



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

Allison Fore

Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Officer

312.751.6626

allison.fore@mwrdd.org

100 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

For immediate release

June 15, 2016

## Federation of Women Contractors honor MWRD advocacy



MWRD Commissioner Debra Shore and MWRD Senior Diversity Officer, Richard L. Martinez, Jr. attended the Federation of Women Contractors' (FWC) Women Rock Event held at the House of Blues.

Women are rocking new and exciting work opportunities through the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's (MWRD) many projects and initiatives to protect local water quality. As a result, the Federation of Women Contractors (FWC) bestowed MWRD Senior Diversity Officer Richard L. Martinez, Jr. with the 2016 Outstanding Advocate Award, as part of the FWC's Women Rock Event held at the House of Blues.

It was an evening of camaraderie, networking, music, celebration and praise for industry advocates for the oldest and most recognized leader among women-owned construction businesses in the Chicago area. In existence since 1989, the FWC is committed to the advancement of entrepreneurial women in the construction industry. FWC members include general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and service-related firms.

"Just as the Federation of Women Contractors works to em-



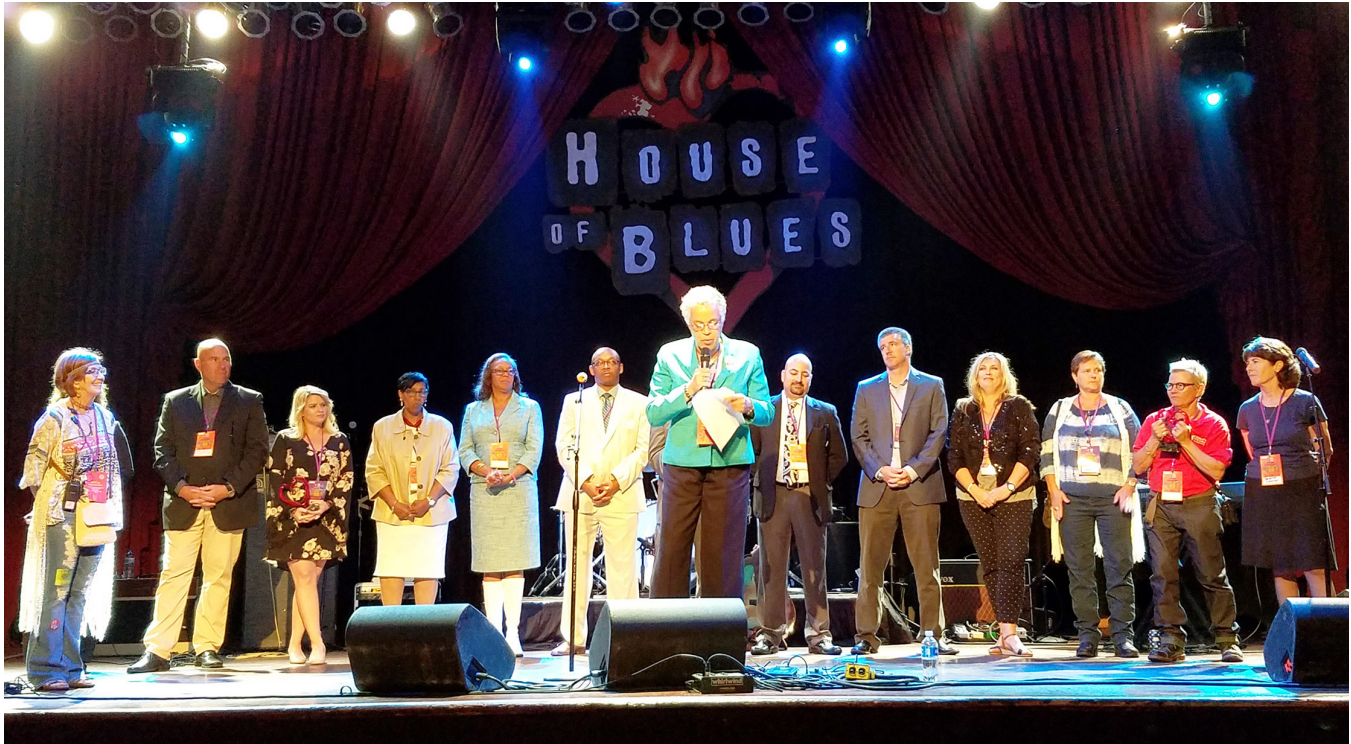
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago Vice President Barbara McGowan salutes MWRD Senior Diversity Officer Richard L. Martinez, Jr. on his work extending a connection with Women Business Enterprises.

power women in the construction industry and achieve entrepreneurial success, we likewise want to be a part of that mission by extending our hand to women and create job opportunities in our pursuit of protecting the water environment and managing stormwater," said MWRD Vice President Barbara J. McGowan, chairman of the Affirmative Action Committee.

Martinez has been with the MWRD for 17 years and has 21 total years of government experience, working on both the city, county and state levels. The mission of the MWRD Diversity Section is to ensure that minority (MBE), women (WBE), and small business (SBE) enterprises are given equal opportunity to participate in the performance of the MWRD's construction program and professional service contracts in excess of \$100,000, in accordance with case law and the MWRD's policies.

"The MWRD's mission is to protect our water (continued)

## Federation of Women Contractors honor MWRD advocacy (continued)



Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle (center) and Federation of Women Contractors (FWC) Executive Director Beth Doria (left) announced the recipients of the FWC Women Rock 2016 awardees and nominees. Among them was Senior Diversity Officer Richard L. Martinez, Jr. (sixth from right).

environment. It's an enormous task, and we can't do it alone," said MWRD Commissioner Debra Shore, who joined Martinez for the Women Rock Event. "That's why we support organizations like the Federation of Women Contractors -- because they help women find a voice and gain prominence in their trades, which are critically important in managing our region's water."

Part of the MWRD Diversity Section's daily role is to perform outreach and work with a long list of local assist agencies involved in minority hiring and women's contracting the MWRD staff attends countless job fairs and professional work opportunity events. They also host vendor outreach fairs throughout the year to bring multiple resources together to ensure a fair and inclusive contracting process. It's this diligence on following up on the needs of members' issues and concerns that makes the MWRD a committed partner to work with, FWC officials said.

"FWC is proud to recognize Rich Martinez with its Advocacy Award for 2016 for his 17-plus years of outstanding work on behalf of women contractors on Water Rec projects. We are always proud to shine a spotlight on those public servants who represent their agencies exceptionally well and Rich has always gone the extra mile to ensure that women and minorities are not only included, but treated fairly, on their capital projects," said Beth Doria, executive director of the FWC.

###



Katie Canino, of Canino Electric Company, president of the Federation of Women Contractors (FWC) Board of Directors, presents the Advocacy Award to Senior Diversity Officer Richard L. Martinez, Jr.

### Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

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