

**Boston Water and
Sewer Commission**

980 Harrison Avenue
Boston, MA 02119



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BOSTON WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION CELEBRATED FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

MassDEP Honors BWSC at “Drinking Water Awards” Celebration

Boston, Mass., May 8, 2018— The [Boston Water and Sewer Commission](#) (BWSC) received two awards from the [Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection](#) (MassDEP) at the 2018 Public Water System Awards celebration held today at the Massachusetts State House. The ceremony is held annually during National Drinking Water Week.

BWSC received honors for *Outstanding Performance in 2017* for drinking water and the *Systems Taking Action to Reduce Lead* (STAR L) award. BWSC has been recognized by the MassDEP for drinking water excellence for eight of the last nine years, and achieved one of the MassDEP’s top scores in the Consecutive System category for 2018. The STAR L award acknowledges BWSC’s collaboration with Boston Public Schools, and their efforts within the community to protect children from the dangers of lead.

“Massachusetts residents and businesses are fortunate to have so many outstanding public water systems that combine to perform a vital essential service,” said MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg. “There are many great public water systems that submit the proper reports and important test results in a timely way. But we have determined that these systems – including the Boston Water and Sewer Commission – deserve special recognition and commendation today for their excellent service to the public.”

“BWSC is proud to accept these awards from the MassDEP celebrating our consistent success in delivering water services to the City of Boston,” said BWSC Executive Director Henry F. Vitale. “These awards honor the efforts of our men and women, who work tirelessly to provide the best tasting and highest quality drinking water to over 1.2 million people daily.”

In addition to the accolades received from the MassDEP, BWSC recently won the *Water Cup* at “New England’s Best Drinking Water Taste Test” competition held by the New England Water Works Association. This win makes Boston eligible to compete against other cities from across the U.S., Canada and Mexico at the American Water Works Association’s “Best of the Best” annual competition scheduled for June 2018.

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L-R: MassDEP Analyst Bill Zahoruiko, BWSC Chief Engineer John P. Sullivan, BWSC Executive Director Henry F. Vitale, MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg

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Boston is home to New England's oldest and largest water, sewer and stormwater systems, which are owned, maintained and operated by the Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC). Established in 1977, BWSC provides potable water and sewer services to more than one million people per day. BWSC is also the leading organizer of *We Are All Connected*, a campaign to raise public awareness about the importance of protecting and preserving Boston's waterways. For more information please visit: www.bwsc.org.