



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

Allison Fore

Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Officer

312.751.6626

allison.fore@mwr.org

100 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

For immediate release

November 3, 2017

Rep. Olsen tours MWRD facilities and McCook Reservoir



(L-R): MWRD Head Assistant Attorney Brendan O'Connor, State Rep. David Olsen (81st), and MWRD Managing Civil Engineer Kevin Fitzpatrick tour the first phase of McCook Reservoir which is nearing completion.

Illinois State Representative David Olsen (81st) recently toured the facilities of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) and the massive infrastructure needed to protect the region's water environment.

Rep. Olsen toured both the MWRD's Mainstream Pumping Station in Hodgkins and the nearby McCook Reservoir, which is set to have the first phase of construction completed by the end of 2017.

The station and reservoir are part of the MWRD's groundbreaking Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP), designed to prevent backflows into Lake Michigan, eliminate waterway pollution and provide an outlet for flood waters. The pumping station, with its giant pumps operating at up to 17,500 horsepower, can push hundreds of millions of gallons of water each day from the McCook Reservoir and adjoining tunnels from about 300 feet below ground to the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) for treatment.

"I am grateful to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District for providing this educational tour and shedding light on how the District maintains and continues to expand the infrastructure to manage an incredible volume of water each day from across the Chicagoland area," said State Rep. Olsen. "The Mainstream Pumping Station and McCook Reservoir remind us that we have a daily obligation across the state to take our water environment seriously."

The nearly completed first phase of McCook Reservoir will provide



Illinois State Rep. David Olsen (81st) stands at the archway into the MWRD's Mainstream Pumping Station. The circle, 33 feet in diameter, represents the dimensions of the MWRD's Tunnel and Reservoir Plan's Deep Tunnel.

3.5 billion gallons of storage. Phase 2 will be completed in 2029 and provide another 6.5 billion gallons of storage. Serving an area of more than 250 square miles, the reservoir will provide more than \$143 million per year in flood damage reduction benefits to 3.1 million people in Chicago and 36 other local communities. The reservoir will be the largest of its kind once complete, large enough to contain 11 Soldier Fields.

The Mainstream Pumping Station serves both the Mainstream Tunnel System and Des Plaines Tunnel System, and consists of nearly 70 miles of "Deep Tunnel," 13 to 33 feet in diameter, extending as far north as Wilmette and south to McCook. Used water and stormwater entering the tunnels through drop shafts flow by gravity to the station, where the flow is pumped to Stickney WRP or the reservoir when the plant is at capacity.

"I'd like to thank Representative Olsen and other members of the Illinois General Assembly who take time out of their hectic schedules to visit MWRD facilities," said MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos. "As a utility of the future, we realize the vital role we play in protecting the health of our environment and citizens, and Phase 1 of the McCook Reservoir will be a welcome addition to help us reach those goals."

The 81st District includes all or parts of Downers Grove, Woodridge, Bolingbrook, Westmont, Darien, Lisle and Naperville.

Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwr.org) is an award winning, special purpose government agency responsible for used water treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.