other governmental agencies.

As a result of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the Board adopt Ordinance O25-013 establishing the minimum qualifications and duties for MWRD's Inspector General and convening search and selection committees for appointing MWRD's Inspector General.

Requested, Susan T. Morakalis, General Counsel, STM:nl

Disposition of this agenda item will be documented in the official Regular Board Meeting Minutes of the Board of Commissioners for December 18, 2025

Attachment