



November 13, 2025
Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
Deer Island, 33 Tafts Avenue

Boston, Massachusetts 02128

RE: A Better City's Comments on the MWRA's Proposed Charles River, Mystic River, and Neponset River Reclassifications

Executive Director Laskey, Chair Tepper, and Members of the Board:

On behalf of A Better City, thank you to your vision and leadership in advancing your critical mission of providing reliable, cost-effective, high-quality water and sewer services that protect public health, promote environmental stewardship, maintain customer confidence, and support a prosperous economy. Because of your efforts, meaningful progress has been made to stop the release of sewage overflows and street runoff into the Charles River, Mystic River, and Neponset River. We were surprised and disappointed to see the MWRA's recent proposal to change the water quality classification of the Charles, Mystic, and Neponset, explicitly allowing for releases of sewage overflows.

A Better City has championed the implementation of regional climate resilience solutions that help to protect our local ecosystems, communities, critical infrastructure, and regional economy. More recently, in [our comments regarding Boston's Draft Climate Action Plan for 2030](#), A Better City highlighted the imperative to address the issue of increasing combined-sewer overflow events that have closed local beaches during hot summer months.

In closing, we urge you to reconsider the proposal to reclassify the Charles River, as well as the Mystic River and Neponset River—and to more broadly redouble your long-standing commitment to improve the water quality of the Charles, Mystic, and Neponset Rivers, which are vital to our region's environmental and economic vitality alike. We remain ready and eager to partner with the MWRA on the implementation of climate resilient solutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Y. L. Torrie'.

Yve Torrie
Director of Climate, Energy, & Resilience

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isabella Gambill'.

Isabella Gambill
Assistant Director of Climate, Energy, & Resilience