



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

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MWRD pledges support for critical stormwater management projects



An example of the MWRD's Phase II Stormwater Management Program, the Mayfair Reservoir expansion project provides flood reduction benefits to an estimated 60 residential structures and reduces storm-related impacts for approximately 120 homeowners in Westchester. The MWRD has announced a new round of Phase II projects.

An assortment of shovel-ready projects designed to protect Cook County communities from flooding have been selected for funding from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD).

The MWRD Board of Commissioners authorized the MWRD to negotiate intergovernmental agreements (IGAs) to assist various local municipalities and other governmental organizations on 14 projects that address local flooding through the MWRD's Phase II Stormwater Management Program. The projects represent approximately \$66.8 million in estimated construction costs, benefiting more than 2,000 affected structures impacted by flood waters.

"These shovel-ready construction projects will allow us to make an immediate impact in providing local communities

with relief from flooding," said MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos. "We thank the many municipalities and organizations for submitting projects, their partnership and their willingness to address stormwater management."

The MWRD Engineering Department received 64 applications for funding assistance following a call for projects in December 2017. Staff reviewed all of the project submittals, which were categorized as either "shovel-ready" or "conceptual" projects.

There were 34 shovel-ready projects submitted from 27 individual applicants, including municipal, township and county governmental agencies. The shovel-ready projects have a completed or nearly-completed design. Based on a review of these projects' intended stormwater *(continued)*

MWRD pledges support for critical projects *(continued)*

benefits, the communities' household median income, and potential for coordination with other infrastructure improvements, 14 shovel ready projects were selected for funding assistance. The MWRD will continue assessing potential engineering assistance for the remaining 30 applications for conceptual projects.

The terms and conditions of the IGAs, including funding assistance to be provided by the MWRD as well as requirements of the local partner agencies, will be defined through negotiations between the MWRD and the local entities involved. Once the parties agree in principle, authority to enter into the individual IGAs will be sought from the MWRD's Board of Commissioners.

"These projects come from every corner of Cook County, and they make use of diverse approaches attempting to promote resilient communities and manage stormwater," said MWRD Commissioner Debra Shore. "The District welcomes the opportunity to address flooding throughout our region."

Phase II projects involve working with local communities and agencies to address local drainage problems. The project types under Phase II include the installation of green and gray infrastructure, localized detention, upsizing critical storm sewers and culverts, pump stations and establishing drainage ways. To better leverage these partnerships and create a more widespread impact in the fight against flooding, the Phase II projects are reliant on cost sharing between MWRD and potential partners.

Selected projects include:

- Village of Forest Park – new storm sewers and connection to existing Des Plaines River outfall
- Village of Lincolnwood – new storm sewers and outfall to the North Shore Channel
- Village of Franklin Park – new storm sewers in coordination with infrastructure upgrades
- Village of Winnetka – wetland and park storage projects
- Village of Mount Prospect – new stormwater storage in open space locations
- Cook County Dept. of Transportation and Highways – culvert upsizing and channel improvements
- Village of Glenview – new storm sewers in coordination with infrastructure improvements
- Village of Forest View – new storm sewers and outfall in coordination with IDOT drainage project
- Leyden Township – new storm sewers to address lack of overland drainage path
- Village of Elk Grove Village – culvert improvements in coordination with channel maintenance
- Village of Niles – new stormwater storage in open space in coordination with recreational improvements
- Village of Western Springs – new storm sewers and outfall to Flagg Creek
- Village of Orland Park – expansion of existing detention basin
- Village of Arlington Heights – new relief sewers

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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 used water treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.