

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION REFERENDUM NARRATIVE

Pursuant to the authority under Special Act No. 511 of 1929, as amended, the District's Charter and Chapter 152 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, the following question regarding the Metropolitan District Commission's (MDC) Clean Water Project will appear on the November 7, 2006, ballot for the MDC member towns of Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor. The following explanatory text has been prepared pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 9-369b.

The Question reads as follows:

Question: Shall the appropriation of \$800,000,000 to be financed by the issuance of bonds for the District's combined sewer overflow, sanitary sewer overflow and nitrogen removal programs to decrease levels of pollution in the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound to comply with a consent decree of the United States District Court of the District of Connecticut and a consent order of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, be approved?

The purpose of the question is to appropriate funds toward the Clean Water Project, which will address approximately 1 billion gallons of combined wastewater and storm water currently released each year to area waterways. This wastewater is discharged by 38 combined sewer overflow (CSO) and eight sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) locations, at which diluted sewage is discharged into the Connecticut River and its tributaries.

The Clean Water Project formally responds to a federal Department of Justice and Environmental Protection Agency SSO consent decree, and a Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) consent order, to achieve the federal Clean Water Act Goals by 2021. It is estimated in 2006 dollars to cost approximately \$1.63 billion and will be funded by the MDC's Capital Improvement plan. The MDC is pursuing more than 50% of the funding from state and federal sources, with the remainder expected from General Obligation Bonds. The MDC Charter requires a referendum for projects of more than \$5 million. The program will be implemented by a District Program Management Unit, solely working on this large project. The project will be audited annually by federal, state and a third party audit firm reporting to the District CEO. All appropriated funds will be expended solely for the purposes of the Clean Water Project as outlined herein.

Projects will range from new sewer and drainage systems to greater wastewater treatment capacity to a new temporary sewage storage tunnel and large sewer connecting pipes. These projects will eliminate sewage overflows to area waterways during an average year.

Work will be completed in at least two phases: Phase 1 will cover the first six years of the program and is budgeted at \$800 million, including inflation. The referendum for this phase is in November 2006.