



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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For immediate release

December 13, 2016

## Commissioner Santos departs MWRD Board after state appointment

*Commissioner Walsh re-appointed to fill seat*



*Former Commissioner Santos*

The longest-tenured commissioner on the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) Board of Commissioners has vacated her seat and is taking her experience in environmental stewardship to a statewide board. Commissioner Cynthia Santos was appointed by Gov. Bruce Rauner to serve on the Illinois Pollution Control Board (IPCB).

On the IPCB, Santos is certain to bring her two decades of service and acumen in protecting the region's water environment. First elected as commissioner in 1996, Commissioner Santos was re-elected three times. She has served as chairman of the MWRD's committees on Labor and Industrial Relations and State Legislation and Rules and also as vice chairman of the committees on Municipalities, Procurement and Real Estate Development.

"I am humbled to have served the taxpayers of Cook County and worked with this talented staff and Board of Commissioners for the last 20 years. What we have accomplished over this period has led to cleaner waterways, drier basements and streets, and efficient water treatment systems," said Commissioner Santos. "As bittersweet it is to be leaving

the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, I am also honored at the opportunity to serve on the Illinois Pollution Control Board and take the lessons learned over the last two decades to protect the environment of the entire state of Illinois. I thank Governor Rauner for this terrific opportunity, and I look forward to working with my fellow board members."

During her time with the MWRD, Commissioner Santos offered sound fiscal management and policy direction and was instrumental in the development of the Stormwater Management Program after the state delegated the MWRD as the stormwater management authority for Cook County in 2004. She supported the MWRD in its near completion of the world renowned Tunnel and Reservoir Plan and helped make improvements in local water quality in Chicago area waterways a reality. She also lobbied successfully in Springfield for pension reform as well as numerous other legislation pertinent to the mission of the MWRD.

In her absence, the governor re-appointed Commissioner David Walsh, who exited the board earlier this month after his term expired. Commissioner Walsh will be able to carry on where he left off, providing critical experience to the board.

"I wish Commissioner Santos the best of luck in her new post and thank her for her invaluable service to the Board of Commissioners and the people of Cook County," said Commissioner Walsh. "I thank Governor Rauner for re-appointing me to the Board of Commissioners, and I look forward to continuing our important work in recovering resources and transforming water."



*Commissioner David Walsh*

### Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

*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.*