



"RE-BUILDING THE CITY'S WATER SYSTEMS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY"

Sewerage & Water Board of NEW ORLEANS

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SEWERAGE & WATER BOARD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARCIA ST. MARTIN ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Will Serve Until December 31, 2013; Caps 42 Years of Public Service

NEW ORLEANS, LA – Today at the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (S&WB) monthly meeting, Marcia St. Martin, who has served as Executive Director of the agency since August 2004, announced her retirement effective December 31, 2013, citing an upcoming double knee replacement surgery. Ms. St. Martin, who was previously deputy director of S&WB for 12 years, has served the citizens of New Orleans in various capacities for 42 years.

"For the last several decades, I have focused on providing New Orleanians with quality water, sewer, and drainage services," said Ms. St. Martin. "We have come a very long way from devastation to restoration to recovery despite the mighty forces of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, Ike and Isaac. I am proud of our many accomplishments. Our board and staff have made the tough decisions that make our agency viable today. It is never the right time to leave, but I will leave with the satisfaction of knowing that our most caring and dedicated board and employees will continue the rebuilding of this agency that is so critical to the lives and well-being of all of our citizens."

During St. Martin's twenty-two year tenure in S&WB leadership, the agency has experienced substantial innovative changes, development, and growth despite significant challenges. As the S&WB's Deputy Director and Executive Director, Ms. St. Martin is credited with bringing the agency directly to the citizens through improved and increased public contact, hundreds of town meetings, and interaction with civic, business, and neighborhood organizations. She is also responsible for developing a modern, customer-friendly website and televised board meetings, both designed to bring S&WB closer to its customers. She has overseen the development of the SELA drainage program in 1995 with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, established the "crescent meter logo" as the agency's official and identifying symbol, and developed the extensive Bayou Bienvenue Wetlands Assimilation Project.

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**SEWERAGE & WATER BOARD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARCIA ST. MARTIN ANNOUNCES
RETIREMENT
ADD # 1**

In one of her most important roles at the agency, Ms. St. Martin has administered the complex and comprehensive terms of the 1998 sewer system consent decree with the U.S. Department of Justice and Environmental Protection Agency. Under that agreement, S&WB and the City agreed to a \$600 million rehabilitation of the aging sewage collection system throughout the city. Under St. Martin's leadership, the consent decree has recently been renegotiated, and S&WB is in full compliance with the decree, meeting all construction deadlines and avoiding the potential for millions of dollars in fines.

Of course, most importantly, Ms. St. Martin led S&WB through Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, guiding the most extensive and massive reconstruction and restoration of a utility in U.S. history. Though the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers predicted that it would take months to pump the water out of the city, S&WB made the tough decision to de-water the city using the S&WB pumping system, knowing that the brackish water could cause damage to the century-old system. Within a few days, S&WB had restarted most of its pumping stations and within several weeks, the city was mostly pumped out and ready to enter the next phase of its recovery. Under her leadership and command, all employees of S&WB remained at their posts during the hurricane.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu said, "Marcia guided the Sewerage and Water Board and its staff through its most trying times. Her bold leadership during the months following the storm and swift response in getting the agency back into operation was critical to our city's recovery. Hurricane Katrina destroyed much of the agency's water, sewerage, and drainage systems, as well as the power plant, but Marcia was committed to the rebuilding of New Orleans. I want to personally thank her for her decades of remarkable service to the people of New Orleans."

Her stint as head of the S&WB highlights a career committed to public service in New Orleans. Ms. St. Martin began as an accountant at City Hall in 1972 and was promoted to several positions there including directing the equipment maintenance division, parking division, and the Department of Safety & Permits.

Marcia St. Martin is a 1969 graduate of Xavier University of New Orleans, where she holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and business administration. She served on the board and was Treasurer of Water for People USA, an international humanitarian organization that aims to improve access to drinking water, adequate sanitation, and hygiene education throughout the world. She also holds membership in the American Water Works Association, Water Research Foundation, Water Environment Federation, American Public Works Association, Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, National Association of Clean Water Agencies, and Clean Water America Alliance. Ms. St. Martin is on the Board of Trustees of the Louisiana Asset Management Pool, Inc. (LAMP), a trustee on the Water Research Foundation, and is on the EPA National Drinking Water Advisory Council.

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**SEWERAGE & WATER BOARD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARCIA ST. MARTIN ANNOUNCES
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ADD # 2**

“Marcia’s leadership and vision will allow the board and staff to grow and thrive far beyond her tenure as Executive Director. It was great for her to share her plans for early retirement with us at this time. This announcement will give the Board an opportunity to begin the process of selecting the right successor during her transition,” said Sewerage and Water Board President Pro Tempore Wm. Ray Manning.

The Board today designated the S&WB Executive Committee to develop criteria for a search firm or consultant to lead the national search for Executive Director. A RFP will be developed at upcoming executive committee meetings. The RFP selection will follow the competitive, public selection process outlined in Mayor Landrieu’s contracting reforms.

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