

#### **Massachusetts Water Resources Authority**



## MWRA's Climate Change Strategy

Frederick A. Laskey Executive Director

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#### **Changing Precipitation Quantity and Patterns**

Currently, we average 104 rain events per year with an average of 44 inches of rainfall

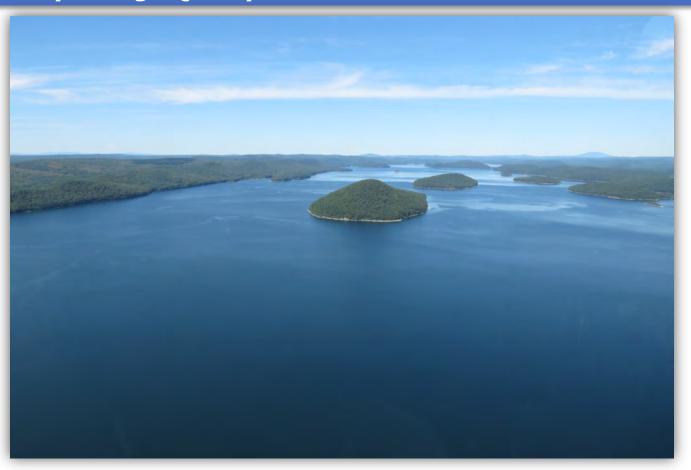
- Models suggest we'll see longer dry spells with shorter, heavier rain
- An overall modest increase in total rainfall



## The Good News



# Large Reservoirs With Large Storage Capacity + More Precipitation = Plenty Of High Quality Water





#### **Drinking Water System Is In Good Shape**

- Quabbin Reservoir, Belchertown
  - 65 miles west of Boston
  - Elevation 528 feet
- Wachusett Reservoir, Clinton
  - 35 miles west of Boston
  - Elevation 395 feet
- Water treatment plant is in Marlborough
- 85% of water delivered by gravity
- Lowest elevation of a water tank is 192 feet above sea level







#### **Dams Not Threatened**

 All MWRA dams, dikes, spillways and appurtenances are inspected routinely by licensed dam safety engineers and are in good condition

Since 2006, MWRA has spent over \$22 million on dam safety projects

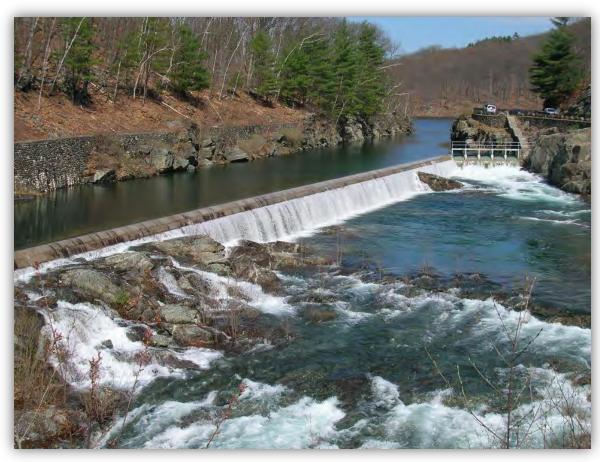
 Quabbin and Wachusett spillways have been improved to be able to discharge the probable maximum flood (1 in 1000 years)



## **Quabbin Spillway Rehab**







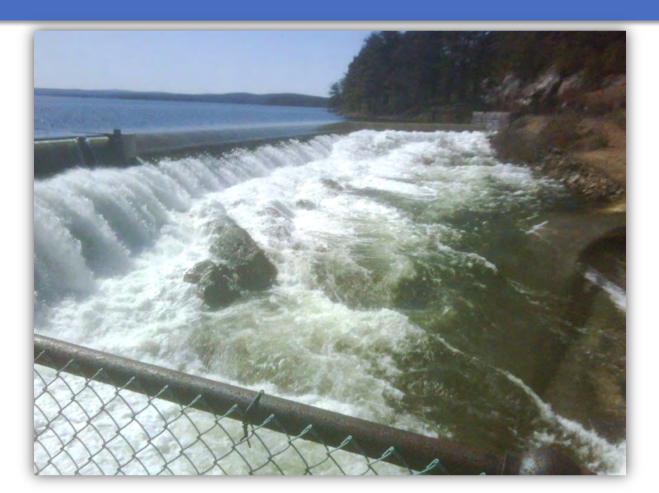


## **Wachusett Crest Gate**





## **Wachusett Crest Gate**





## **Wachusett Spillway**





## **Weston Reservoir Parapet Wall**



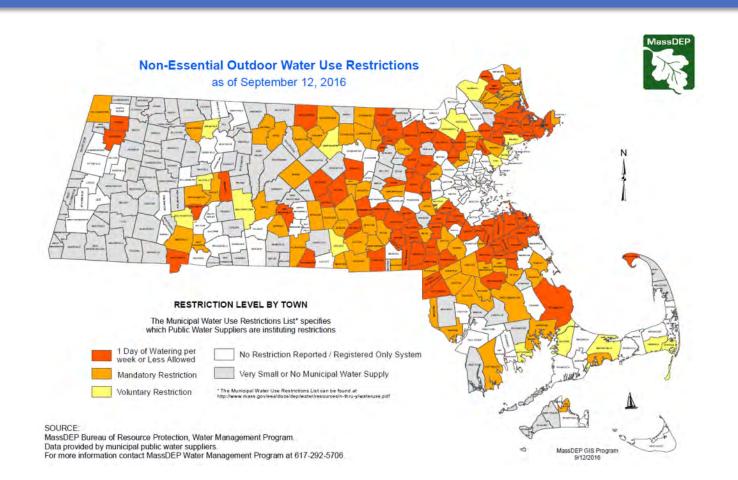


### **Armored the Earthen Dam at Spot Pond**

MWRA controls 28 dams and dikes – large and small

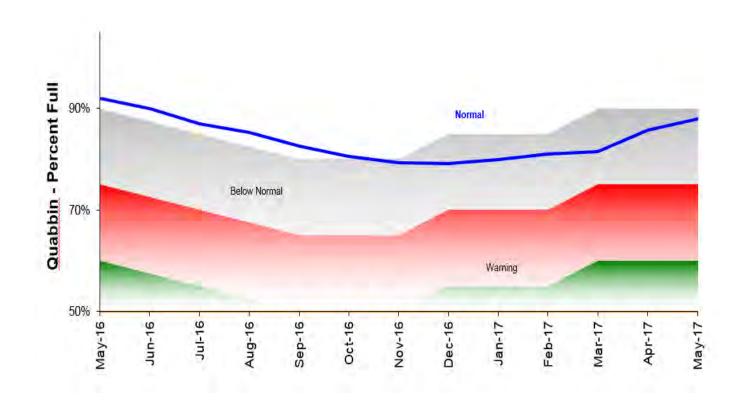


#### 2016 Drought





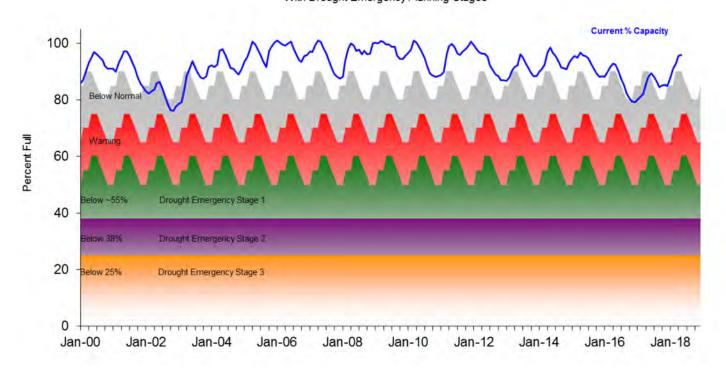
## **Quabbin Reacted Very Slowly**





#### **Even at Below Normal Levels, Quabbin Had Plenty of Water**

#### Quabbin Reservoir Levels With Drought Emergency Planning Stages





#### **MWRA Was Able to Provide Water to Outside Communities**

Community	Amount Supplied (Million Gallons)
Worcester	847.3
Cambridge	515.2
Burlington	7.9
Ashland	3.2

MWRA also supplied an extra 11.25 mgd to its partially supplied communities



#### **Stressed Basins Adjacent To MWRA Service**





# **Sea Level Rise Was Anticipated In The Design of Deer Island Treatment Plant**

- Deer Island plant fully protected
  - 100-year flood
  - 1.9-foot sea level rise
  - Wave run-up of 14 feet on east side and 2 feet on west side
- Nut Island headworks in Quincy similarly designed for sea level rise





#### **On-site Power Plant**

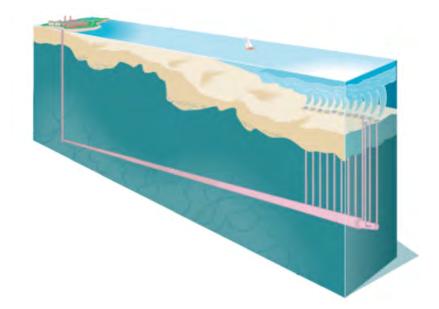
 On-site power plant ensures uninterrupted power supply to keep the plant operating for up to 90 days





# A Rising Sea Would Impact the Hydraulics of the Deer Island Outfall Tunnel

- The effluent from the sewage treatment plant is discharged by gravity to the 9.5 mile
- To maintain hydraulic capacity, plant process tank elevation raised 1.9 feet and tunnel diameter was up-sized from 24 feet to 24.25 feet

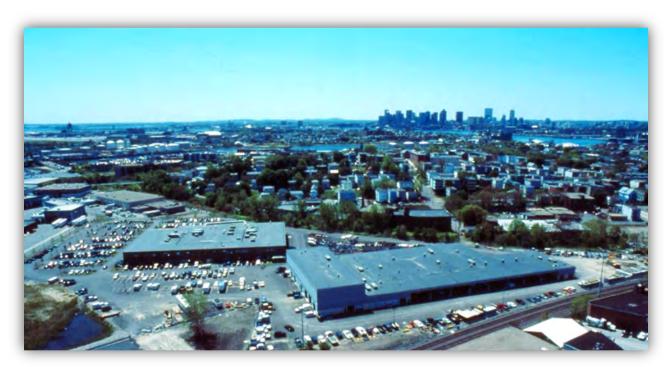


## **Continuity of Operations**



#### **MWRA's Chelsea Facility**

 Most of our staff and equipment is at our Chelsea Facility off of Eastern Avenue, across from the Chelsea Creek





## **Chelsea Facility Flood Inundation**





## **Chelsea Facility Flood Inundation**





#### Plans In Place to Move Vehicles and Equipment to Higher Ground





#### Plans in Place To Pre-deploy Staff To Higher Ground

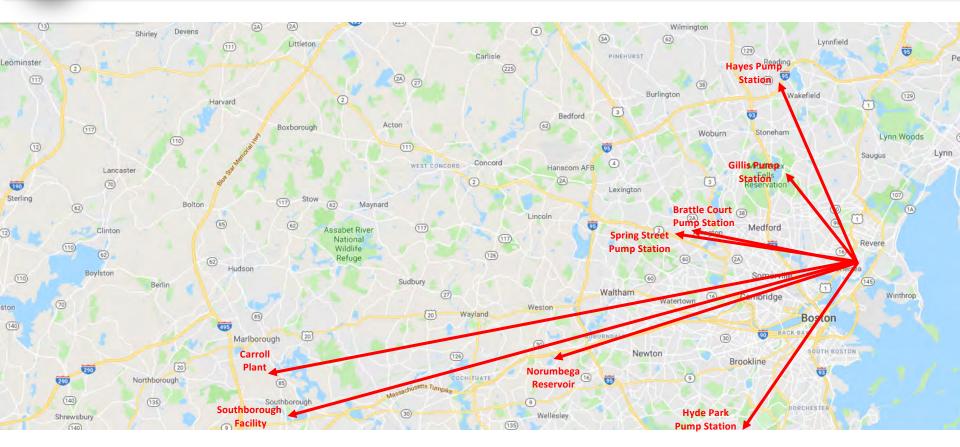
 Back-up water and wastewater operations control center created at Carroll Treatment Plant in Marlborough







#### Plans to Pre-deploy Staff and Equipment to Higher Ground



## Coastal Facilities



#### **Localized Flooding**

 Flooding during the January and March Nor'easters this year impeded access to several MWRA facilities



## **Charlestown Navy Yard**







## **Eastern Avenue, Chelsea**





## **Shirley Street, Winthrop**







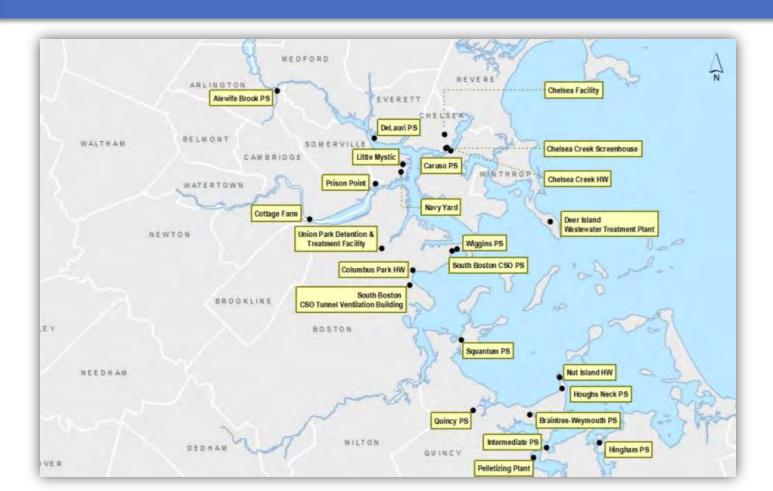
## **Nut Island, Quincy**







#### **MWRA Coastal Facilities**





#### **Benchmarks For Evaluating Facilities**

- 100 year flood as determined by FEMA (current regulatory requirement)
- 100 year flood + 2.5 feet (NYC DEP, BHA)
- Hurricane flooding levels as determined by FEMA's SLOSH model (current evacuation planning recommendation) were reviewed
- Wave action (for facilities adjacent to FEMA Hazard Zone VE) was reviewed



#### **Flood Elevations At Chelsea Creek Headworks**





# **How Do Facilities Measure Up?**

	Rank	Facility Name	Mitigation Actions Comments
2	1	PELLETIZING PLANT	Barrier around backup generator and transformers erected. (*)
ed By 100 Yr	2	HOUGHS NECK PUMP STATION	Stop plank barriers installed in entryways. (*)
	3	SQUANTUM PUMP STATION	Stop plank barriers installed in entryways. (*)
	4	ALFORD ST FACILITY	Sand bags will be used for flood protection. Future work under review.
	5	QUINCY PUMP STATION	Stop plank barriers installed in entryways. (*)
Affected	6	CHELSEA CREEK SCREENHOUSE	Installed retaining wall to protect generator and main power panel;stop log barriers at all doors and roll-up doors;sump pumps inside building,two isolation gates to protect facility;raised ventilation louver above required elevation;ded panels to protect all windows to required elevation;all new electrical installed above required elevation where feasible
=	7	BRAINTREE-VEYMOUTH PUMP STATION	Stop plank barriers installed in entryways. (*)
Likelg	8	SOUTH BOSTON CSO TUNNEL VENTILATION BLDG	Flood protection plan drafted, flood protection specs designed, requisition for materials purchase submitted.
.E o	9	SOUTH BOSTON CSO PUMP STATION	Flood protection design specs from vendor being reviewed in-house.
59 _	10	CHARLESTOWN NAVY YARD FACILITY	MIS equipment and staff moved to upper floors.
5 > 0 E	- 11	ALEVIFE BROOK PUMP STATION	Contractor installing flood protection system. Moving most critical equipment above flood level.
By Storm Vithin 1 ft below a 100 Yr Storm	12	CHELSEA CREEK HEADVORKS	Construction contract in progress to add stop log barriers at all doors including overhead coiling doors. Openings in façade being filled and moved above EL 119. Escape hatches, loading hatch and shaft opening being protected to EL 119. Valves being added to ductwork on mezzanine to isolate shafts upstream of influent gates.
By S	13	UNION PARK DETENTION & TREATMENT FACILITY	Operating Contractor designing specs which call for using sand bags at entry ways and isolating facility if required.
ed 5ft	14	MYSTIC RIVER GATEHOUSE	No adverse impact if flooded.
- P N	15	CHELSEA ADMINISTRATION FACILITY	Flood protection plan drafted, flood protection specs designed, material specs out on street for quote. Flood protection design specs from Vendor being reviewed in-house and modified due to requirement changes.
Affec By 100gr	16	CHELSEA MAINTENANCE FACILITY	Flood protection plan drafted, flood protection specs designed, material specs out on street for quote. Flood protection design specs from Vendor being reviewed in-house and modified due to requirement changes.
7 5 5	17	DEER ISLAND TREATMENT FACILITY	Plant processes designed to withstand a Category 3 Hurricane to allow uninterrupted facility operation. Some support facilities and access may be impacted.
Affect ed By	18	WIGGINS PUMP STATION	Will include flood plain protection in upcoming capital replacement project.
25.	19	COTTAGE FARM CSO FACILITY	
	20	DELAURI PUMP STATION	
	21	CARUSO PUMP STATION	
2	22	PRISON POINT CSO FACILITY	
2	23	SOMERVILLE MARGINAL CSO FACILITY	
Unlikely Affected	24	COLUMBUS PARK HEADWORKS	
	25	SOMERVILLE SAMPLING BUILDING	
100	26	VARD STREET HEADVORKS	
2	27	INTERMEDIATE PUMP STATION	
Yerg	28	LITTLE MYSTIC CHANNEL CSO FACILITY	
	29	HINGHAM PUMP STATION	
	30	NUT ISLAND HEADWORKS	

Projects have been priotized from the top of the chart (most immediate risk) down through the rankings.

<sup>\*</sup> In some cases specifications are being revised due to more recent updates to the FEMA flood maps. Future modifications to protection measures will be made as necessary.



## **Facilities Impact Summary**



- 8 Sewer Facilities Likely Affected by a 100 Year Event
- 4 Sewer and 1 Administration
   Facility Within One foot of a 100
   Year Event
- 3 Sewer Facilities Affected by 100 plus 2.5 ft Event
- 3 Sewer Facilities Likely Affected by Hurricane Flooding
- 11 Sewer Facilities Unlikely Affected

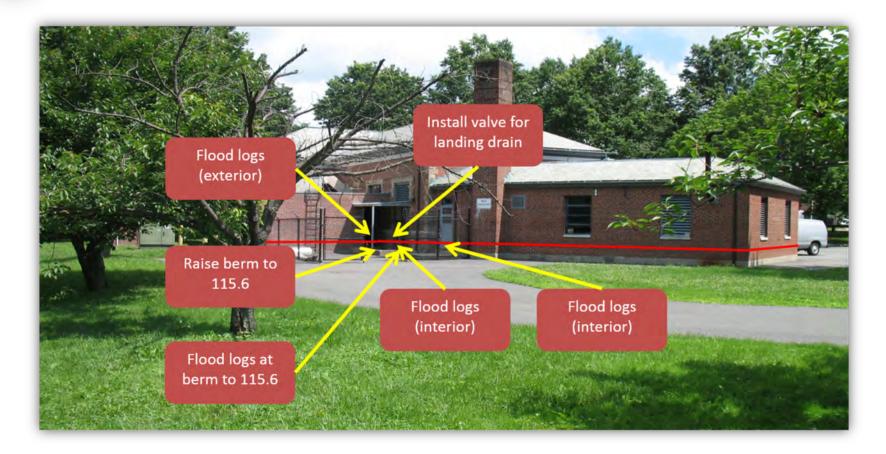


## **MWRA's Pragmatic Approach**

- Short-term
  - At-risk buildings are being fitted with temporary flood barriers
- Long-term
  - Facility rehabilitation on a 20-year cycle
  - Future rehabilitation contracts will include protection measures
- May have to speed things up



## **Alewife Brook Pump Station**





# **Alewife Brook Pump Station**





# **Chelsea Screenhouse**







### **Chelsea Headworks**







### **Blocking and Tackling**

- Low-lying facilities are protected with sandbags and pumps
- Mobile generators are deployed in advance of storms
- Increased staffing







# **New Flood Control Measures Are Being Added**







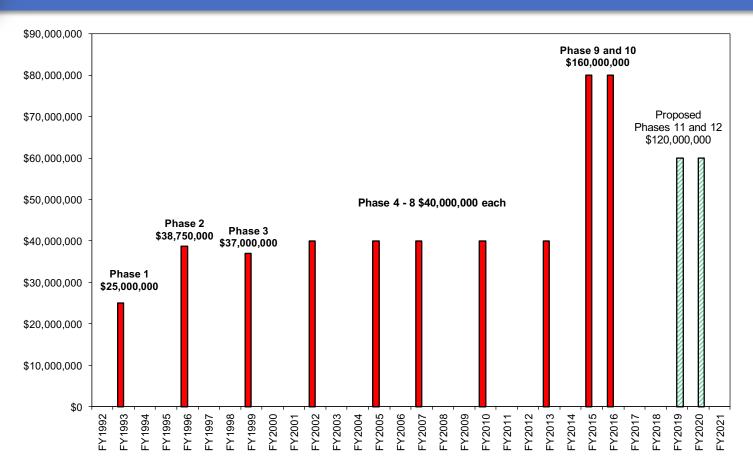
# **New Flood Control Measures Are Being Added**







#### MWRA's Long-Term Commitment to Fund Community I/I Reduction





# I/I Funding Results

- 191 miles of sewer Cured-In-Place Pipe (CIPP) liner installed
- 160 miles of sewer replaced
- 6,804 manholes rehabilitated/sealed









# **Overflows Will Increase**





# **Chelsea Produce Center**







# It's Already Here



### **East Boston**





# **State Street, Boston**



AP/CityLab



# Damage at Deer Island





