

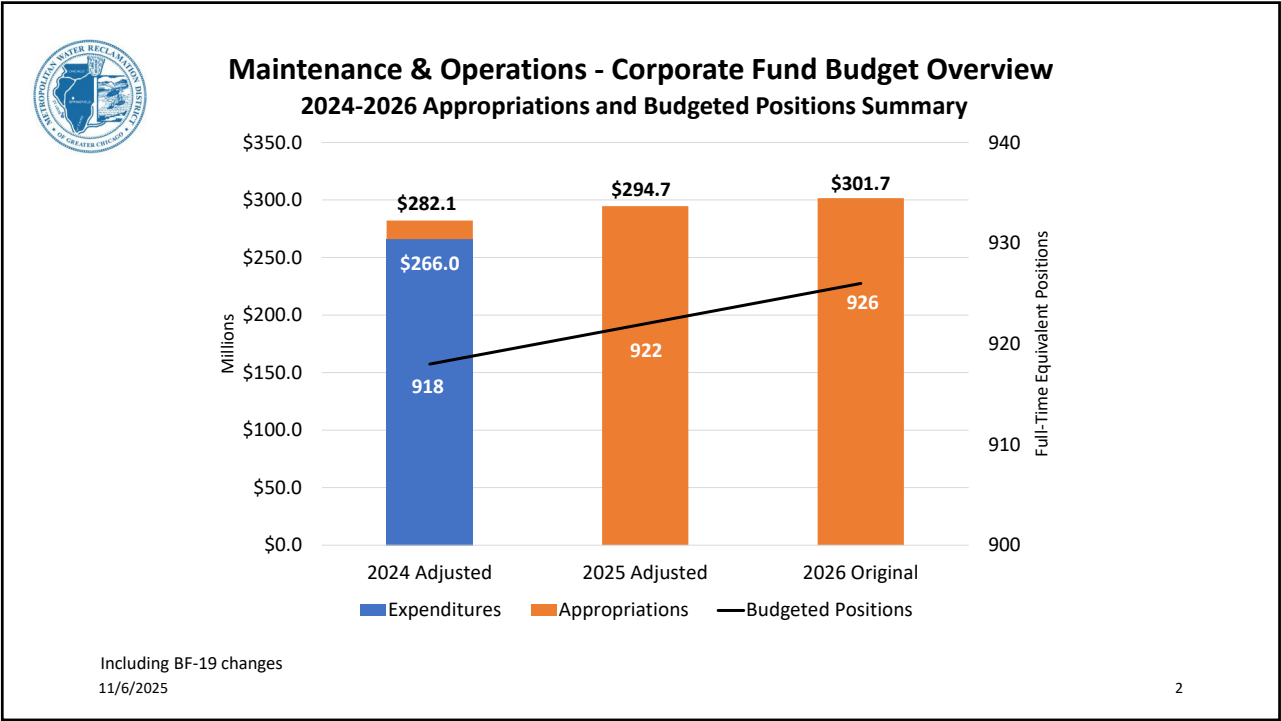


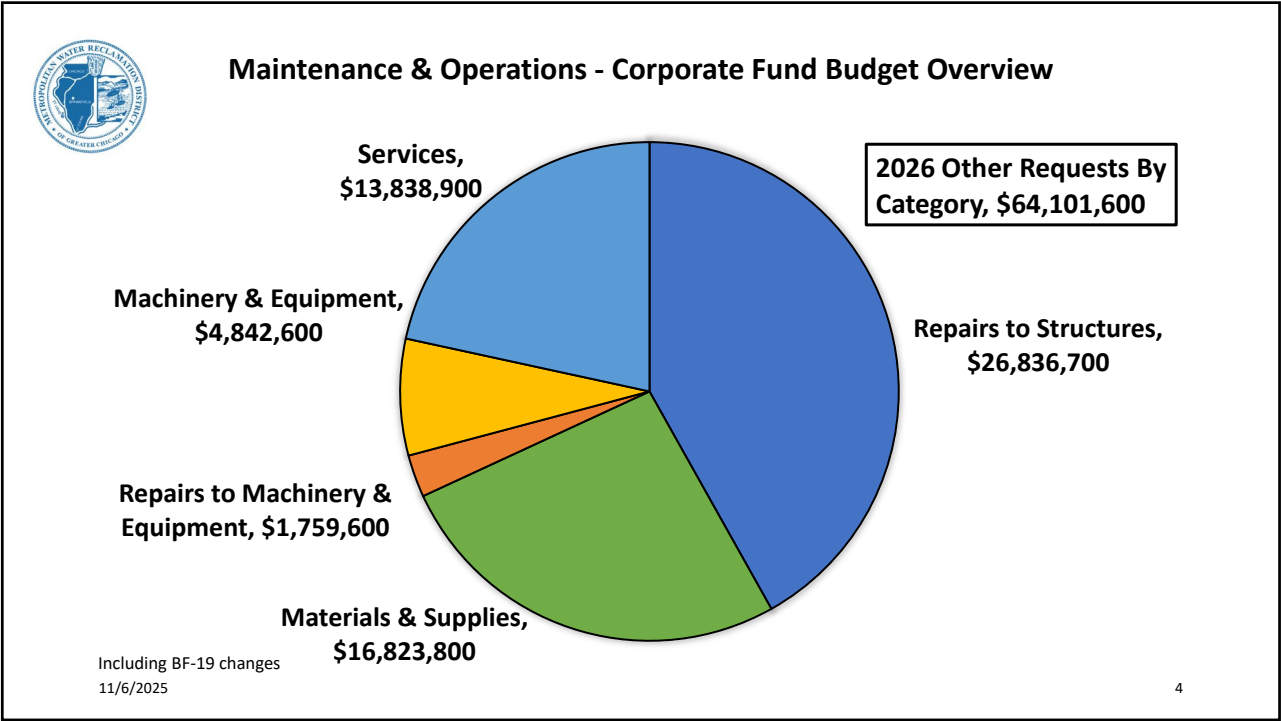
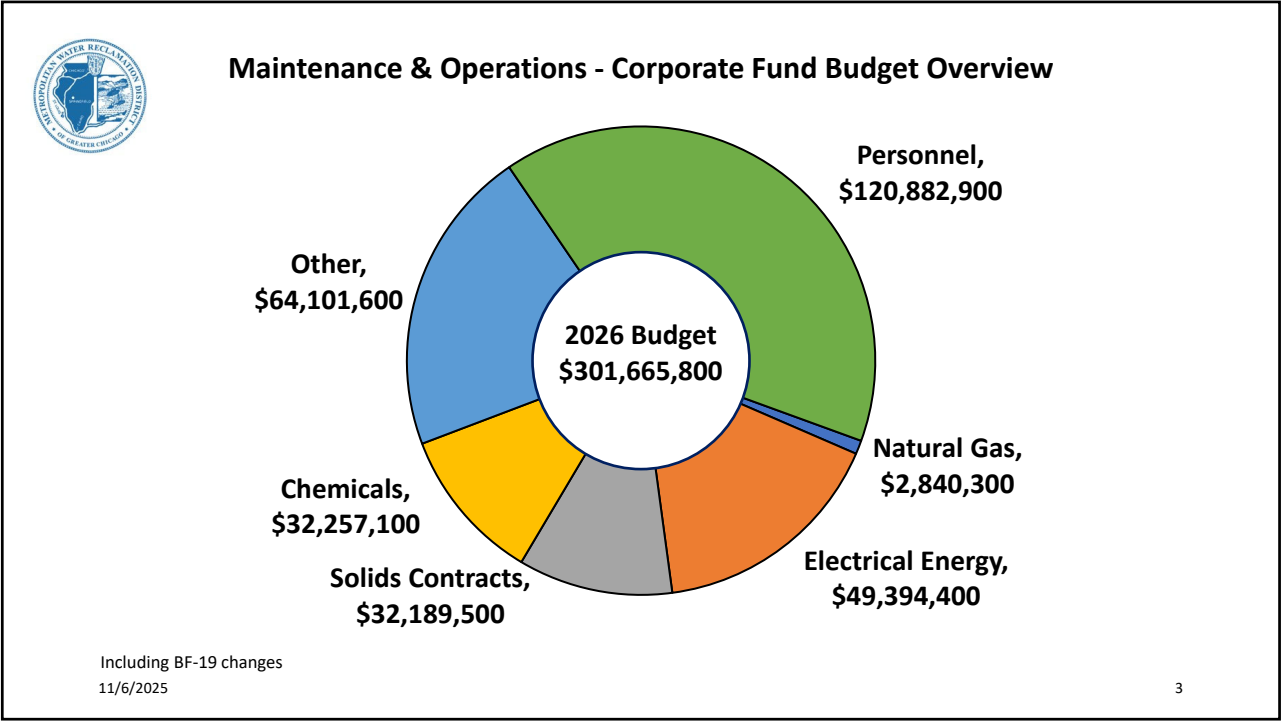
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Executive Director's Budget Recommendations

MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

PINAKIN DESAI, ACTING DIRECTOR OF MAINTENANCE &
OPERATIONS







Maintenance & Operations
2025 Accomplishments

Purchase Orders Issued in 2025 – Ensuring Resources are Available

Category	Count	Total \$ Value
Materials & Supplies	1100	9,579,104
Repairs to Structures	60	10,267,040
Contractual Services	50	46,702,485
Machinery & Equipment	48	2,429,538
Capital & Preservation Projects	18	45,754,597
Repairs to Machinery & Equipment	3	349,221
Grand Total	1279	115,081,985



Maintenance & Operations
2025 Accomplishments



Resource Management



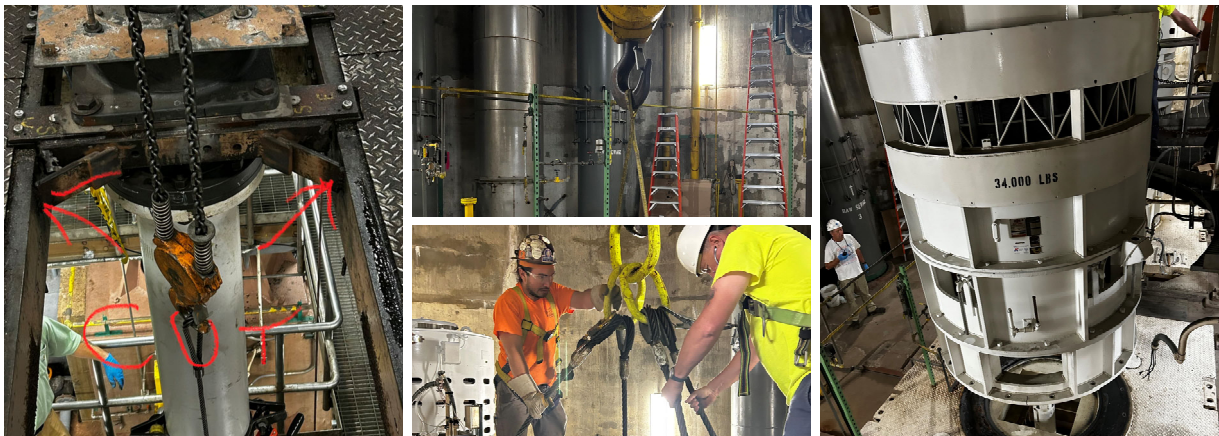
Maintenance & Operations
2025 Accomplishments



Resource Management



Maintenance & Operations
2025 Accomplishments



Resource Management



Maintenance & Operations
2025 Accomplishments



Resource Management



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Maintenance & Operations
2025 Accomplishments



Resource Management

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Maintenance & Operations 2025 Accomplishments

Resource Management



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Maintenance & Operations 2025 Accomplishments





Resource Management

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**Maintenance & Operations
2025 Accomplishments**



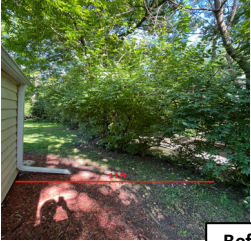
Resource Management

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**Maintenance & Operations
2025 Accomplishments**



Before



After



Stormwater Management

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Maintenance & Operations
2025 Accomplishments



Innovation

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Maintenance & Operations
2025 Accomplishments



Community Engagement

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Maintenance & Operations
2025 Accomplishments



Workforce Excellence

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Maintenance & Operations
2026 Budget Highlights

Resource Management



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Maintenance & Operations
2026 Budget Highlights

Resource Management



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Maintenance & Operations
2026 Budget Highlights



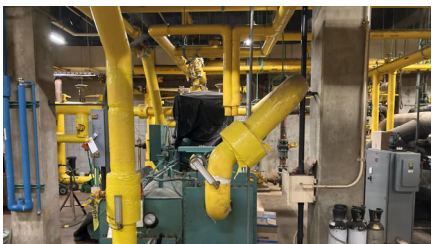
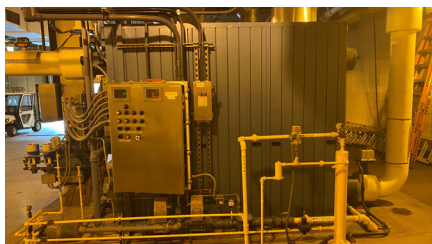
Resource Management

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Maintenance & Operations
2026 Budget Highlights



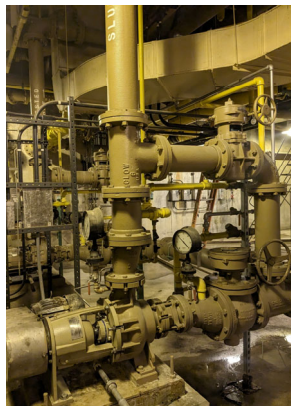
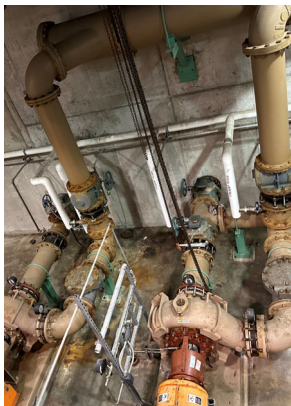
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Resource Management

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Maintenance & Operations
2026 Budget Highlights



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Resource Management

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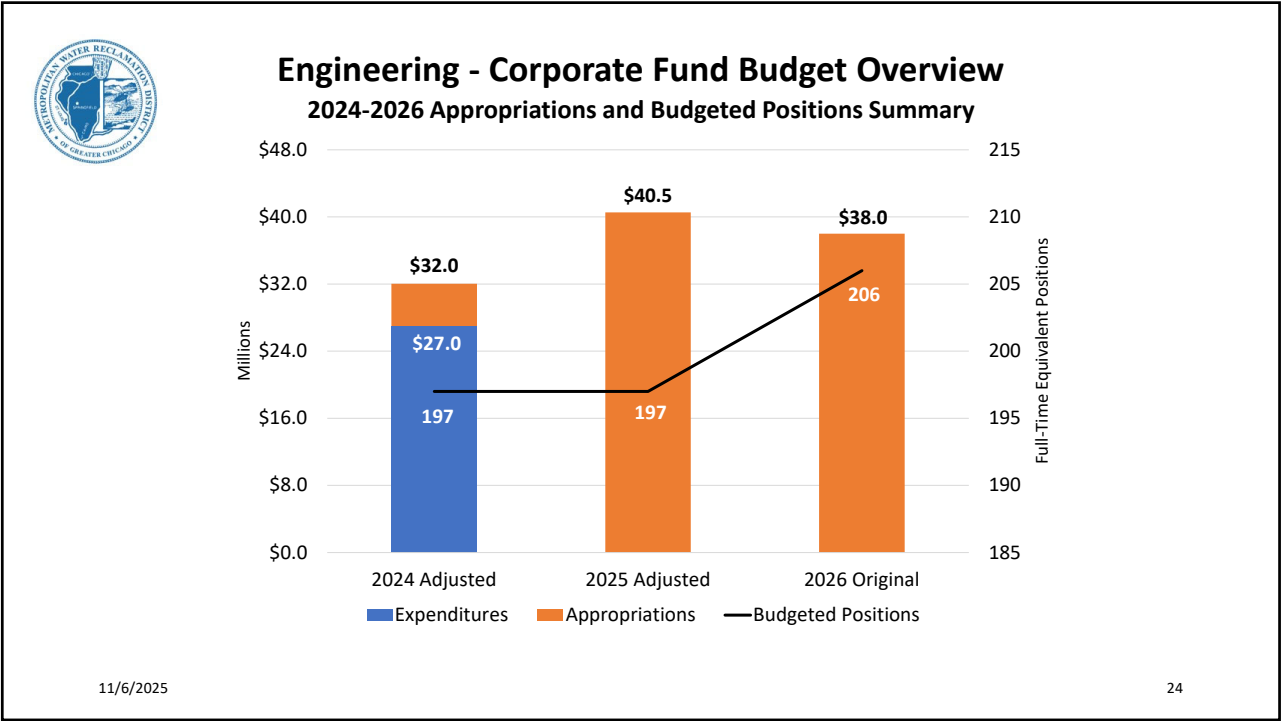


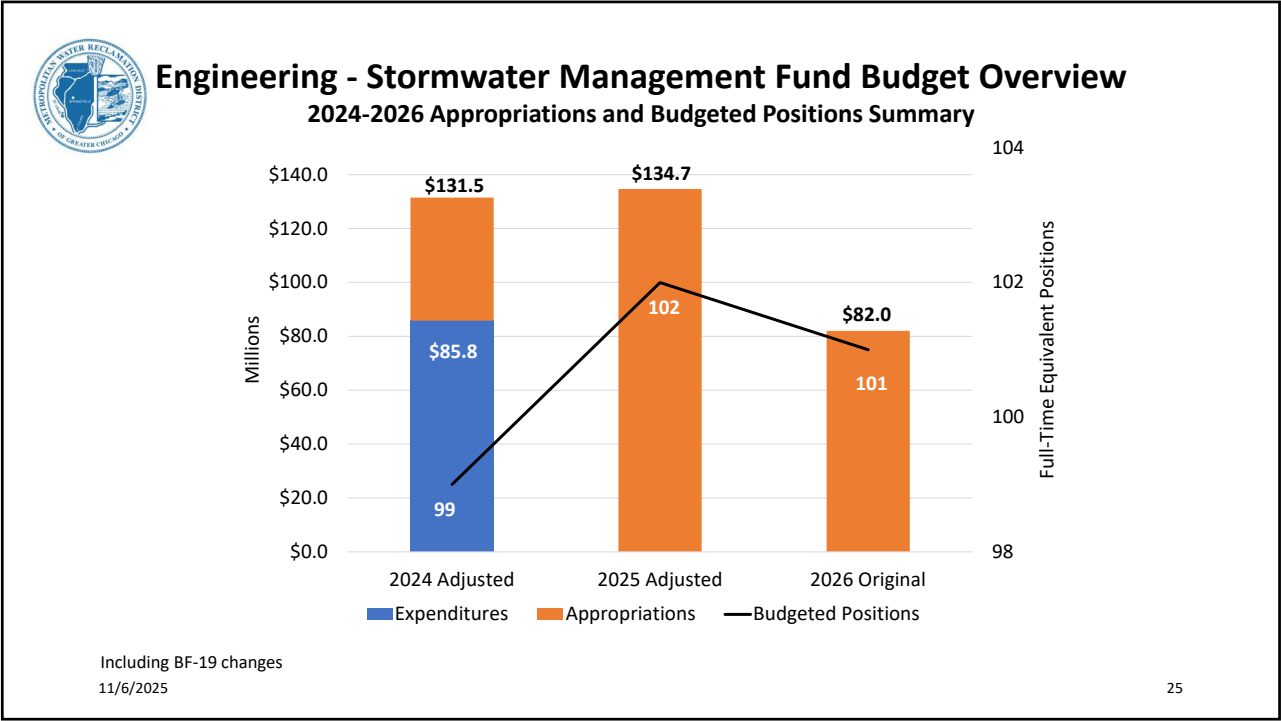
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Executive Director's
Budget Recommendations

ENGINEERING

CATHERINE A. O'CONNOR, DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING





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Engineering

2025 Accomplishments

Contract 22-878-1S Condition Assessment of Local Sewers

- Contract was awarded in August 2025
- Condition assessment work started in October 2025 and will be completed by the end of February 2026
- Work is scheduled to take place within Bellwood, Country Club Hills, Dolton, Ford Heights, Harvey, Hazel Crest, Markham, Riverdale, and Stone Park
- Cleaning and televising local sewers
- Manhole inspections
- Smoke testing local sewers



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**Engineering
2025 Accomplishments**

Contract 14-253-5FR Flood Control Project on Midlothian Creek in Robbins, Illinois

- Construction completed for second phase of the stormwater improvements along Midlothian Creek in Robbins including connection to the first phase’s diversion channel
- Project inspection and substantial completion in November 2025
- Total Project Construction Cost Approximately \$20.4 million



**Engineering
2025 Accomplishments**

Contract 21-168-3S Westchester Pumping Station Relief Sewer, SSA

- With the goal of reducing CSOs into Addison Creek, the District began construction of a diversion sewer to connect the Westchester Pumping Station with the Roosevelt Road leg of the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP) at drop shaft DS-D34-AI, in 2024
- The connection was successfully completed on May 9, 2025. The connection reduces the frequency of combined sewer overflow events into Addison Creek
- Project inspection and substantial completion was accomplished in September 2025
- Total Project Construction Cost Approximately \$6.9 million





**Engineering
2025 Accomplishments**

Contract 20-087-3P Chemical Phosphorus Removal, OWRP

- Contract was awarded on April 3, 2025
- Construction started on May 3, 2025
- This contract will facilitate phosphorus removal from the treatment process to meet upcoming permits. Alum will be dosed at the influent to the final tanks in Batteries A, B, C, D and in the future Battery E
- Project completion is scheduled for May 2027
- Total Project Construction Cost is \$14.3 million



**Engineering
2025 Accomplishments**

Contract 19-375-3P Chemical Addition Backup System, KWRP

- Construction contract was awarded in July 2025 to install a chemical system for phosphorus removal, as a backup in the event the biological phosphorus removal process becomes unstable
- Substantial completion in July 2026
- Total Project Construction Cost Approximately \$5.4 million





**Engineering
2025 Accomplishments**

Contract 11-187-3F Addison Creek Channel Improvements, SSA

- Channel improvements along Addison Creek through Northlake, Melrose Park, Stone Park, Bellwood, Westchester, & Broadview
- Improvements include channel widening, soldier pile wall, articulated concrete blocks, gabions, native vegetation, and the removal of three bridges
- Project is over 85% complete, with final completion expected in Summer 2026
- Total Project Construction Cost Approximately \$78.0 million



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**Engineering
2026 Highlights**

Contract 22-093-2M HVAC Improvements to UV Building and Switchgear Building, OWRP

- HVAC Improvements to the UV Building and Primary Switchgear Building at O'Brien WRP
- Project inspection and substantial completion in May 2027
- Total Project Construction Cost Approximately \$2.7 million



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Engineering
2026 Highlights

Contract 23-379-3E Electrical Power Distribution and Phosphorus Removal Improvements, KWRP

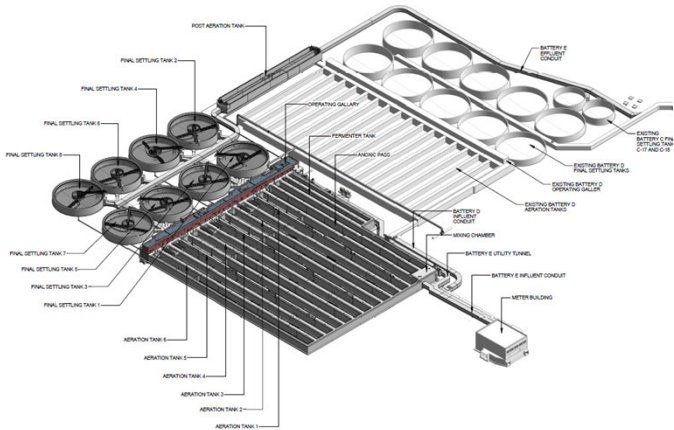
- Major work includes:
 - Replacement of medium voltage switchgear and motor control centers located throughout the plant in addition to construction of a new electrical building
 - Power distribution improvements at Majewski Reservoir
 - Convert all six aeration tanks in Battery A to an enhanced biological phosphorus removal system by installing baffle walls, large-bubble mixers, and actuated air valves, and modifying the KWRP DCS system for automated control and monitoring
- The work completed under this contract will replace electrical equipment over 30 years old and in poor condition to avoid failures, increase safety, and ensure appropriate level of power distribution service
- Contract is currently in bidding, with anticipated award in January 2026. Total Project Construction Cost is approximately \$23.5 million



Engineering
2026 Budget Highlights

Contract 21-092-3P Battery E Activated Sludge Facility, OWRP

- Estimated Contract Value: \$325 million
- Contract Duration: 1,460 Days
- Advertise Date: September 17, 2025
- Bid Opening Date: November 18, 2025
- Constructing an entire new secondary treatment facility at the SW corner of OWRP
- New facility will consist of influent/effluent conduits, utility tunnel, 6 aeration tanks, RAS fermenter tank, operating gallery building, 8 final settling tanks, post aeration tank, plant air main loop





Engineering
2026 Budget Highlights

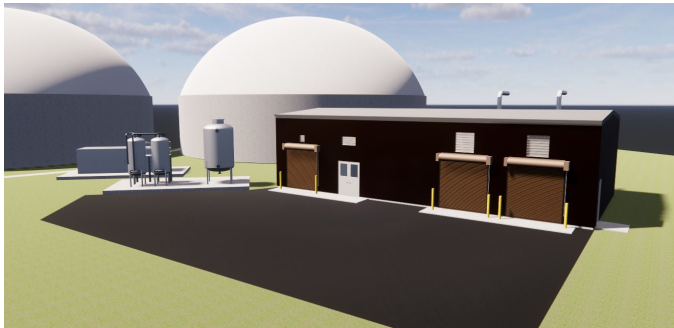
25-RFP-21 (Contract 24-268-3P) Rebuild of Dewatering Facility, CWRP

- Rebuilding existing facility to dewater digested sludge, since access to existing lagoons will become impractical due to CTA Red Line extension
- Progressive Design-Build project delivery
 - Phase 1 - design and pre-construction
 - Phase 2 - construction and post-award engineering
- Centrifuges purchased under 25-282-3P to account for long lead times
- Estimated Project Cost: \$71.5 million
- Estimated Timeline: 2026 - 2028



Engineering
2026 Budget Highlights

Contract 20-415-2S Biogas Combined Heat and Power System, EWRP

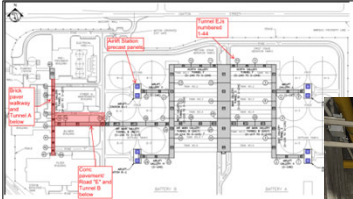


- The project will utilize biogas generated from the wastewater treatment process in engine generators to produce electricity and recover heat for preheating the boiler return water line
- The project was awarded on January 4, 2024, with anticipated substantial completion in July 2026
- Total Project Construction Cost is approximately \$10.7 million



Engineering
2026 Budget Highlights

Contract 24-384-3D Rehabilitation of Service Tunnel, Expansion Joints and Replacement of Road E, KWRP



- Major work includes rehabilitation of deteriorated expansion joints, cracks, and concrete spalls in underground tunnels located throughout the plant
- The work performed under this contract will extend the life of the tunnel structures, which are critical to ongoing treatment operations
- Contract is currently in bidding, with anticipated award in January 2026
- Total Project Construction Cost is approximately \$7.0 million

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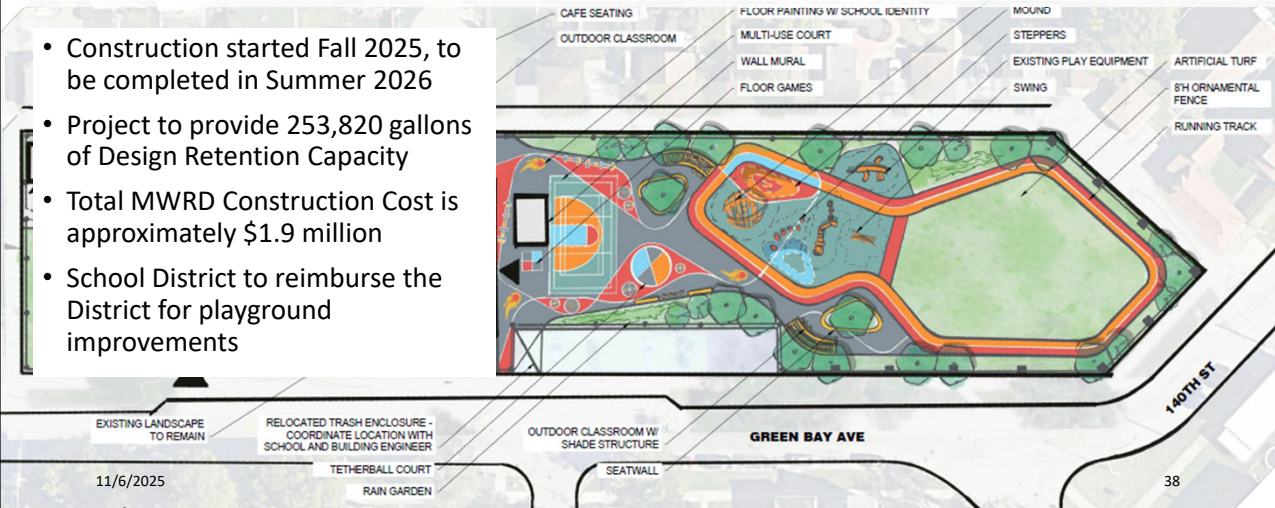
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Engineering
2026 Budget Highlights

Contract 24-279-5F Suburban Green Schoolyard Pilot Project 1 in Burnham

- Construction started Fall 2025, to be completed in Summer 2026
- Project to provide 253,820 gallons of Design Retention Capacity
- Total MWRD Construction Cost is approximately \$1.9 million
- School District to reimburse the District for playground improvements



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	Engineering 2025 Capital Improvement Program “Report Card”			
2025 CIP Summary Status*	Contract Construction (30 Projects)	Contract Closeout (8 Projects)	Substantial Completion (6 Projects)	Program (44 Projects)
Project Cost	102%	106%	112%	
Project Schedule	145%	164%	264%	
Contract Value Totals	\$625,500,000	\$122,900,000	\$101,300,000	\$849,700,000
*Through October 2025				
11/6/2025	39			



Engineering Stormwater Program Metrics

Overall Program To Date as of October 14, 2025

Program Component	Number of Projects	Structures Benefited [§]	Storage Created [§] (ac-ft)	Construction/ Acquisition Cost [§] (\$ in Millions)	MWRD Cost [§] (\$ in Millions)
Regional Stormwater	26	4,142	954	398	299
Local Stormwater	88	10,985	477	332	204
Green Infrastructure*	157	3,583	70	143	53
Flood-Prone Property Acquisition	18	143	n.a.	53	30
Total	289	18,853	1,500	926.0	585.8

*Includes 41 Space to Grow projects

[§]Exclude 11 projects that are under development or in the planning phase

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The logo of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago is a circular seal. It features a central shield with a ship and a lighthouse, surrounded by the text "METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT" and "OF GREATER CHICAGO".

Engineering Watershed Management Ordinance Metrics

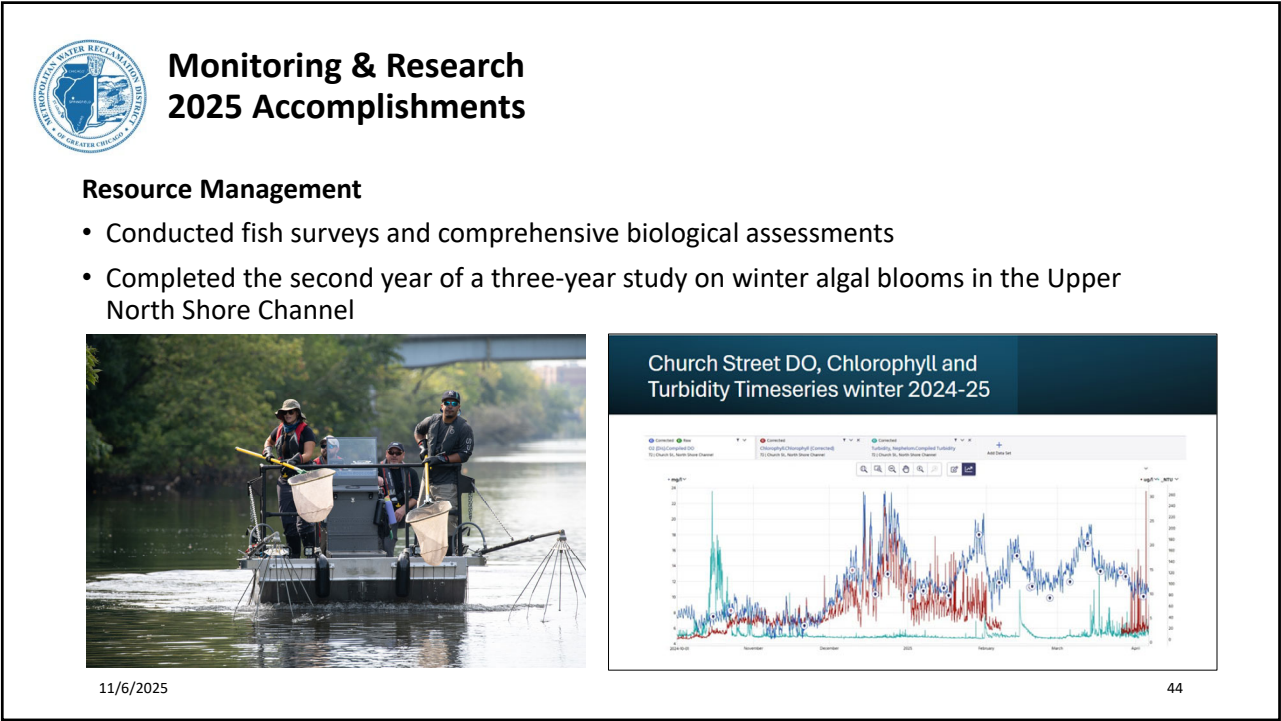
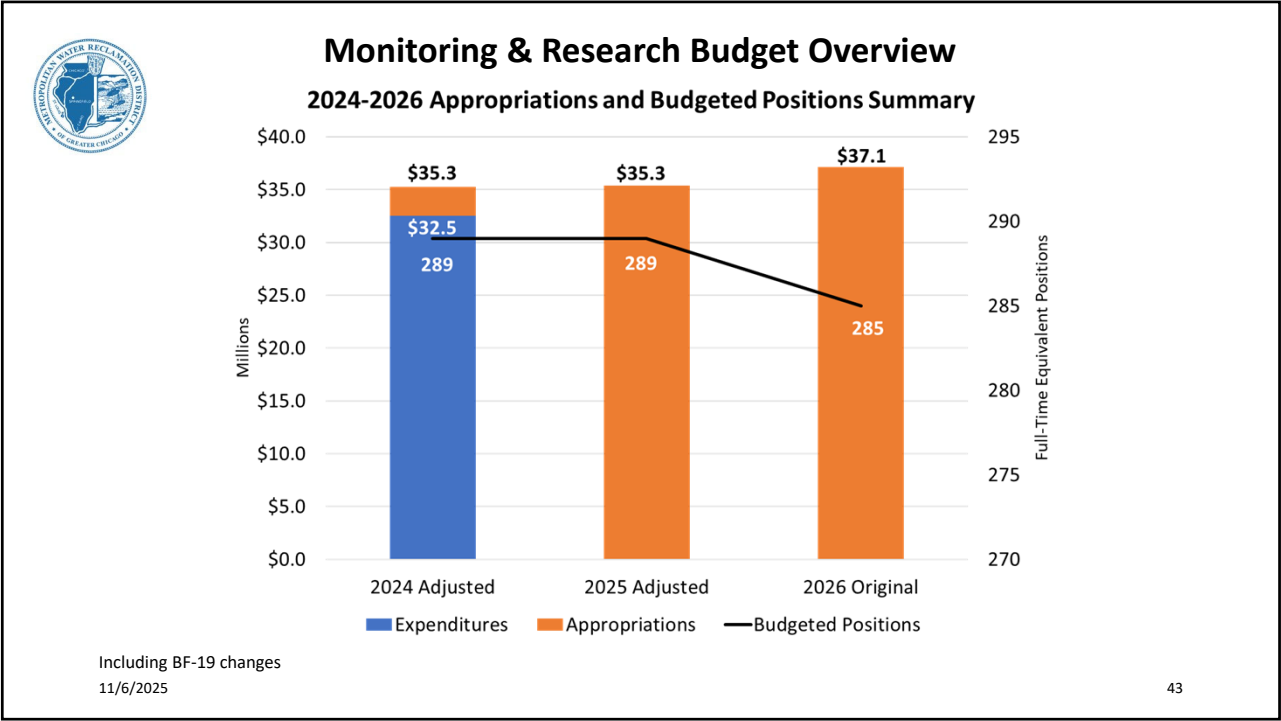
From effective date of May 1, 2014 through June 30, 2025

Number of Permits Issued	Development Area (acres)	Volume Control (GI) Storage (gallons)	Detention Volume (gallons)	Compensatory Storage (gallons)
3,579	10,983	184,607,500	896,767,700	73,570,500

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	Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Executive Director’s Budget Recommendations	
MONITORING & RESEARCH	
EDWARD W. PODCZERWINSKI, DIRECTOR OF MONITORING & RESEARCH	

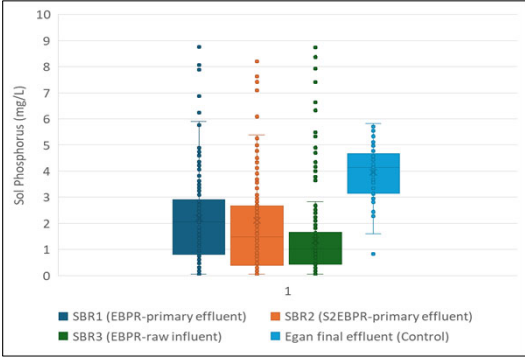




**Monitoring & Research
2025 Accomplishments**

Resource Management (continued)

- Conducted a small-scale pilot study on biological phosphorus removal and continued work on the Water Research Foundation’s Tailored Collaboration project at the Egan WRP



Sample	Median (mg/L)	Range (mg/L)
SBR1 (EBPR-primary effluent)	~2.5	~0.5 - 8.5
SBR2 (S2EBPR-primary effluent)	~2.0	~0.5 - 8.5
SBR3 (EBPR-raw influent)	~1.5	~0.5 - 9.0
Egan final effluent (Control)	~4.5	~1.5 - 6.0

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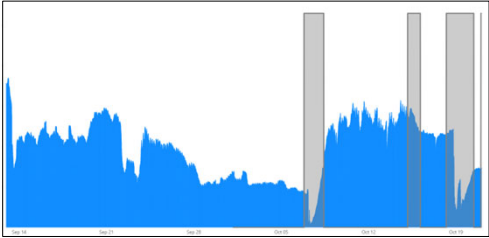
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**Monitoring & Research
2025 Accomplishments**

Resource Management (continued)

- Began an investigation to identify sources of elevated hydrogen sulfide levels in the South Park interceptor and at the Calumet WRP
- Installed real-time SulfiLogger sensors and collected targeted liquid samples to gain a better understanding of system conditions
- Data collection will finish in 2025, with final analysis and reporting in 2026



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Monitoring & Research 2025 Accomplishments

Resource Management (continued)

- Completed a two-year sewer modeling study for the South Park interceptor in the Calumet WRP service area
- Results will be shared at the December 2025 M&R seminar, with the final report expected in early 2026



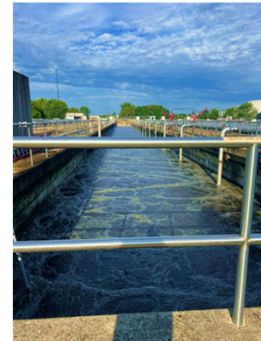
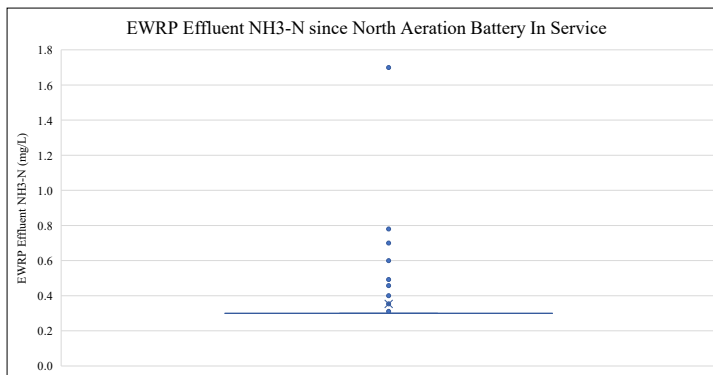
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Monitoring & Research 2025 Accomplishments

Enterprise Resilience

- Evaluated aeration performance at the Egan WRP with the new diffuser system



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Monitoring & Research 2025 Accomplishments

Enterprise Resilience (continued)

- Conducted seasonal monitoring of greenhouse gas emissions from District WRPs, biosolids management areas, and reservoirs using a mobile remote sensing lab
- Calculated emission estimates for carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide based on these monitoring efforts and determined hot spots



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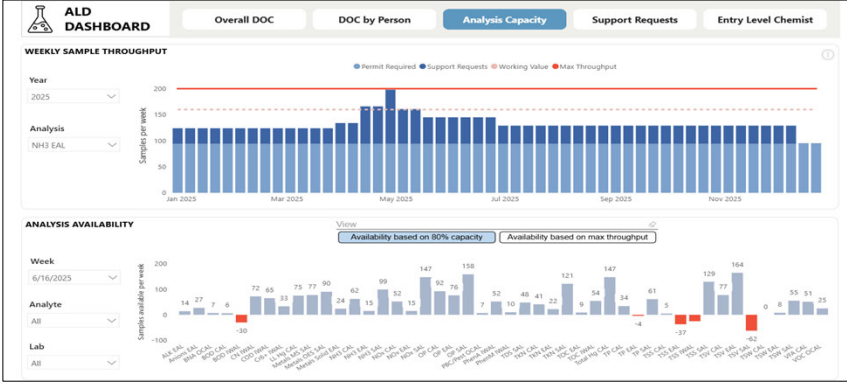
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Monitoring & Research 2025 Accomplishments

Enterprise Resilience

- Improved Power BI dashboards and SharePoint pages to make departmental data easier to access and share District-wide



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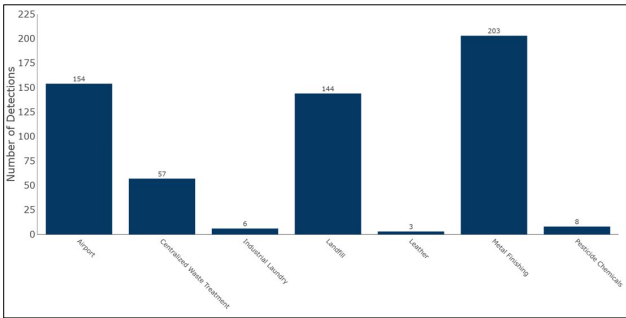


Monitoring & Research
2025 Accomplishments

Enterprise Resilience (continued)

PFAS Source Investigations

- Conducted second year of monitoring project to assess the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in domestic wastewater and priority industrial user discharges within the District’s service area
- Data assessed to refine facility inventory and PFAS facility minimization plans that will be required in upcoming National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits
- Will continue monitoring in 2025 and investigations in 2026



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Monitoring & Research
2026 Budget Highlights

Resource Management

- Collaborative research with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on Growing Industrial Hemp with Biosolids
- Use biosolids for growing industrial hemp to replace chemical fertilizer
- Quantify the environmental benefits, such as carbon sequestration
- Understand its soil contaminant removal potential



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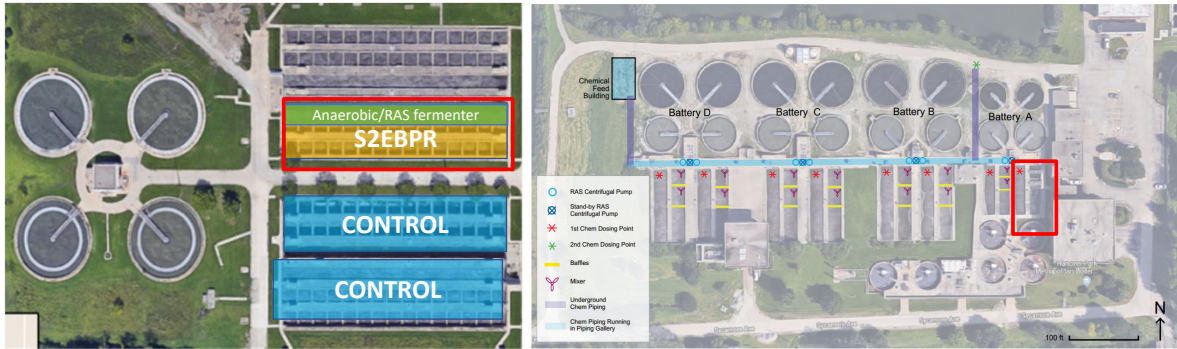
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Monitoring & Research
2026 Budget Highlights

Resource Management (continued)

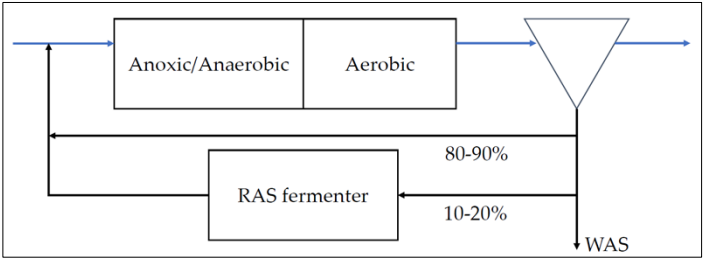
- Complete conceptual design and engineering evaluation to meet the upcoming NPDES total phosphorus permit at the Egan and Hanover Park WRPs



Monitoring & Research
2026 Budget Highlights

Resource Management (continued)

- Begin testing full-scale configuration of sidestream enhanced biological phosphorus removal at the O'Brien WRP

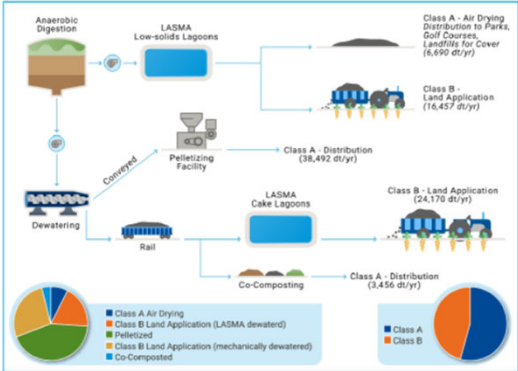




Monitoring & Research 2026 Budget Highlights

Resource Management (continued)

- Complete the Biosolids Management Strategy for the Stickney WRP



The flowchart illustrates the biosolids management process. It starts with 'Anaerobic Digestion' leading to 'LASMA Low-solids Lagoons'. From there, it branches into 'Class A - Air Drying Distribution to Parks, Golf Courses, Landfills for Cover (8,690 dt/yr)' and 'Class B - Pelletized Product Compost Other Products (16,457 dt/yr)'. Another path goes through 'Dewatering' to 'Co-Composting' and 'LASMA Cake Lagoons', leading to 'Class A - Distribution (38,492 dt/yr)' and 'Class B - Land Application (24,170 dt/yr)'. A 'Rail' transport option is also shown. A pie chart at the bottom summarizes the distribution: Class A Air Drying, Class B Land Application (LASMA dewatered), Pelletized, Class B Land Application (mechanically dewatered), and Co-Composted.



Figure 5: DEVELOPING A FLEXIBLE STRATEGIC PLAN. This diagram shows various inputs feeding into a central 'Flexible Biosolids Management Strategy'. Inputs include 'Future Demand Estimates' (Class B Biosolids, Class A Biosolids Cake, Pelletized Product, Compost, Other Products), 'Regulatory Pressures' (Unregulated Organics, Microplastics, Air Permitting, Condition, Capacity), 'Existing Infrastructure' (Environmental Justice, Odor Considerations, Traffic), 'Environmental and Social Pressures', 'Sustainability Drivers' (Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Nutrient Management), 'Reliable Future Capacity Existing Outlets', 'DBOM Facility Type/Capacity', and 'Future Process Alternatives'.

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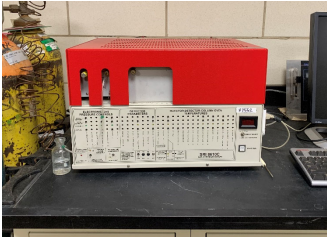
Monitoring & Research 2026 Budget Highlights

Enterprise Resilience

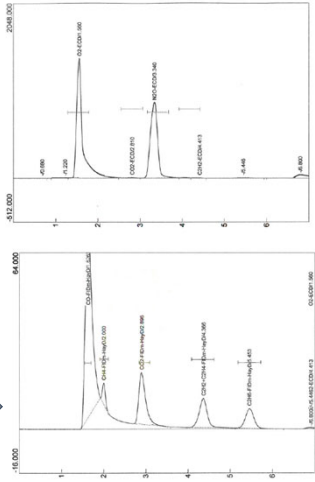
- Measure actual emission rates from the District's solids stabilization lagoons over four seasons
- Improve predicted emission rates



Collect Gas Emissions



Analyze on Gas Chromatograph



Quantify Emission Rates

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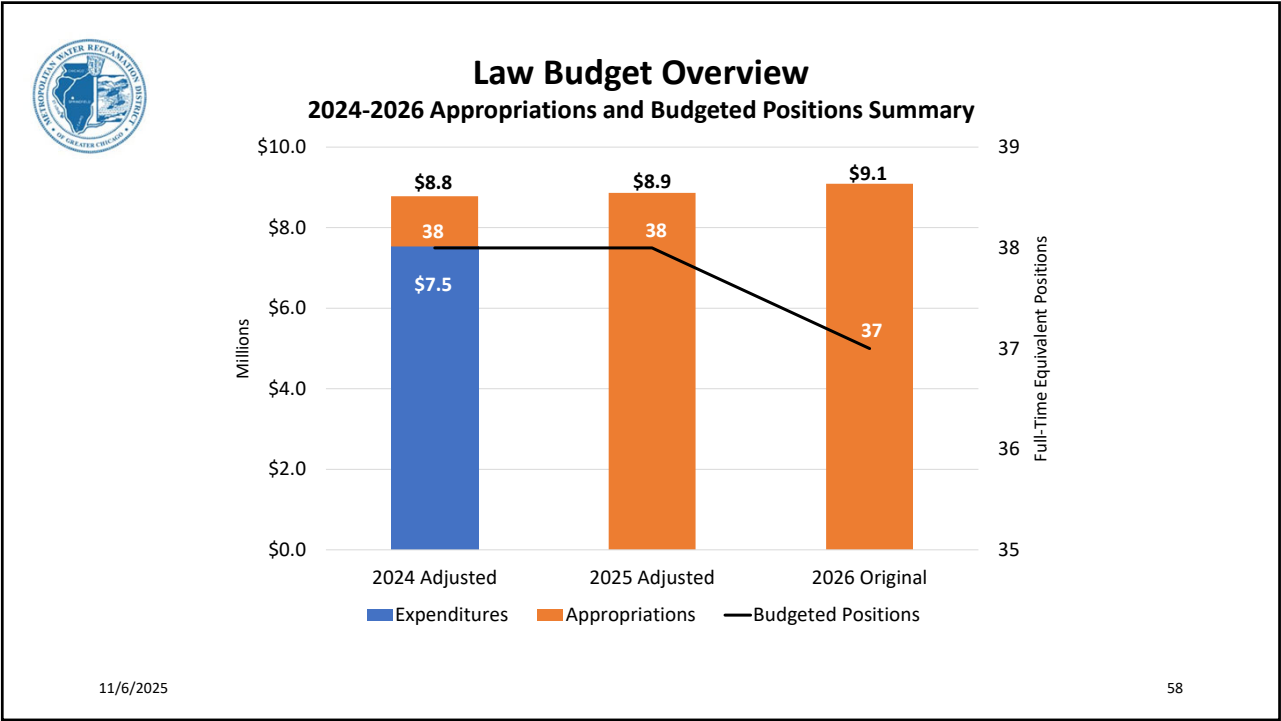


Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Executive Director's
Budget Recommendations

LAW

SUSAN T. MORAKALIS, GENERAL COUNSEL





Law

2025 Accomplishments



Defeated appeal of lawsuit brought by dozens of plaintiffs seeking over \$100 million in damages for residential flooding



Obtained dismissal of eight-figure claim for flood damage to high profile Chicago building



Finalized intergovernmental agreements with over 30 governmental entities for stormwater projects



Assisted in the collection of more than \$1.5 million in unpaid amounts owed pursuant to the District's User Charge Ordinance and Sewage & Waste Control Ordinance



Amended MWRD Act to increase the amount of bonds, notes or other indebtedness that the Board of Commissioners can authorize from \$150.0 million to \$250.0 million



\$32.0 million in rental income

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Law

2026 Budget Highlights

- Continue to work with M&O to ensure compliance with the District's Clean Air Act and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits, and stay informed on all regulatory developments relating to emerging contaminants
- Develop comprehensive framework to guide proactive implementation of stormwater solutions across Cook County
- Partner with local communities to significantly increase stormwater management projects:
 - Assist in the right-of-way acquisitions for stormwater and sewer projects, including Prairie Creek in Maine Township and Park Ridge
 - Assist in Lyons and McCook Levee Improvements Project

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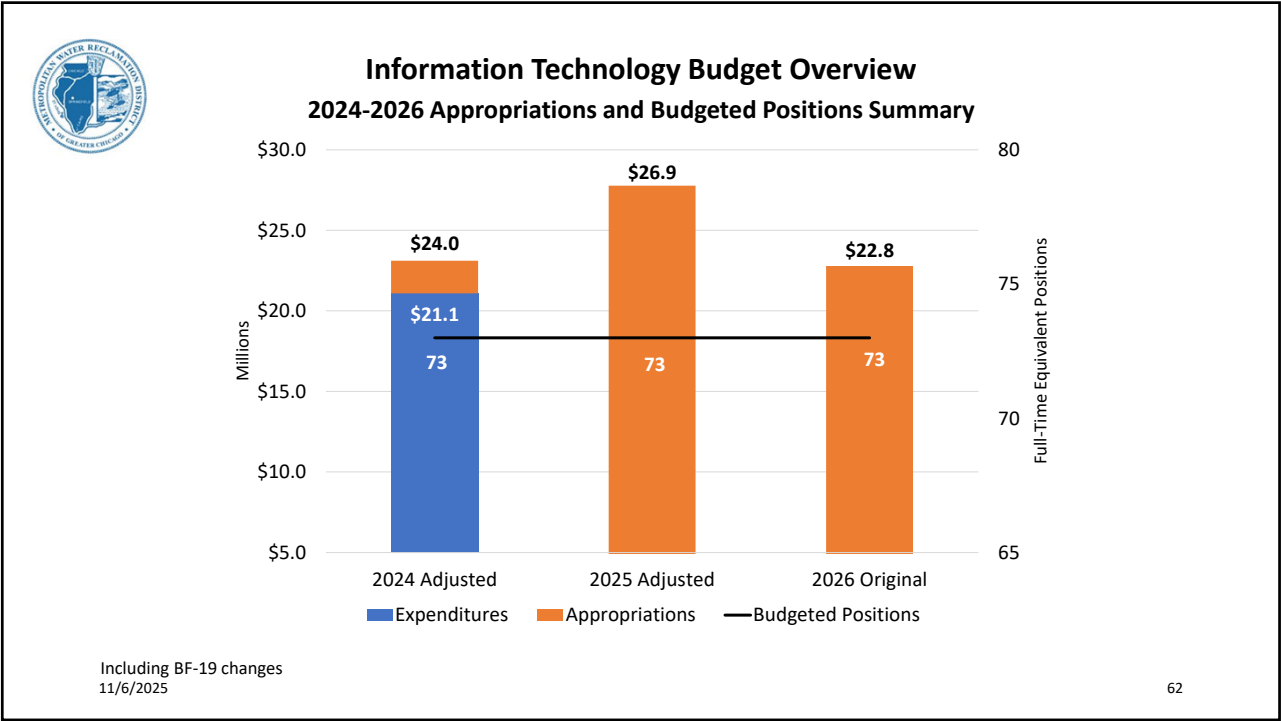


Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Executive Director’s Budget Recommendations

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

SEAN T. KELLY, DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY





Information Technology
2025 Accomplishments

Community Engagement, Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) and Geographic Information System (GIS) Updates

Leveraged the District’s current notification system for internal emergency notifications and in-house IT expertise.

Provides an easier login/registration page for the public to sign up for alerts linked on MWRD's website and GIS system (GeoHub).

Notification to the public about registration resulted in more accurate contact information (e-mail and SMS). This campaign successfully increased subscriptions to 2,319 as of September and supports approximately 1,000 more users than the legacy system.



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Information Technology
2025 Accomplishments

Enterprise Resilience, Access Control System Upgrade

Updated Electronic Badging System at MOBC and Plants

Access & Data Synchronizations across systems (Time and Attendance, Outlook/Teams)

Eliminated one of oldest running systems on the business network



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Information Technology
2025 Accomplishments

Enterprise Resilience, Digital Transformation Efforts

Online Job Transfer App

- In partnership with Human Resources, facilitated the launch of the Online Job Transfer App for staff in August 2025
- Previously a paper process that now empowers Human Resources with real-time data and processing efficiencies

Updated Paycheck Stub App (December 2025/early January 2026)

- More secure, modern access moved into the recently launched employee portal
- Removal from legacy employee portal (slated to be decommissioned in 2026)
- Launching ground for securely accessing W-4s



Information Technology
2025 Accomplishments

Enterprise Resilience, Embracing Innovation and Emerging Technology



Launched Inaugural Information Technology Innovation Cohorts to proactively embrace emerging technology



Facilitated District-Wide AI in Water Event



Coordinated Rollout of the AI tool **Copilot**



In conjunction with other departments, worked to launch an official AI Policy in late December/early 2026



Information Technology
2025 Accomplishments



Enterprise Resilience, Cybersecurity Enhancements



Updated Computer Use
Administrative Policy



More Frequent Training
Assessments



Enterprise Firewall
Upgrades (year end)



Updated Incident Response
and Information Technology
Security Policies (year end)

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Information Technology
2026 Budget Highlights

Proactive Evolution (Innovation)
Continue Digital Transformation Efforts



Governance
framework for IT
innovation

Digital
Transformation
Launch additional
modern apps and
digital forms

Launch billing
dashboard &
enable ACH
payments for
Telecom services

More efforts in AI
training and use-
case efficiencies
across the District

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Information Technology
2026 Budget Highlights

Business Resilience, Cybersecurity Enhancements



New Policies in AI, Electronic Document Guidelines



Continue IT/OT Partnerships



Q1 - Rollout of Self Password Reset



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Information Technology
2026 Budget Highlights

Business Resilience, ERP Assessment Completion

S.W.O.T. and GAP analysis of current ERP

Enterprise assessment of integrated, cross functional processes & procedures

Best-fit solution recommendation

RFP for system integration and implementation



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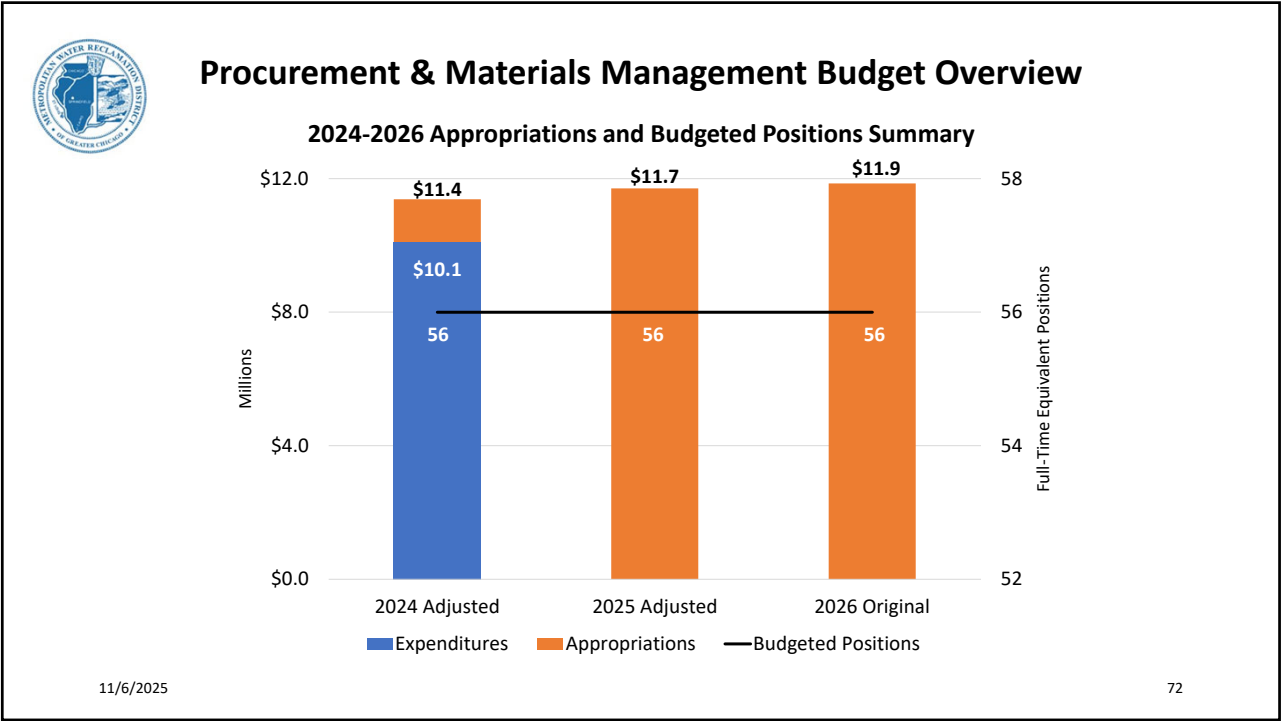


Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Executive Director's Budget Recommendations

PROCUREMENT & MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

DARLENE A. LOCASCIO, DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & MATERIALS MANAGEMENT





Procurement & Materials Management
2025 Accomplishments

Community Engagement, Enhance the experience of vendors doing business with the MWRD. The following enhancements to the procurement process were implemented:

- Pre-bid conference revamped
- Implementation of electronic spreadsheets
- Competitive bidding threshold increase
- Long-form contracts: review and process electronically
- Enhancements to the P&MM Annual Report
- Received the 2025 National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP) - Quality Public Procurement Accreditation/Award



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Procurement & Materials Management
2026 Budget Highlights

- **Implementation of a contract management system District-wide**
This will provide standardization of contract language, boilerplates for different contract types and incorporate the electronic bidding spreadsheet into the contract documents.
- **Procurement Code**
Incorporating all statutes, policies, guidelines and procedures into one comprehensive document to provide a procurement reference tool for both internal and external customers.
- **Inventoried engineering spare parts**
As M&O embarks on a new maintenance and management system, P&MM will assist in ensuring that inventoried spare parts are assigned to the proper asset.



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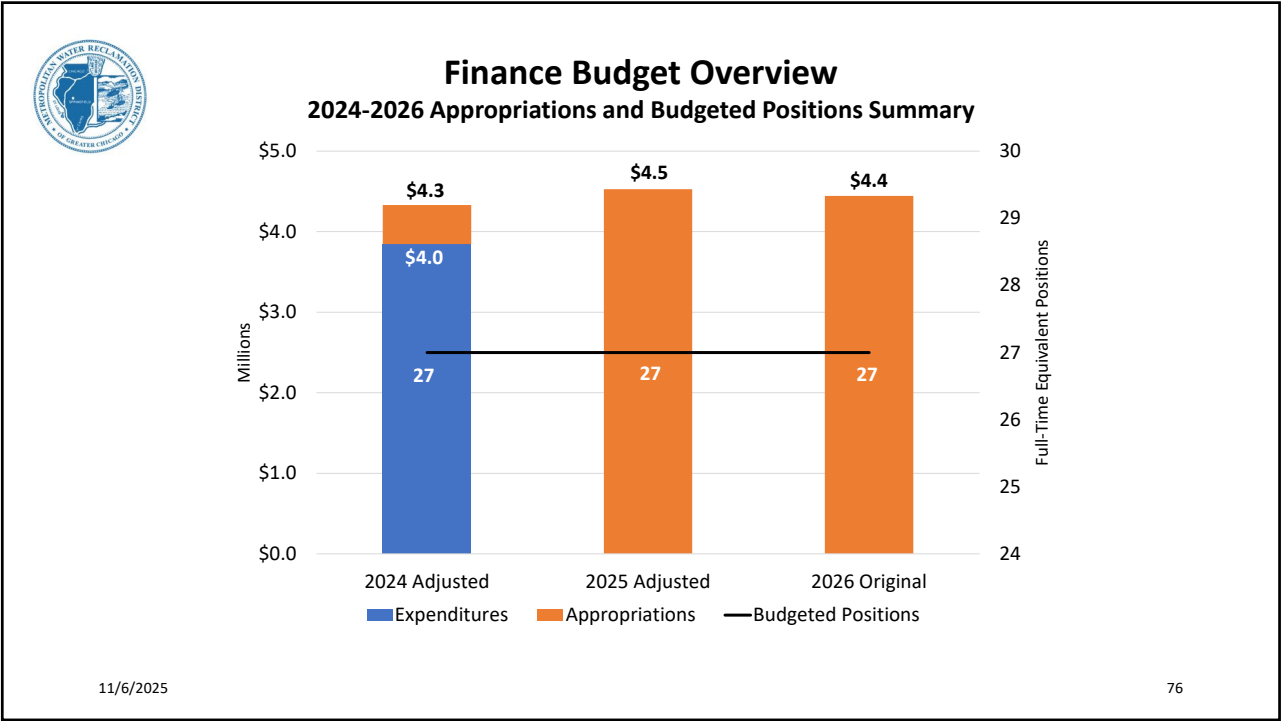


Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Executive Director’s Budget Recommendations

FINANCE

JACQUELINE TORRES, CLERK/DIRECTOR OF FINANCE





Finance 2025 Accomplishments



Government Finance Officers Association

1975	1980	1988
1976	1981	1989
1977	1982	1990
1978	1983	1991
1979	1984	1992
	1985	1993
	1986	1994
	1987	1995
	1996	
	1997	
	1998	
	1999	

Certificate of
Achievement
for Excellence
in Financial
Reporting

Presented to

**Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
of Greater Chicago, Illinois**

For its Annual Comprehensive
Financial Report
For the Fiscal Year Ended

2000	2012	2020
2001	2013	2021
2002	2014	2022
2003	2015	2023
2004	2016	2024
2005	2017	
2006	2018	
2007	2019	
2008		
2009		
2010		
2011		

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50th consecutive year

77



Finance 2025 Accomplishments

SAP ERP Enhancements:



Automated holdbacks and liens contract withholdings postings to streamline processing



Improved electronic payment configuration allowing ACH remittances to be sent to multiple e-mail addresses



Developed real-time fraud alert feature for employee payroll bank information changes



Automated the reporting requirements for the new employee 401(a) retirement plan

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Finance

2025 Accomplishments

Completed the first phase of automating the Chemical Toilet Waste and Bio-P coupon program by transitioning both into the User Charge module of iPACS system



Upgraded Workforce Suite to enhance User Interface and integrated suite services



Upgraded District Time Clocks to incorporate stronger time keeping controls and accountability by adding Biometric finger scanning technology



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Finance

2026 Budget Highlights

• Continue delivering excellent customer services and obtaining an unmodified audit opinion of the District’s Financial Statements

• Ensure compliance with applicable GASB pronouncements and regulatory requirements





• Continue increasing electronic revenue collections

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80

40



Finance
2026 Budget Highlights



Work on second phase of automating the tracking and reporting of Chemical Toilet Waste and Bio-P coupon program.



Artificial Intelligence (AI) training for all Finance staff. Identify projects for operational efficiency and implement using AI.

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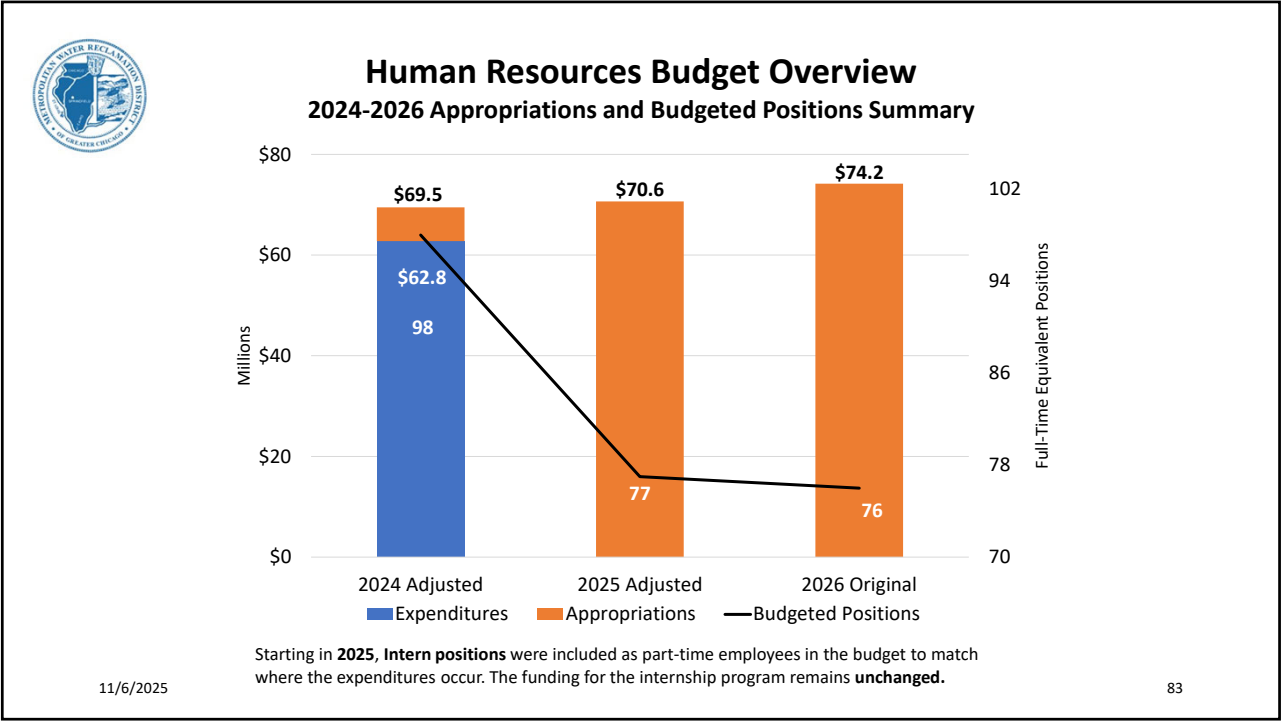


Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Executive Director’s
Budget Recommendations

HUMAN RESOURCES

THADDEUS J. KOSOWSKI, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES





Human Resources

2025 Accomplishments

Workforce Excellence:



Implemented new 401(a) retirement plan



Launched on-line transfer process



Piloted internship program for high school students

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**Human Resources
2025 Accomplishments**

Workforce Excellence:



**Relaunched Machinist
Apprentice Program**



**Initiated One on One
Coaching Sessions for
Supervisors**



**Recruitment Strategy
Committee Meetings**

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**Human Resources
2026 Budget Highlights**



Enroll first class in new Treatment Plant Operator
Apprentice Program



Roll out the first phase of a three-year leadership
training program



Continuous Learning Initiative

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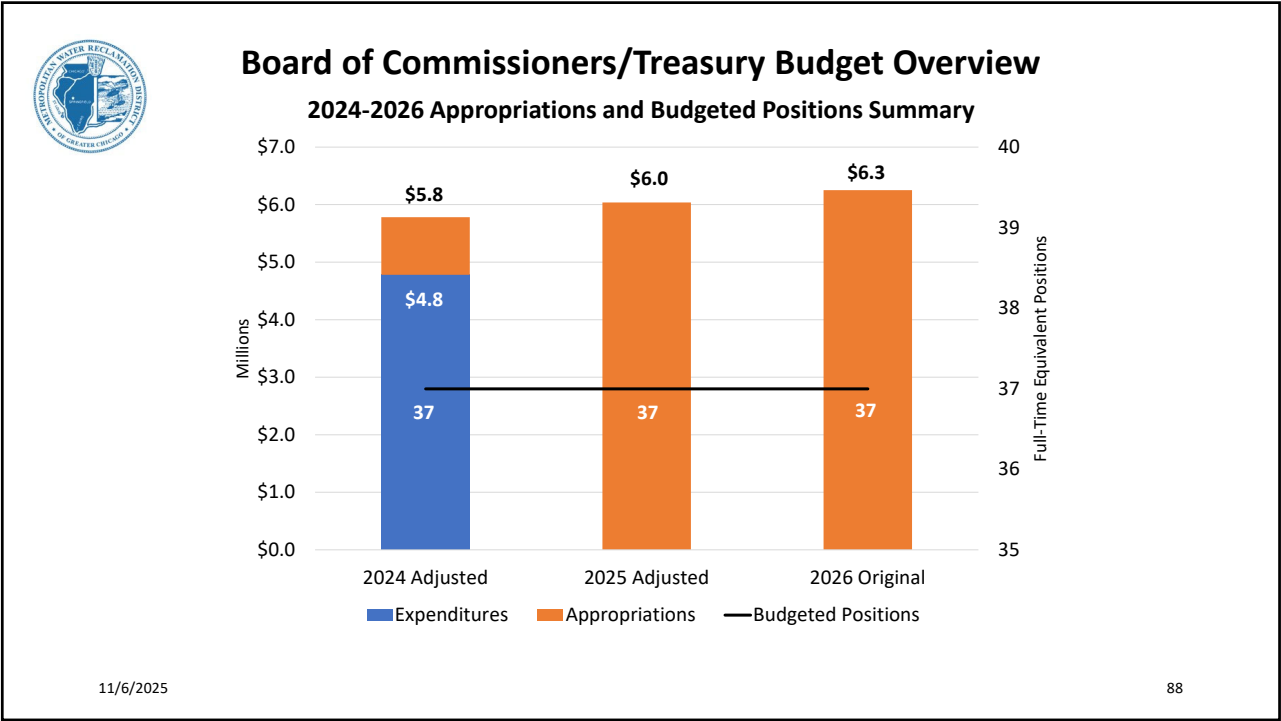


Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Executive Director’s Budget Recommendations

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS/TREASURY

STEVEN J. LUX, TREASURER





Board of Commissioners/Treasury 2025 Accomplishments

The following represent several accomplishments of BOC/Treasury in 2025:



Maintained the District's AAA rating by Fitch and AA+ from Standard and Poor's. Both ratings are with a stable outlook.



Investment income is estimated at \$46.4 million across all funds for the year ending December 31, 2025.



The OPEB Trust has had solid investment returns and asset growth, with assets currently exceeding \$400.0 million, resulting in a funded ratio above 100%.

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Board of Commissioners/Treasury 2026 Budget Highlights

The following are several initiatives of the BOC/Treasury for 2026:



Treasury will continue to support the Capital Program with issuing \$200.0 million in bonds for capital purposes and \$275.0 million of refunding bonds to reduce future debt service costs.



The Treasury section will strive to maintain the strong AAA/AA+ ratings with a stable outlook from Fitch and Standard and Poor's, respectively.



Investment income is projected to be approximately \$37.5 million, which is less than 2025 as a result of expected rate cuts by the Federal Reserve.



The Treasury Section will coordinate finalization of the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan and administer its implementation.

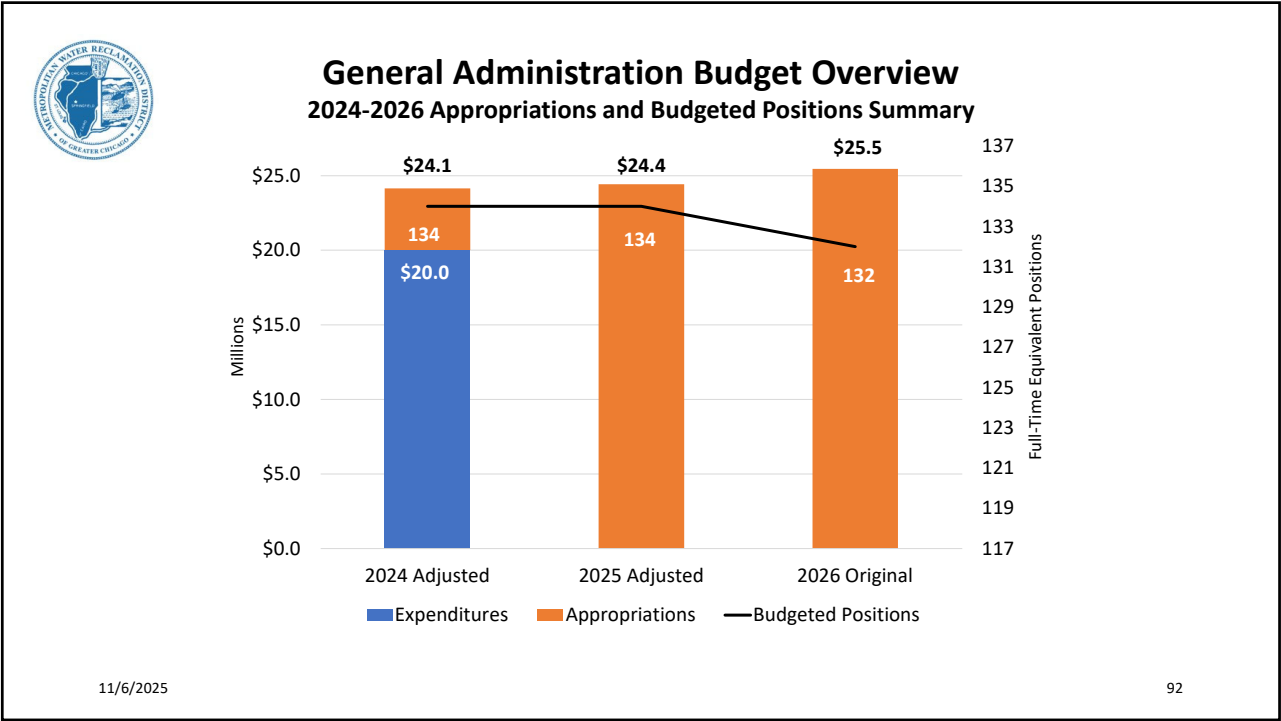
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Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Executive Director's Budget Recommendations

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION





Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Administrative Services

Shellie A. Riedle, Administrative Services Officer



General Administration
2025 Accomplishments



2026 Capital Improvement Program
2026 Capital Improvement Program Summary
Oct 20



2026 Budget Overview
MWRD Budget Overview



2026 Operating Budget
2026 Operating Budget Summary

\$530.8
Million

2026 Corporate Fund Budget
Expenses
A breakdown of the 2026 operating budget for expenses as compared to 2025 budgeted expenses.

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Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Environmental Justice, Diversity,
& Contract Compliance Section

Richard L. Martinez Jr., Diversity Administrator



General Administration
2025 Accomplishments
Program Development

Small Business Program

Partnered with **Ponder Diversity Group**, LLC, a **minority woman-owned firm**, to develop the Small Business Program.

Completed a comprehensive review of contracting practices, producing an **actionable framework** to expand access and remove barriers.

Drafting policy and program documents for year-end review and **Q1 2026** implementation.



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General Administration 2025 Accomplishments

Technical Assistance Program RFP

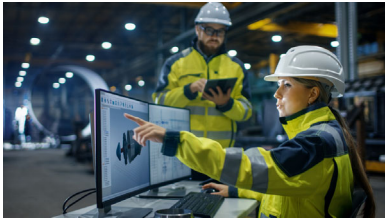
RFP drafted internally and ready for Board authorization.

Implementation targeted for Q2 2026 (Contract term: June 1, 2026 - May 31, 2029).

Program designed to expand equitable opportunities for Minority-, Women-, Veteran-owned, and Small Businesses through capacity building, education, and targeted support.

Total expenditure of approximately \$900,000 over three years, with the contract divided into two groups.

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General Administration 2025 Accomplishments

Compliance Software RFP

With the help of Information Technology Department drafted an RFP, preparing to advertise.

Target implementation: year-end 2026.

Modernizes and centralizes contract compliance tracking.

Provides real-time monitoring of participation, workforce hours, and goal attainment.

Enhances reporting, transparency, and data-driven decision-making across departments.

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General Administration 2025 Accomplishments



11/6/2025

Key Highlights

- **Through Q3 2025**, affirmative action program commitments reached **18.85% MBE, 8.84% WBE, and 3.57% VBE**.
- **Revised the pre-bid script** with Procurement and Materials Management Department.
- Added **two new assist agencies**: Asian American Chamber of Commerce of Illinois and Chicago UNIDOS in Construction.
- Held **three Quarterly Assist Agency meetings** and participated in or hosted **40+ outreach events**.
- Hosted three Vendor 101 online sessions reaching 81 new vendors, plus several in-person sessions.
- Led **targeted outreach for Contract 21-092-3P** through three virtual and multiple in-person sessions.
- The 2025 Small Business Summit drew 300+ vendors and 55 exhibitors, with a 4.6/5 satisfaction rating.
- Launching the Small Business Success Stories Zoom series in November 2025.

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General Administration 2026 Budget Highlights



Implement Small Business Program.



Award Technical Assistance Program RFP and begin implementation.



Award Compliance Software RFP resulting in the implementation of a new system (\$250,000) to measure performance and identify opportunities to enhance diverse participation.



Continue extensive outreach initiatives to strengthen partnerships and engage diverse audiences through participation in key business and community events.



2026 budget has an increase in Assist Agency funding from \$45,000 → \$62,700 to sustain collaboration with new partners.



100

50



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Environmental Justice, Diversity,
& Contract Compliance Section

Edward Coleman, Human Resources Manager

Lolita Thompson, Principal Civil Engineer



General Administration
2025 Accomplishments

 **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS**

 Successfully established the Stickney Community Partnership Council.

 Organized Government-to-Government Workshop.

 Established STEM partnership with the Chicago Urban League.

 Organized the first Cub Scout Impact Day at the Calumet Plant, with approximately 300 visitors.

 MWRD/WEF collaboration for the garden at Aldridge Elementary.

 Participated in numerous community engagements and interactions.

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**General Administration
2025 Accomplishments**

WORKFORCE EXCELLENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Partnered with City Colleges of Chicago to establish the inaugural Wastewater Technology Certificate Program.

Finalizing On-the-Job Training Guidelines and Selection Process for Treatment Plant Operator Apprenticeship Program and investigating USDOL approval.

Developed new and strengthened existing partnerships with workforce development agencies, including OAI, Revolution Workshop, Hire360, CWIT, YWCA, and YMCA.

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**General Administration
2025 Accomplishments**

Community Engagement

Hosted the Cook County Sheriff’s Leadership Academy for a tour of the Stickney WRP.

Aldridge Middle School’s Eighth Grade presentation on their Project Greenway, a project that will create a new, fully ADA accessible forested path that will allow residents of Altgeld Gardens to access Beaubien Woods Forest Preserve.

Hosted Gary Comer Middle School for a plant tour to kick off the 2025-2026 STEM program.



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General Administration 2025 Accomplishments

Community Engagement



Participated in the National Society of Black Engineers' Professional Engineers Week Expo where we demonstrated portions of our treatment process.



Staff from OAI, a workforce development organization, toured the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant.



Hosted Stickney/Forest View Public Library Event where we organized activities around stormwater management and the treatment process.



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General Administration 2026 Budget Highlights



Develop and host a community service event with the Stickney Community Partnership Council.



Advance workforce partnership initiatives with City Colleges of Chicago, the U.S. Water Alliance Workforce Taskforce, and Current/Great Lakes ReNew.

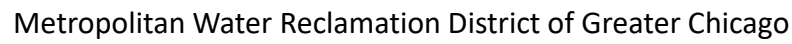


Hire and onboard the first TPO apprentices.

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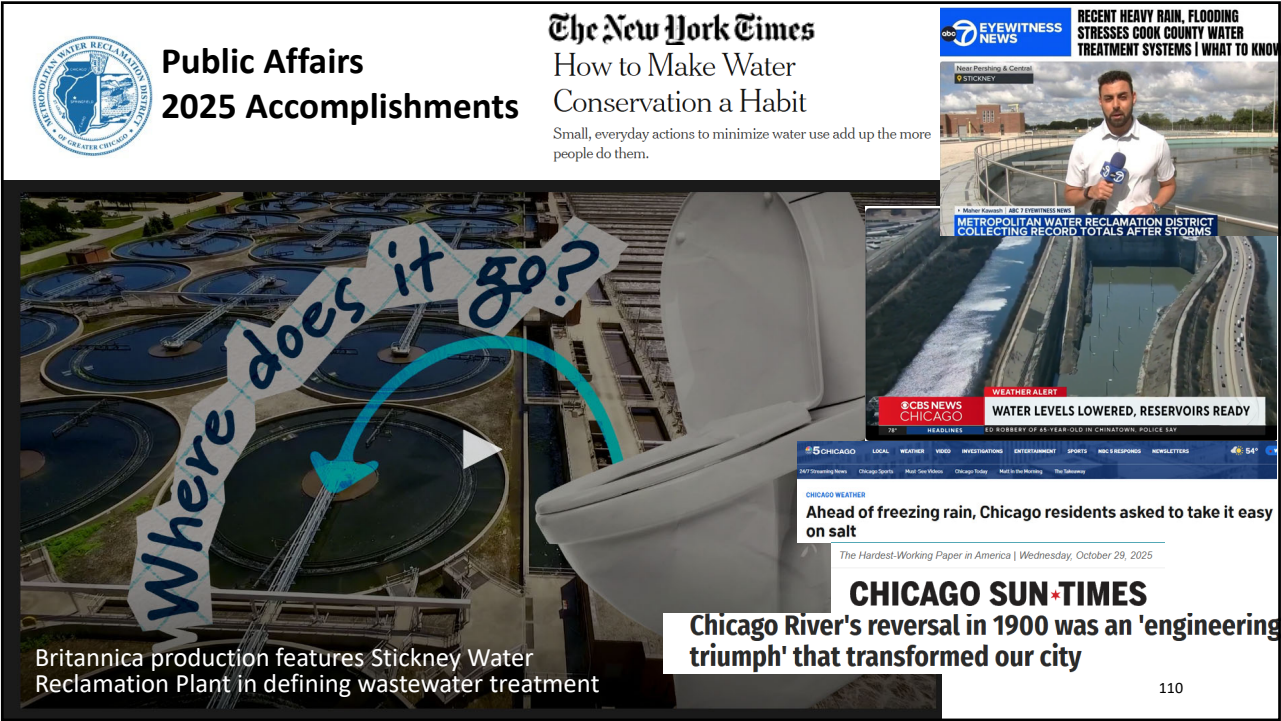
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Allison Fore, Public & Intergovernmental Affairs Officer









Public Affairs

2025 Accomplishments

Platform	Followers
Facebook	14,099
X (Twitter)	5,778
LinkedIn	9,673
Instagram	4,165
YouTube	1,680
BlueSky	906
Threads	562
TOTAL	36,863

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Act!

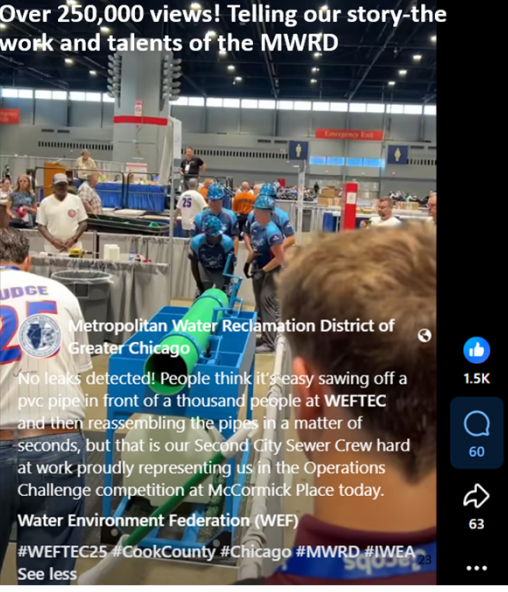
It's an Overflow Action Day



Friends of the Chicago River



Over 250,000 views! Telling our story-the work and talents of the MWRD



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

No leaks detected! People think it's easy sawing off a pvc pipe in front of a thousand people at WEFTEC and then reassembling the pipes in a matter of seconds, but that is our Second City Sewer Crew hard at work proudly representing us in the Operations Challenge competition at McCormick Place today.

Water Environment Federation (WEF)

#WEFTEC25 #CookCounty #Chicago #MWRD #IWEA

See less

1.5K

60

63

...

112

56

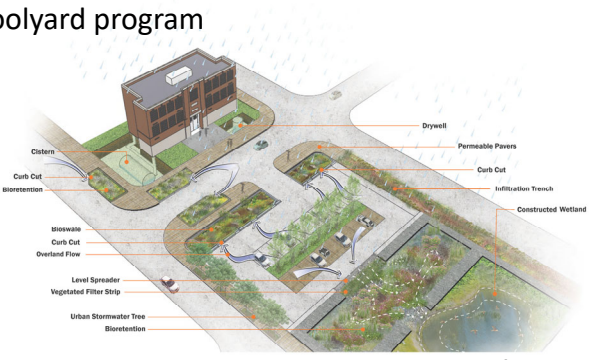


Public Affairs
2026 Budget Highlights

- Completing *Green Community Guide* for practitioners
- Building an ADA-compliant website
- Coordinating events, outreach, and press engagement
- Increasing social media presence and video content
- Documenting projects for the suburban schoolyard program



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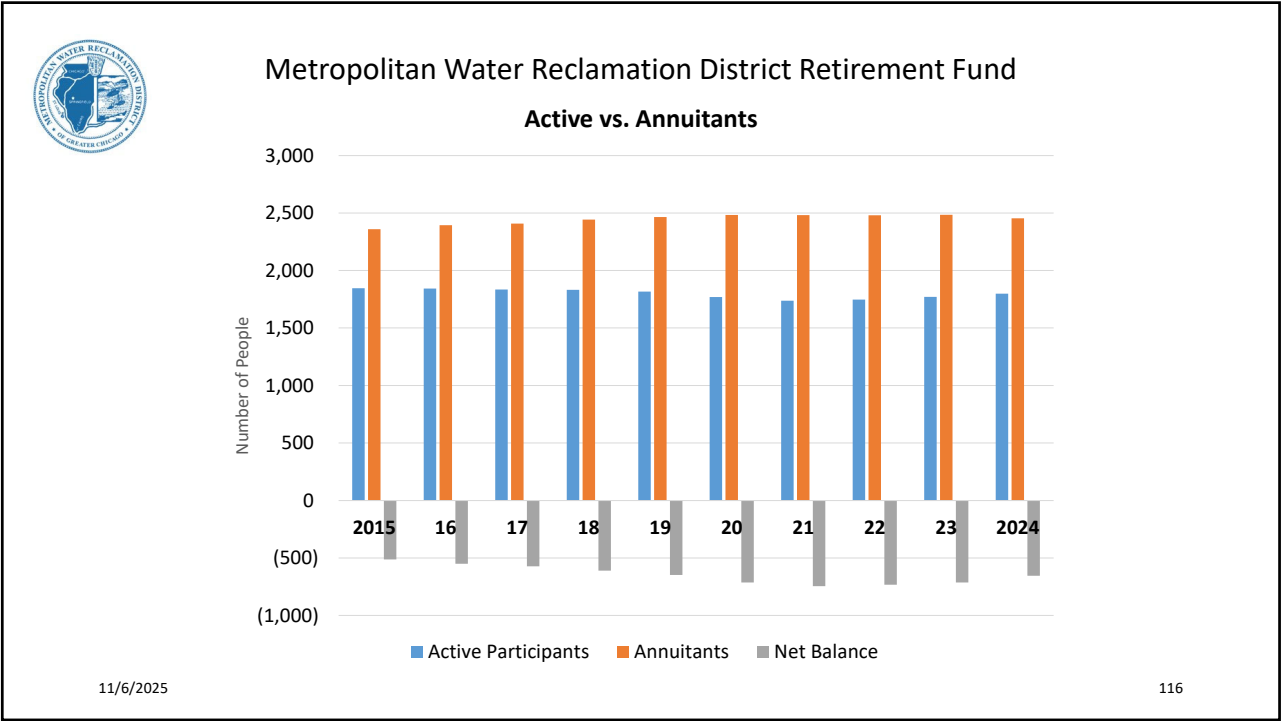
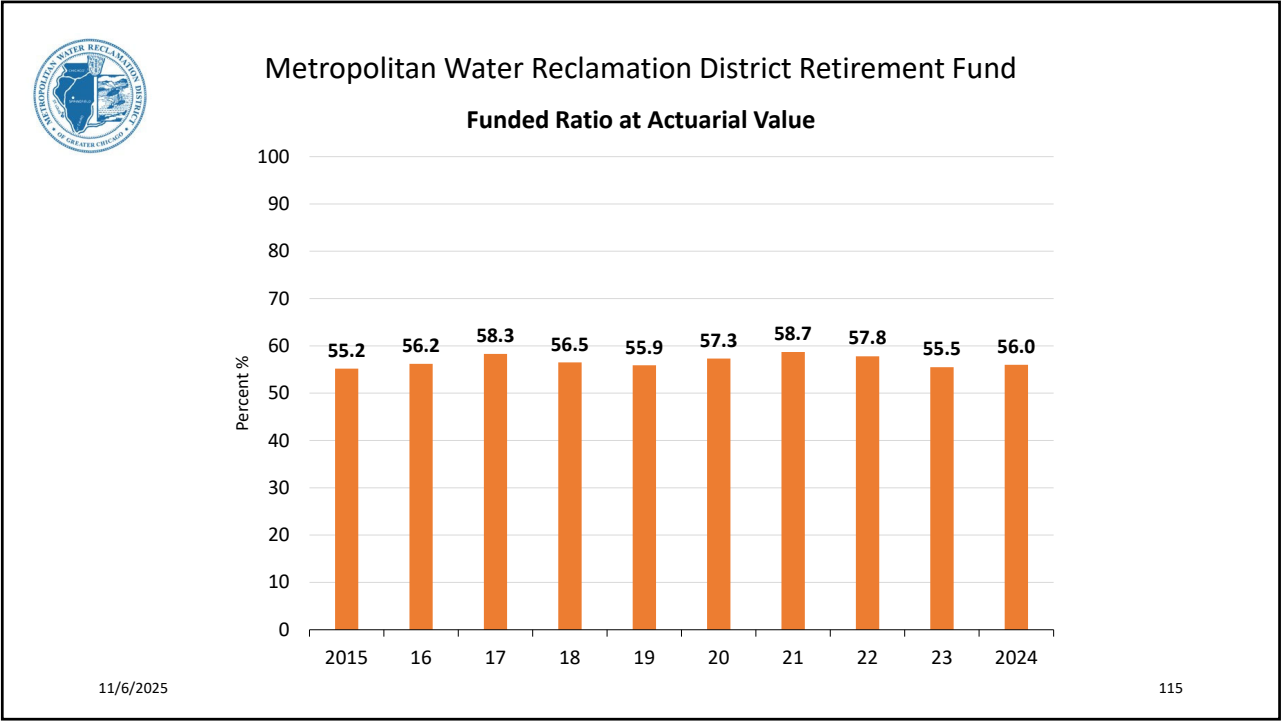


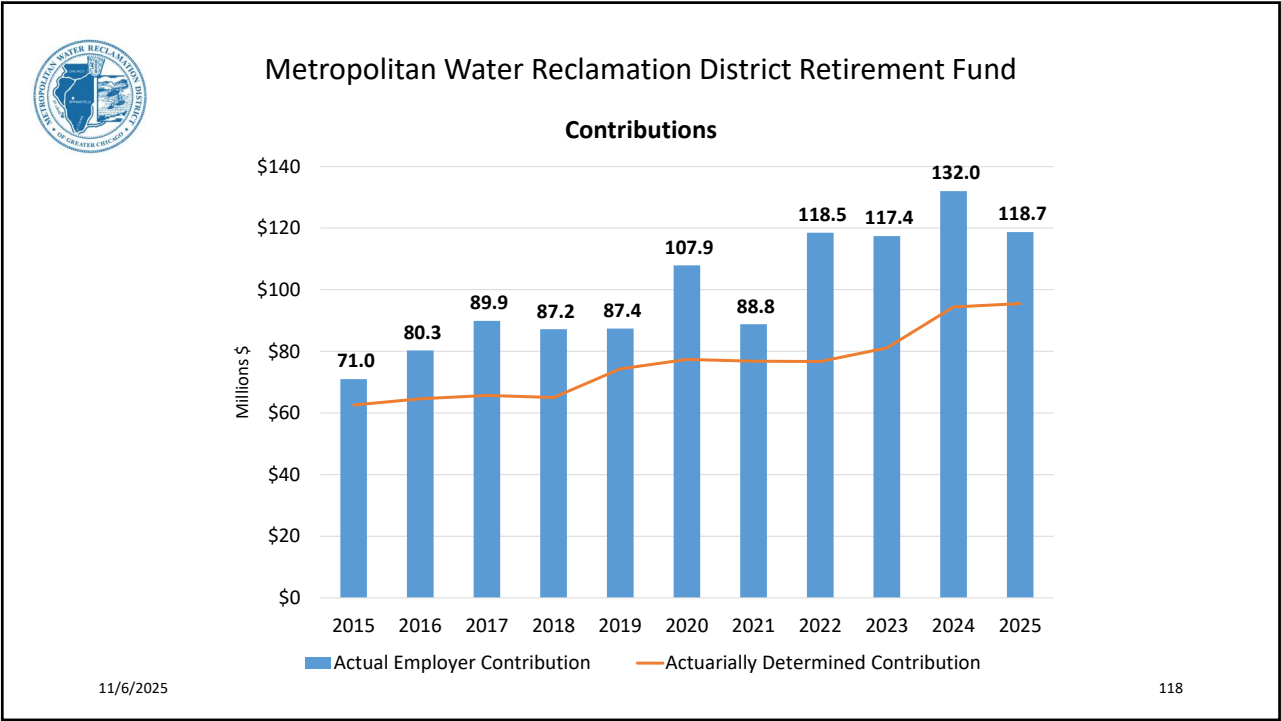
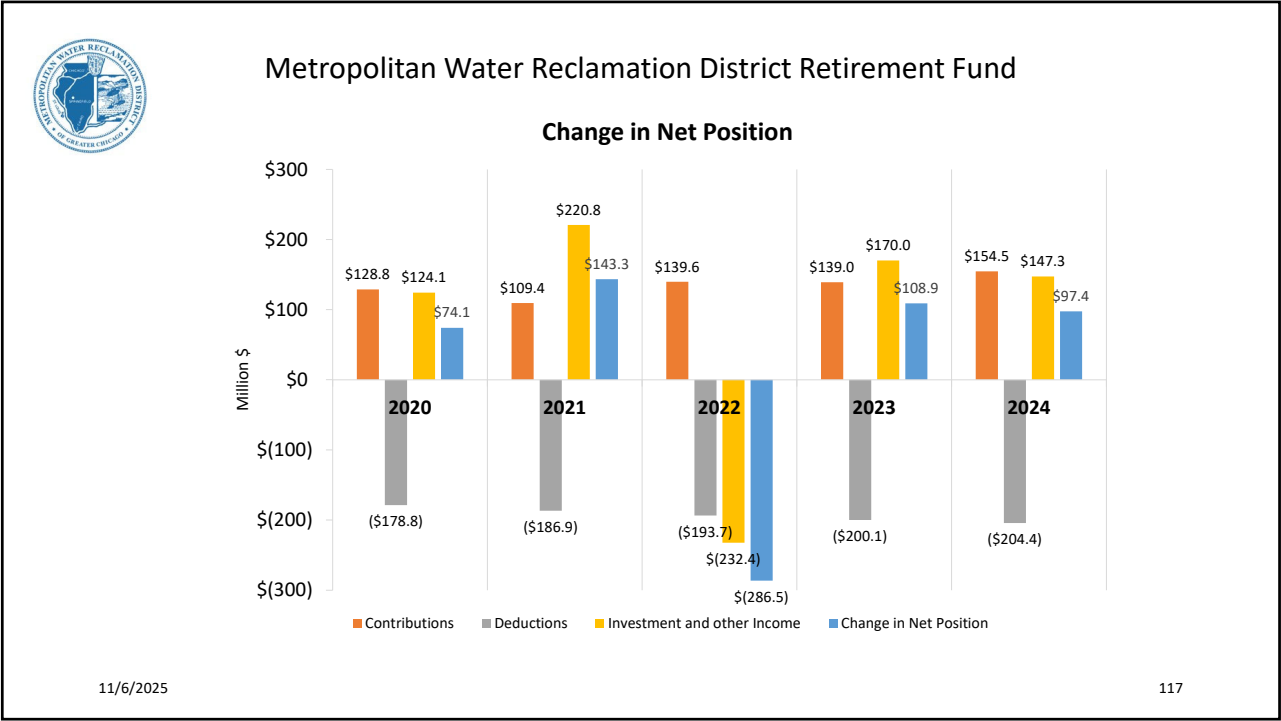
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Executive Director’s Budget Recommendations

RETIREMENT FUND

JAMES E. MOHLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR







Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Retirement Fund

2025 Actuarially Determined Contribution \$95.5M	
2026 Appropriation (in millions)	
Expected Property Tax Collections	\$71.8
Personal Property Replacement Tax	\$19.0
2024 Property Tax Levy Adjustment	\$10.0
Subtotal	\$100.8