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# Massachusetts Water Resources Commission

**FY2025** ANNUAL REPORT - Draft





# The Commission's Role and Responsibilities



***Longest running active Commission in the Commonwealth – meeting at least monthly since 1956***

- Responsible for developing, guiding, coordinating, and overseeing the Commonwealth's water policy and planning activities.
- Establish the scientific and policy foundation for the sustainability of Massachusetts' water resources.
- **Climate Change is Water Change.** Our programs focus broadly on the impacts of climate on water resources.

# Structure of the MA WRC

## Agency Members

### **Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs**

Chair & Member - Rebecca L. Tepper, Secretary  
Designee - Vandana Rao, Executive Director

### **Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities**

Member - Edward M. Augustus Jr., Secretary  
Designee - Chris Kluchman

### **Department of Conservation and Recreation**

Member – Nicole LaChapelle, Commissioner  
Designee - Anne Carroll

### **Office of Coastal Zone Management (non-voting member)**

Member – Alison Brizius, Director  
Designee - Tyler Soleau

### **Department of Environmental Protection**

Member - Bonnie Heiple, Commissioner  
Designee - Kathleen Baskin

### **Department of Agricultural Resources**

Member - Ashley Randle, Commissioner  
Designee - Hotze Wijnja

### **Department of Fish and Game**

Member - Tom O'Shea, Commissioner  
Designee - Todd Richards

## Public Members

Thomas Cambareri, Centerville, MA  
(representing groundwater industry)

Christine Hatch, Belchertown, MA

Vincent J. Ragucci III, North Reading, MA

Kenneth Weismantel, Hopkinton, MA

Samantha Woods, Norwell, MA



Water Resources Commissioners and Designees, December 2024 meeting



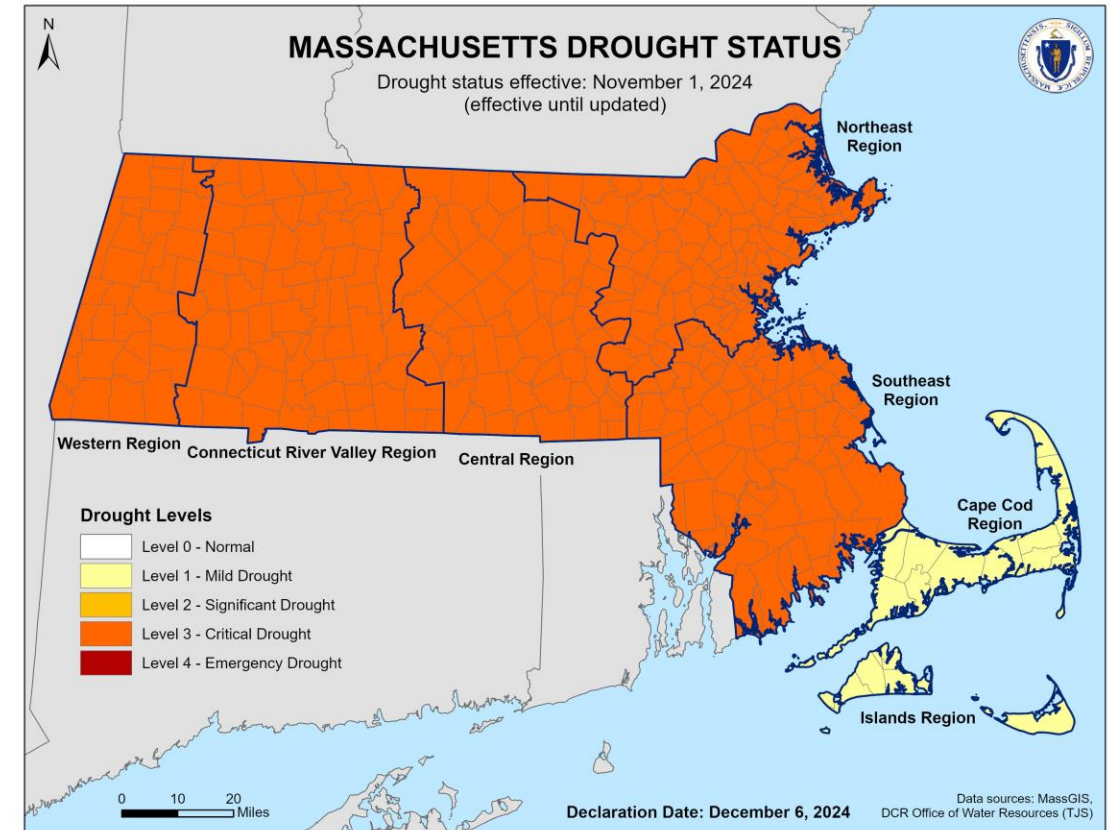
# FY 2025 Annual Report - Overview



- Hydrologic Monitoring
- Flood Hazard Management Program
- Facilitation and Consensus Building to Support Regional Water Efforts
- Interbasin Transfer Act
- Water Needs Forecasts
- Oversight of State Water Programs
- Special Projects
- Water Efficiency

# Hydrologic Monitoring -Tracking Conditions and Advising on Drought

- In **FY25**, the DMTF met to track a drought which developed in the fall.
- By mid-October all regions reached Level 3—Critical Drought except the Cape Cod and Islands Regions, which remained normal.
- The Cape Cod and Islands regions reached Level 1—Mild Drought in November and Level 2—Significant Drought in January.
- By the end of May all regions returned to normal except Cape Cod and Islands, which remained elevated at Level 1—Mild Drought through June.





# Hydrologic Monitoring

## -USGS Cooperative Program

- **In FY25**, Staff worked with USGS to expand the streamflow and groundwater network based on the results of the network analyses completed in FY24
- 12 new streamflow gages
- Upgrade of 7 wells from manual to real-time data provision
- The expansion will continue in FY26 with the installation of six streamflow gages and the drilling of four groundwater wells



# Flood Hazard Management Program

- Support and technical assistance directly to 306 MA communities through workshops, bylaw review and almost 1,000 assistance information points
- Review of 194 MEPA projects for floodplain regulatory and advisory comments
- 28 training workshops on floodplain management topics; began a new “Floodplain Basics” training series
- Assistance to 157 communities with their local floodplain bylaw compliance
- Work on numerous special projects including Flooding & Environmental Justice Communities in MA, the statewide floodplain management Framework, flood disclosure regulation, the state’s Local Action Guide for higher floodplain management standards, and planning for the 11th edition state building code process
- Implementing year two of the FHMP Strategic Plan including robust communications and outreach strategies, improved training calendar and improved coordination with regional planning agencies





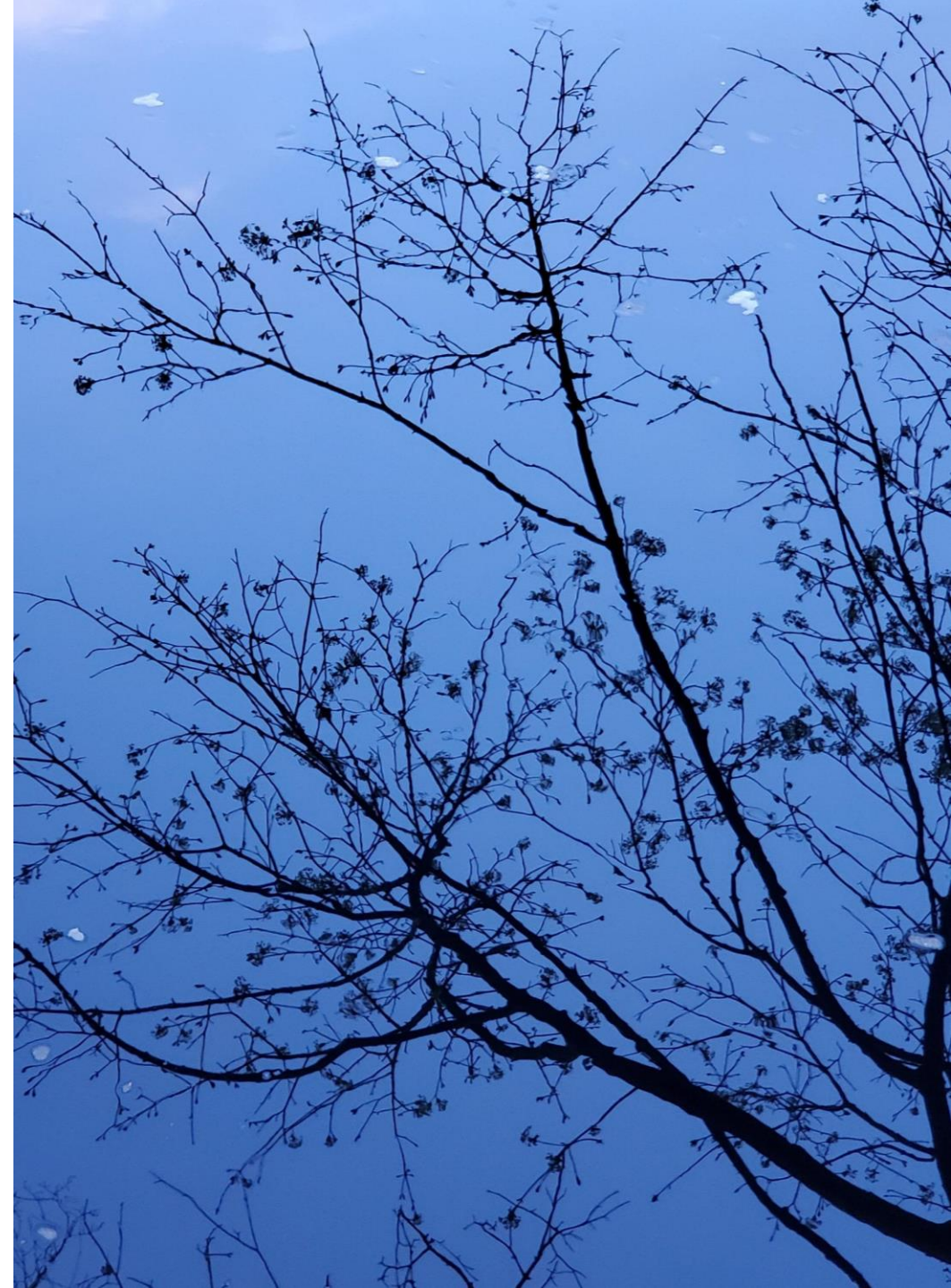
# Facilitation and Consensus Building to Support Regional Water Efforts

**In FY25,** Staff continued co-facilitating and providing technical support to the North Shore Water Resilience Task Force

- Concluded 3 studies to lay groundwork for regional action
- Engaged 2 new contractors to develop a web-based decision support tool and expand mediation and facilitation capacity
- Continued efforts to explore the role of water conservation and demand management in regional resilience
- Launched 2 new subcommittees to develop water supply recommendations for the Lower Basin and address PFAS

## Southeast

- Completed an Assessment of Collaborative Potential



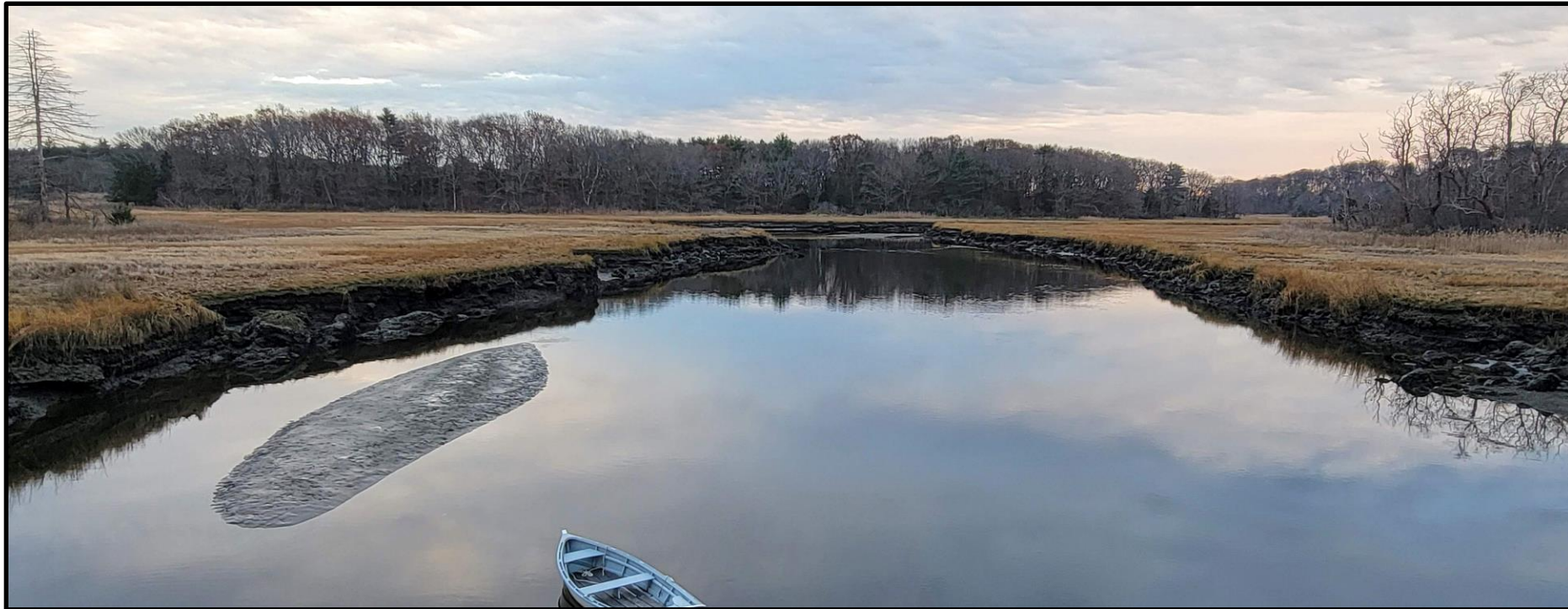


# Interbasin Transfer Act

**In FY25**, the WRC voted to approve the following projects:

- Littleton's Water Supply Connection with Boxborough
- Town of Groton Amendment to Lost Lake Decision & RDI
- Lynnfield Center Water District's Supplemental Connection to MWRA
- Sunrise Senior Living Request for Determination of Insignificance
- Town of Plainville Amendment to Mirimichi Wells Decision

The WRC also finalized and published updated ITA Performance Standards





# Water Needs Forecasts & Oversight of State Water Programs

## WNF

- Staff consulted with MassDEP and five public water suppliers in four river basins (Boston Harbor, Connecticut, Merrimack, and Nashua) to review, revise, or prepare new water needs forecasts.

## Oversight of State Water Programs

- WRC heard an update from MassDEP staff on its work on PFAS. MassDEP's schedule includes promulgating new regulations at least as stringent as EPA by May 1, 2026.
- MassDEP is also working on a two-part Sludge Capacity Master Plan.

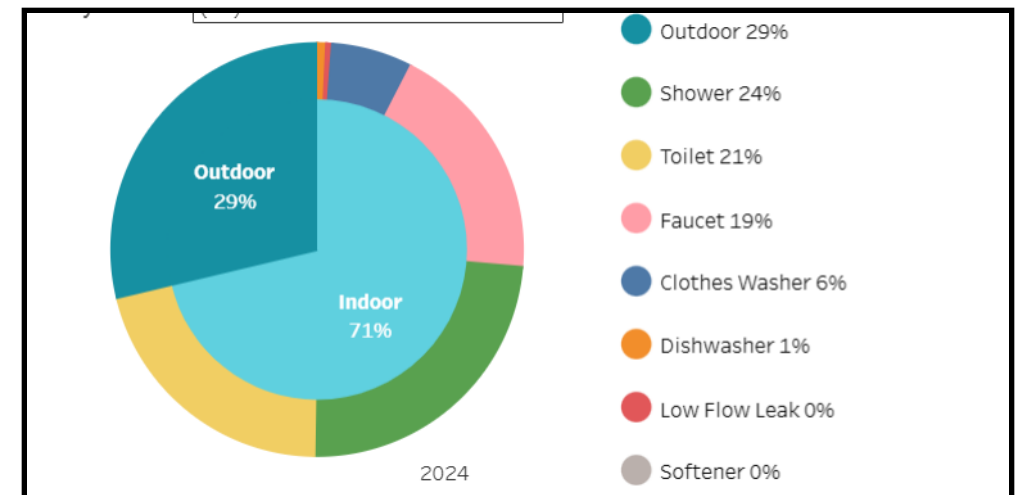
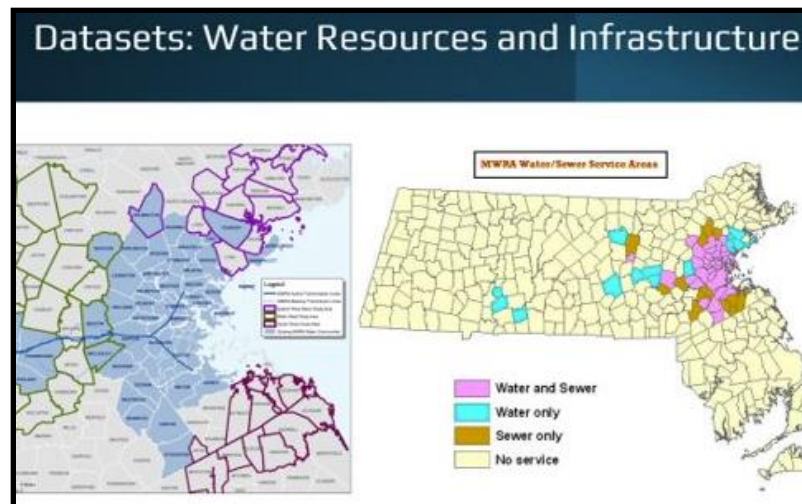
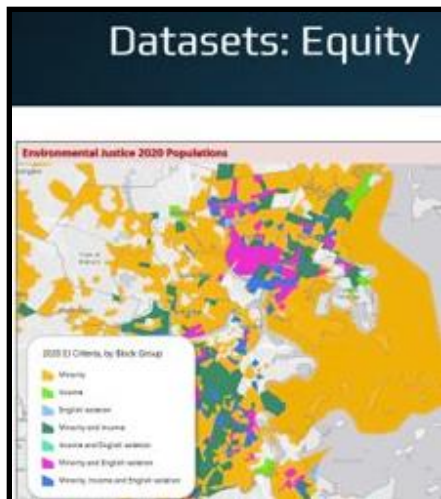
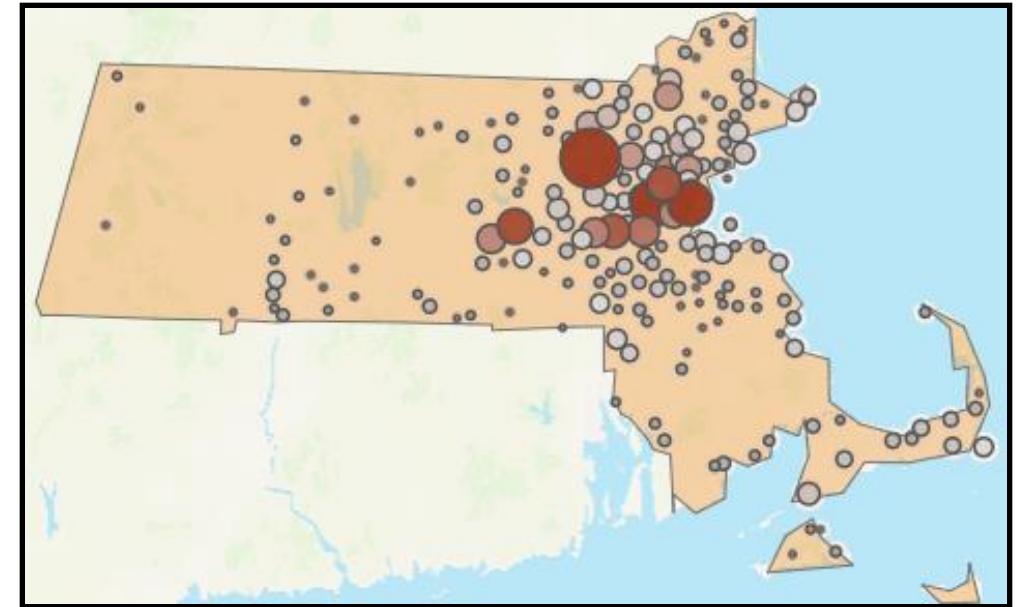




# FY2025 Special Projects

- Low Flow Statistics at Gaged and Ungaged Sites
- Groundwater Flooding Vulnerability Mapping
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Policy Hackathon (winners presented to WRC)
- Guidance for Local Water Suppliers on Developing Local Drought Management Plans (WRC voted to approve)
- Water Data Analysis and Visualization

Flume Data – 3 years, 1,400 homes, 200 cities and towns



# Water Efficiency

- Hosted 3 MA Native Plant Palette events & 2 demonstration palette gardens in Danvers and Ipswich
- Supported the Growing Wild for Pollinators program
- Staff maintained the promotional partnership with EPA's WaterSense program

Created 3 new [videos](#) about drought

- what does drought mean in MA?
- why does the state declare a drought even when we get rain
- public water suppliers & outdoor watering restrictions

Drought Resilience & Water Efficiency (DRWE) Grant Program

- Awarded \$500K to 13 projects





# Staff to the MA WRC

## Leadership Team

- **Vandana Rao**, EOEEA, Director of Water Policy/ED of the MA WRC
- **Purvi Patel**, EOEEA, Assistant Director of Water Policy
- **Anne Carroll**, DCR, Director, Office of Water Resources (OWR)
- **Vanessa Curran**, DCR, Deputy Director, OWR

## Staff to the WRC at DCR Office of Water Resources and Dam Safety

- **Eric Carlson**, Environmental Engineer
- **Sara Cohen**, Water Resources and Engagement Specialist
- **Jason Duff**, Water Resources Planner
- **Joy Duperrault**, Director, Flood Hazard Management Program
- **Erin Graham**, Environmental Engineer
- **Nadia Madden**, Floodplain Management Specialist
- **Katie Paight**, Floodplain Management Specialist
- **Toni Stewart**, Water Resources Scientist
- **Viki Zoltay**, State Hydrologist
- **William Salomaa**, Director, Office of Dam Safety

