

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago Board of Commissioners

Frank Avila Chairman of Finance

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MWRD Committees

Chairman Budget & Employment Engineering Finance

Vice Chairman Ethics Industrial Waste/Water Pollution Commissioner Frank Avila was elected to the MWRD Board of Commissioners in 2002 and re-elected in 2008 and 2014. One of his first jobs out of engineering school was at the MWRD, where he was inspired by the ambitious civil engineering projects that improved the health, welfare and environment of the greater Chicago area. In 1975, Commissioner Avila started his own engineering company, Avila & Associates, Inc. but never forgot his early formative experiences working for the MWRD. After 26 successful years in business, Commissioner Avila sold his company and decided to lead a life of public service, returning to the agency that started his career.

Commissioner Avila drives the MWRD to stay on the forefront of fiscally sound and environmentally forward policy. As Chairman of Finance, he continues to ensure that the MWRD maintains AAA/AA+ bond ratings, undertakes pension reform, creates local jobs and adds billions to the local economy. He is excited that the MWRD is pursuing sustainability practices through the biosolids program, resource recovery and energy neutrality. He sees sustainability as the key to the future of any public or private agency.

Commissioner Avila pushed the MWRD to adopt a policy to restrict the use of toxic pesticides and herbicides that pose a threat to the safety of human health and the environment from being used on MWRD land, as well as encouraging the MWRD to purchase and utilize more green and recycled products.

Born and raised on the near west side of Chicago, Commissioner Avila has a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana and a Master of Science in Finance from the University of Arizona, Tucson. With over 50 years of experience as a professional engineer and land surveyor in the state of Illinois he understands the technical, environmental, and financial side of MWRD projects.

Commissioner Avila received the 2015 Water Environment Federation (WEF) Public Officials Award and the "Citizen Engineer of the Year 2012" award from the Illinois section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He also received the "Presidents Award" (2013) from the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers for his work to protect the health and safety of the public and protect the quality of water in the Chicago area waterways. A dedicated public servant, Commissioner Avila has been married to his wife, Sharilyn, since 1965 with whom he has 3 children and 3 grandchildren.

Recovering resources, transforming water.

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