



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Water Resources Commission

100 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114

To: Water Resources Commission
From: Staff
Date: August 3, 2026 for presentation on August 13, 2026
Subject: Staff Recommendation to Accept MWRA's Donor Basin Application as Complete

On February 19, 2026, the Massachusetts Water Resources Commission (WRC) received a request for approval of an action to increase the Present Rate of Interbasin Transfer due to the expansion of the service area of a Regional Water Supply System under the Interbasin Transfer Act (ITA; M.G.L. Chapter 21 Sections 8B-8D) from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). Section 4.10 of the ITA regulations (313 CMR 4.0) enables a Regional Water Supply System to file an application that allows the WRC to evaluate and approve criteria applicable to the Donor Basin separately from criteria applicable to the Receiving Area. WRC staff requested additional information from MWRA on June 19, 2026. This information was received on July 28, 2026.

Facts pertaining to the application are:

- MWRA, as a Regional Water Supply System, is proposing to increase its Present Rate of Interbasin Transfer by 20 million gallons per day (MGD) to accommodate the expansion of its service area to multiple public water systems.
- MWRA has its sources in the Chicopee River and Nashua River Basins.
- The MWRA's application is for the Donor Basin only.
- According to the Donor Basin application submitted by the MWRA, as of 2024, MWRA supplies an annual average demand of approximately 200 MGD from a system with a safe yield of 300 MGD.
- Receiving Area applications may be reviewed concurrently or after the WRC determines that the Donor Basin portion of the application meets the applicable criteria listed in 313 CMR 4.00.
- The Donor Basin applicant does not need to have identified all of the potential Receiving Areas of the Interbasin Transfer.
- Receiving Area applications may be submitted to the WRC separately and non-concurrently from each other.

The application has been reviewed according to the ITA regulations and the ITA Performance Standards, by WRC staff at the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's Office of Water Resources and by staff at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, to ensure that all required

information has been provided. WRC staff may seek clarification or additional details during the review process.

After review of all the information provided by the proponent, WRC staff recommends that the WRC votes to accept the Donor Basin application as complete. Following this acceptance, a public hearing in the donor basin community will be scheduled and held within sixty (60) days. An additional hearing to take public comment on the staff recommendation will also be scheduled at a later date. The WRC will have sixty (60) days from the close of this final public hearing to complete its review and make a Decision on the application.