*Massachusetts Department of Revenue Division of Local Services*
*Navjeet K. Bal, Commissioner Robert G. Nunes, Deputy Commissioner & Director of Municipal Affairs*

# *Bulletin*

TO: Mayors, City Managers, Selectmen, Executive Directors, Sewer Authorities, Commissioners, Sewer Districts, City and Town Treasurers

2009-20B

FROM: Gerard D. Perry, Director of Accounts

DATE: August 2009

SUBJECT: Sewer Rate Relief Fund – FY2010

The Commonwealth Sewer Rate Relief Fund operates under the provisions of Chapter 29 §2Z of the General Laws. The Fund was created in 1993 to mitigate escalating costs of sewer service in the Commonwealth. Awards were based on eligible debt service and were calculated at up to 20% of debt service.

In FY08, $23,025,406 was disbursed for Sewer Rate Relief representing 6.567% of eligible debt service. In FY09, no funds were disbursed and for FY10, $500,000 has been appropriated. While FY10 individual award amounts will depend upon the actual number of applicants and the associated eligible debt service, at the current funding level we anticipate FY10 awards at amounts substantially reduced from past years.

Details of the program are unchanged. Eligible debt service is defined as:

- permanent debt issued on or after January 1, 1990 for a term greater than five years,
- for water pollution control projects

Projects which received state grants are ineligible and projects financed through MWPAT are generally ineligible.

We are again requesting detailed project descriptions for newly requested projects to better assist us in determining project eligibility. Several example project descriptions have been provided with the application.

The Division of Local Services administers the program in consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection. Applications should be submitted using the attached form and returned by Friday, September 25, 2009 to William C. Meehan, at the address below. Mr. Meehan's telephone number is (617) 626-2382.

The Division of Local Services is responsible for oversight of and assistance to cities and towns in achieving equitable property taxation and efficient fiscal management. The Division regularly publishes IGRs (Informational Guideline Releases detailing legal and administrative procedures) and the Bulletin (announcements and useful information) for local officials and others interested in municipal finance.

*Post Office Box 9569, Boston, MA 02114-9569, Tel: 617-626-2300; Fax: 617-626-3916*

**Massachusetts Department of Revenue Division of Local Services**
**COMMONWEALTH SEWER RATE RELIEF FUND**

APPLICATION FOR FY2010 DISTRIBUTION

_____
City/Town/District/Authority

## A. RECORD OF ELIGIBLE INDEBTEDNESS:

List permanent debt issued for **more than five years** (i.e., do not list bond anticipation notes) **on or after January 1, 1990** wholly or in substantial part to finance or refinance the costs of planning, design, or construction of any water pollution control project or part thereof **required to meet the provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act** (33 USC, sec. 1251 et seq.) and secs. 26 to 53 inclusive of M.G.L. Ch. 21 or any wastewater collection or transportation project related thereto. Attach additional sheets if needed.

Any project for which **state grants** were received is ineligible.

Projects financed through the **Mass. Water Pollution Abatement Trust** are also ineligible unless the total debt issued through MWPAT exceeded $50,000,000 on June 30, 1995.

| Project Number | Project Name | Issue Date | Original Amount* | FY2010 Debt Service* | Grants Received? |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

1._____

2._____

3._____

4._____

5._____

6._____

7._____

8._____

9._____

10._____

Total FY2010 Debt Service $_____

***Attach a debt service schedule for the life of the bonds unless submitted previously.**

## B. PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

For new indebtedness eligibility being requested from the FY2010 Commonwealth Sewer Rate Relief Fund, i.e., eligibility requests from new applicants or additional eligibility requests from prior year award recipients, please provide descriptions of each project. Example project descriptions have been provided at the end of this application. You may need to consult with your Public Works staff to assist in developing project descriptions. Please add additional sheets if necessary.

| **Project Number** | **Project Name** | **Project Description** |
|---|---|---|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

_____ _____

Contact Person for Project Description Telephone Number

## C. USE OF AWARD PROCEEDS:

Describe briefly how the award, if any, will be used to reduce rates in the current or future years, or finance capital projects which would otherwise be financed through borrowing. Example Use of Award Proceeds statements have been provided at the end of this application.

## D. CERTIFICATION:

We certify that the above listed debt was issued on or after January 1, 1990 for a term greater than five years to finance or refinance the costs of planning, design or construction of a water pollution control project or part thereof required to meet the provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 USC, secs. 1251 et seq.) and secs. 26 to 53 inclusive of M.G.L. Ch. 21.

Mayor _____ Exec. Director _____

Manager _____ Commissioners _____

Selectmen _____ _____

_____ _____

_____ Treasurer _____

_____ Phone _____

_____ Fax _____

## E. Wire Transfer Instructions

Payments to cities and towns will be made to accounts to which other state local aid payments are wired. For any district or authority, please indicate your bank routing number and account below.

_____ _____

Bank Routing Number Account Number

## F. Return by Friday, September 25, 2009 by mail or fax:

Division of Local Services
Attn: William C. Meehan, Supervisor of Public Finance
P.O. Box 9569
Boston, Mass. 02114-9569 Fax (617) 626-3916

**Example Project Descriptions:**

1. The work consisted of constructing 3,800 linear feet of 12-inch PVC sewer and 6,300 linear feet of 8-inch PVC sewer with manholes and sewer service connections on Main Street, Elm Street and School Street.

2. The work consisted of upgrading the wastewater treatment plant including: replacement of mechanical, plumbing and electrical equipment; replacement of existing odor control system; and installation of a new screening and grit removal system.

3. The work consisted of removal and replacement of the Summer Street wastewater pumping station including replacing 200 linear feet of 8-inch force main and 350 linear feet of 8-inch PVC gravity sewer.

4. The work consisted of conducting an Inflow/Infiltration study, repairing 347 manholes, rehabilitating 22,000 linear feet of sewer pipe and TV inspection of 30,000 linear feet of sewer pipe.

5. The work consisted of consulting services to prepare a Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan for the Town.

6. The work consisted of the design of improvements to the wastewater treatment plant including consulting fees and associated expenses.

**Example Use of Award Proceeds Statements:**

1. A credit will be applied directly to user bills.

2. Rate relief money will be used towards ongoing capital improvements and repairs.

3. The proceeds of this grant would be used to purchase equipment which would otherwise be purchased with borrowed funds increasing the sewer rate.

4. The proceeds will be considered as other revenue sources when calculating the user fees.

5. Funds awarded would be deposited as revenue in the enterprise fund and as an additional revenue source, supplementing revenue received from rates, thereby offsetting any potential rate increase.