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MDC TO HOLD GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR SOUTH HARTFORD TUNNEL

Historic tunnel is the largest component of the Clean Water Project

October 19, 2016

For Immediate Release

(HARTFORD, CT) – The Metropolitan District (MDC) will hold a groundbreaking ceremony for the South Hartford Conveyance and Storage Tunnel (SHCST) on Thursday, October 20 at 1:30 PM at 231 Brainard Road in Hartford. MDC leadership and staff, federal officials from the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection, state officials from the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the State Treasurer’s office, local officials and project consultants are scheduled to take part in the historic event.

The SHCST is a four mile long deep rock tunnel designed to temporarily store excess combined wastewater and storm water during rain events, and then convey the flows to the Hartford Water Pollution Control Facility (HWPCF) for treatment. The tunnel’s capacity of 41.5 million gallons will help prevent the HWPCF from being overwhelmed during storms. The 18 foot diameter tunnel will be built in bedrock approximately 200 feet below ground, effectively eliminating surface disruption during construction. The SHCST contract awarded to the Kenny / Obayashi joint venture this past June was for \$279.4 million, the largest contract ever awarded by the MDC as well as the largest project ever funded by the State of Connecticut’s Clean Water Fund.

Preliminary construction started in the fall of 2016, with the tunnel boring machine scheduled to arrive in the fall of 2017. Tunnel boring operations will begin near the MDC’s HWPCF on Brainard Road and continue through southern Hartford into West Hartford, ending on Talcott Road. The tunnel is projected to be complete and in operation by 2023.

“The SHCST is a key element of the CWP and the goal of minimizing sewer overflows within MDC towns and improving local water quality in Trout Brook, the Park River, Wethersfield Cove and ultimately, the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound. We are thrilled to have a skilled and experienced team on board for the project and are thankful to the federal and state officials of the member towns of the MDC for their part in securing critical grant and loan funding to minimize the cost of the project and impact on ratepayers,” stated MDC CEO Scott Jellison.

About the MDC: *The MDC is a nonprofit municipal corporation chartered by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1929. The MDC provides water, sewer and household hazardous waste collection services to its member municipalities: Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor. In addition, the District supplies treated water to portions of Glastonbury, South Windsor, Farmington, East Granby and Portland.*

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