



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District *of* Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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## **Metropolitan Water Reclamation District reduces 2011 tax levy by \$21.5 million**

### *Cook County homeowners to receive tax abatement*

When Cook County taxpayers receive their second installment 2011 real estate tax bills, they will be receiving positive news from the government agency responsible for treating wastewater and providing stormwater management.

At its Feb. 16 Board of Commissioners meeting, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) passed an ordinance directing the Cook County Clerk to reduce MWRD's tax levy for 2011 by \$21.5 million. Without the abatement, 2011 adjusted estimated taxes would have been \$98.90 for a \$100,000 home. Instead, the adjusted estimated taxes are \$94.64 for a \$100,000 home.

"Taxpayers are receiving the results of decisions made by a Board of Commissioners that safeguards taxpayer money, holds the line on expenses and asks the hard questions throughout the year," said MWRD Executive Director David St. Pierre. "Anytime a governmental body can report to its constituents that tax dollars are being handled in a fiscally-responsible manner, the entire community and region has a reason to be proud."

MWRD is funded primarily through property taxes, which are restricted under a tax cap imposed by the Illinois General Assembly. The MWRD also recovers costs of treating effluent wastewater through a user charge imposed on certain non-residential users of the District's system. Since 1985, the MWRD has returned nearly \$375 million to taxpayers, and has maintained its triple A bond ratings from Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's since 2006.

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