

Committee Reports #1

31 Oct 2016

Tonight there might be some discussion about the longstanding drought situation and the City's use of MWRA water during the shortage. Obviously, the moderate October rains will not cure our long term problem.

Councillors are likely to cite the cost of MWRA water as the primary reason to resume full operation of the water plant.

It's not that simple. Read carefully. We are paying the full commercial MWRA water rate due to our importance. Why should the agency bear the cost of our standby potential then give us cheap water?

City management should obtain comparable water and sewer costs for similar residential property in communities like Boston and Somerville, which pay a lower rate. All towns can manipulate respective water and sewer rates to a degree.

It's disingenuous to ignore the full tilt costs of our water plant despite limited output. The water works is Cambridge's biggest electricity hog; MWRA users don't have to pay for gravity.

We don't own and operate an independent water system. Every community around us recognizes that superior MWRA water is the way to go. We should join.

Poor, expensive choices over decades should not compel us to stay with our private, highly vulnerable watershed.

GARY MELLO