



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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## Gov. Pat Quinn signs legislation expanding Clean Water Initiative to help combat flooding in Illinois

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) President Kathleen Meany, Vice Pres. Barbara McGowan, and Commissioners Debra Shore and Patrick D. Thompson joined Governor Pat Quinn and other officials as the Gov. signed legislation to help combat flooding across the state and protect Illinois' drinking water on July 23 in Oak Lawn, IL.

As a result of record rainfall and severe flooding that affected communities across Illinois last year, state financial assistance will now be available for stormwater management and wastewater treatment projects. The MWRD has been a recipient of Clean Water Initiative funds in the past and anticipates accessing these additional resources in the future.

"During last year's record rainfall and flooding, we learned the hard lesson that flash flooding can have devastating effects," Governor Quinn said. "The Illinois Clean Water Initiative will now be able to help communities be more prepared than ever before in managing stormwater while creating thousands of construction jobs. This legislation will help to prevent flooding and protect our drinking water from pollution."

"The Governor's Clean Water Initiative has passed the triple crown of infrastructure investment," said Pres. Meany. "It creates jobs, invests in infrastructure so that it lasts for the next generation, and it allows us to address stormwater issues which are the number one concerns in our communities with our changing weather patterns."

"Expansion of the Governor's Clean Water Initiative will provide local governments with the ability to secure low-interest loans for capital projects that will prevent flooding and remove pollutants from stormwater," Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Director Lisa Bonnett said. "Governor Quinn's expanded \$2 billion financing program is making significant improvements in water quality in our state and has the added benefit of saving money for local residents and creating an additional 28,000 jobs for Illinois citizens."



Governor Quinn announces the expansion of the Clean Water Initiative to include stormwater management and wastewater treatment projects as MWRD Pres. Kathleen Meany, Vice Pres. Barbara McGowan, Commissioners Debra Shore and Patrick D. Thompson, Exec. Director David St. Pierre and other officials listen to the remarks.



Governor Quinn announces the expansion of the Clean Water Initiative to include stormwater management and wastewater treatment projects as MWRD Pres. Kathleen Meany, Vice Pres. Barbara McGowan, Commissioners Debra Shore and Patrick D. Thompson, Exec. Director David St. Pierre and other officials look on.

**Our Water Environment: Take it personally.**

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Established in 1889, the MWRD ([www.mwrdd.org](http://www.mwrdd.org)) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.

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*MWRD President Kathleen Meany addresses the media with Governor Quinn before the Governor signed legislation to help combat flooding in Illinois by expanding the Clean Water Initiative to include stormwater management and wastewater treatment projects.*



*MWRD Commissioner Patrick D. Thompson, Exec. Director David St. Pierre, Pres. Kathleen Meany, Vice Pres. Barbara McGowan and Commissioner Debra Shore help break ground on an Oak Lawn project that will receive \$12.7 million in low-interest loan assistance immediately as part of their nine-project Regional Water System Improvement program.*



*Governor Quinn signs the expansion of the Clean Water Initiative while Oak Lawn Mayor Sandra Bury, MWRD President Kathleen Meany, State Senator Dan Kotowski and others watch.*

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