

TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR BOARD MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL WASTE AND WATER POLLUTION

Mr. John P. Murray, Acting Executive Director

..Title

Request Authority to Transmit the Proposed Amended Sewage and Waste Control Ordinance of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago to the United States Environmental Protection Agency for Approval

..Body

Dear Sir:

An in-house review of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's (District) Sewage and Waste Control Ordinance (Ordinance) by the Monitoring and Research Department and the Law Department determined the need to amend certain provisions of the Ordinance. Since one or more of the amendments are considered substantial, the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 (USEPA) needs to approve them prior to implementation. The USEPA has tentatively approved the amendments, but requires the Board of Commissioners' (Board) approval before they will provide final USEPA approval. The USEPA also required publication of the amendments for a 30-day public comment period, which was completed and closed August 21, 2025. Once the USEPA provides final approval, it will be recommended that the Board adopt the revised Ordinance at a later Board meeting.

The proposed amendment consists mainly of changes to reorganize, streamline, and clarify existing language, with the major changes consisting of the following:

1. Added Article V, Section 14 to require that USEPA reporting requirements, such as those for dental amalgam, be submitted to the District as the Local Control Authority.
2. Added Article V, Section 15 to classify Non-Discharging Categorical Industrial Users, and require that they annually certify to the District that they have not discharged regulated process wastewater into the District's sewerage system.
3. Streamlined existing administrative appeal process by adding Article VI, Section 7.
4. Added Article IX, which streamlines the process of how documents are served under the Ordinance, and when they are considered served.
5. Added Article IV, Section 7 prohibiting interference with District monitoring activities.
6. Reorganized and streamlined the Discharge Authorization provisions of Appendix D.

Attached is a redline version of the proposed amended Ordinance. It is recommended that the Board preliminarily approve the proposed Ordinance, as herein amended, and its transmittal to the USEPA.

Requested, Edward W. Podczerwinski, Director of Monitoring and Research, EWP:JW:tj

Susan T. Morakalis, General Counsel

Jacqueline Torres, Clerk/Director of Finance

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

Attachments