



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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For immediate release

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Construction Industry Service Organization awards MWRD



In the photo (L-R): CISCO Executive Director Dan Allen, MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos, MWRD Vice President Barbara McGowan, MWRD Commissioner Debra Shore and Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters President Mark Maher.

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) accepted two awards from the Construction Industry Service Corporation (CISCO) during its annual awards ceremony, including recognition as “Public Body of the Year.”

The MWRD was also honored with a Project of the Year award under the Infrastructure category for constructing the Wet Weather Treatment Facility and Reservoir at the Lemont Water Reclamation Plant (WRP). The awards are part of CISCO’s annual Pride in Construction Award Program which recognizes the top quality union construction projects in seven categories and honors the efforts of an area educator, labor advocate and an Illinois public body. A formal ceremony took place at CISCO’s annual breakfast meeting on Jan. 29 at Maggiano’s Little Italy in Schaumburg.

“We are incredibly grateful to be recipients of these wonderful awards and thankful to the Construction Industry Service Corporation and their members who played integral roles into making the Lemont Wet Weather Facility a reality,” said MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos, who received the awards along with Vice President Barbara McGowan and Commissioner Debra Shore on behalf of MWRD. “In our pursuit of protecting the region’s water



The Wet Weather Treatment Facility and Reservoir at the MWRD’s Lemont Water Reclamation Plant is designed to keep up with the water inflow that comes to the treatment facility during major storm events. Having the facility in place will reduce pollution in local waterways.

quality, we realize we can’t do it alone. It takes a collaborative approach of many skills to fulfill our commitment, so we cherish the relationships we have built with CISCO and other labor organizations because without them we would not be able to meet our mission. We applaud our contractor Joseph J. Henderson & Son Inc. and designer CH2M Hill and salute all of this year’s project winners and honorees on a job well done.”

The \$29-million Lemont Wet Weather Treatment Facility and Reservoir project increased the size of the 18-inch interceptor sewer entering the plant site from the village of Lemont’s combined sewer area. A new wet-weather treatment facility was also constructed to provide primary treatment followed by disinfection, which is now large enough to treat up to 10 times the volume of dry weather flow (approximately 6.8 million gallons per day). A five-million gallon equalization reservoir was also constructed to store and buffer the peak wet weather flows from Lemont’s separate sewer area. The project was constructed by contractor Joseph J. Henderson & Son Inc., the Gurnee-based firm who submitted the project for nomination. The lead architect was CH2M Hill.

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Cisco awards MWRD *(continued)*



The Lemont Wet Weather Treatment Facility and Reservoir was a multi-phase project which included the installation of a five-million gallon wet weather reservoir for storage capacity of initial excess flow and a wet weather treatment facility that provides primary treatment and disinfection for flows above treatment. Funding through the Illinois Clean Water Initiative made the project a reality. It is now an award winner.

During storms in recent years, the Lemont WRP has received high flows from the tributary sewer systems resulting in bypasses to the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. Working with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the MWRD created the Wet Weather Treatment Facility and Reservoir project, and in the process created a way to protect the local waterway and improve area water quality downstream.

The Wet Weather Treatment Facility and Reservoir, located at 13 Stephen St. in Lemont, is a large in-ground concrete structure that measures 65 x 50 meters and is nine meters deep. The concrete walls are up to a full meter thick with a base that is 1.2 meters thick making it solid, leak proof and capable of handling overflow from the biggest storms. The facility was a multi-phase project which included a new pump station, diversion structure for emergency eye level overflow, separator and disinfection, yard piping and tie-ins to an existing electrical distribution system.

In addition to honoring the MWRD as the Public Body of the Year, CISCO is recognizing Professor Robert Bruno,

from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, with the Educator of the Year award and Jorge Ramirez, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, with the Labor Advocate of the Year award.

Other CISCO Projects of the Year per category included:

- Madison Racine Apartments, New Construction in Chicago (above \$20 million);
- Cancer Treatment Centers of America at Midwestern Regional Medical Center/Patient Tower in Zion, New Construction in the suburbs (above \$20 million);
- Maggie Daley Park in Chicago, New Construction for Chicago or suburbs (below \$20 million);
- Bensenville Police and Emergency Management Headquarters, Rehabilitation;
- AMLI Lofts, Chicago, Residential Construction
- EJATT Renewable Energy Training Field, Alsip, Special Mention.

“We are proud to recognize these projects, project teams and organizations for this prestigious award,” said CISCO Executive Director Dan Allen. “We had the most entries in the history of the program, and clearly all of the entries are winners as the quality and community impact of each of these projects were evident to our Board members, who had the difficult task of choosing in each category. The projects we receive each year demonstrate that the union construction industry produces the best product anywhere in the world, and this year’s entries and winners perfectly illustrates that point.”

Founded in 1988, CISCO is a labor-management group that brings together unions of the building trades and construction contractor associations representing more than 140,000 construction workers and 8,000 union contractors in the six-county Chicago metropolitan area.

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Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

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