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## Agency Profile:

# Metropolitan Council Environmental Services

### Metropolitan Council Members

|                   |                    |                    |                  |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <b>CHAIR</b>      | Adam Duinick       |                    |                  |
| <b>District 1</b> | Katie Rodriguez    | <b>District 9</b>  | Edward Reynoso*  |
| <b>District 2</b> | Lona Schreiber*    | <b>District 10</b> | Marie McCarthy*  |
| <b>District 3</b> | Jennifer Munt      | <b>District 11</b> | Sandy Rummel**   |
| <b>District 4</b> | Deb Barber         | <b>District 12</b> | Harry Melander*  |
| <b>District 5</b> | Steve Elkins       | <b>District 13</b> | Richard Kramer   |
| <b>District 6</b> | Gail Dorfman       | <b>District 14</b> | Jon Commers      |
| <b>District 7</b> | Gary L. Cunningham | <b>District 15</b> | Steven T. Chávez |
| <b>District 8</b> | Cara Letofsky      | <b>District 16</b> | Wendy Wulff*     |

\*Environment Committee Member

\*\*Environment Committee Chair

### MCES Executive Team

#### GENERAL MANAGER

Administration  
Environmental Quality Assurance  
Finance & Energy  
Finance & Revenue  
Maintenance & Security  
Operations  
Safety  
Support Services  
Technical Services

Leisa Thompson (leisa.thompson@metc.state.mn.us)  
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Our **mission** is providing wastewater services and integrated planning to ensure sustainable water quality and water supply for the region.

Our **vision** is being a valued leader and partner in water sustainability.

## About MCES

Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) is a division of the Metropolitan Council, a regional governing entity. MCES owns and operates the regional wastewater system in the seven-county Twin Cities Metro area.

Guided by the Council's long-range plan, *Thrive MSP 2040*, and the *MCES Water Resources Policy Plan*, MCES:

- Operates and maintains approximately 600 miles of regional sewers that collect flows from more than 5,000 miles of sewers owned by 108 communities in the seven-county Twin Cities region.
- Treats approximately 250 million gallons of wastewater a day (mgd).
- Runs eight regional wastewater treatment plants: Blue Lake in Shakopee; Eagles Point in Cottage Grove; East Bethel in East Bethel; Empire in Empire Township; Hastings in Hastings; Metropolitan in St. Paul; St. Croix Valley in Stillwater; and Seneca in Eagan.
- Continues to achieve near-perfect compliance with federal and state clean water discharge standards.
- Establishes user fees (Municipal Wastewater Charges, Sewer Availability Charge, Industry Specific Charges) that are less than national fee averages, and that pay 100% of wastewater operations and debt service costs.
- Works with approximately 800 industrial permittees to substantially reduce the amount of pollution entering the wastewater collection system.
- Ensures sufficient sewer capacity to serve planned development.
- Makes capital investments to support growth, maintain infrastructure and improve water quality.
- Provides technical and planning assistance to communities and watersheds on water resource protection and restoration.
- Assesses and monitors the condition of area lakes, streams and rivers.

## Award-Winning Performance



MCES wastewater treatment plants perform at a high level of compliance with clean water discharge permits and achieve near-perfect compliance with federal and state clean water discharge limits.

Six MCES treatment plants received the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) Platinum Peak Performance Award for consecutive years of compliance through 2015 and awarded in 2016: Hastings (25 years); St. Croix Valley (24);

Seneca (15); Blue Lake (10); Eagles Point (10); and Empire (8). The Hastings and St. Croix Valley Plants are two of the top 10 plants in the country for consecutive years of full compliance with their clean water discharge permits.

## Capital Projects

The MCES capital improvement program maintains and improves the quality of the regional wastewater system infrastructure, supports area growth and meets regulatory obligations. Emphasis is asset renewal of the interceptor system and treatment plants, along with performance improvement, including energy conservation and odor control. Wherever feasible, capital projects are coordinated with other public infrastructure preservation work.



## Customer Service

MCES works with and for the region's citizens in many ways. Efforts include partnering on environmental improvement and sustainability concerns; providing outreach and educational programs, plant tours, surveys and newsletters; conducting meetings and forums; and addressing process-related and industrial odor control issues.



## Finance

MCES's financial management and planning keep the organization's rates competitive while MCES continues to win awards for superior operation. MCES wastewater rates are lower than 75% of large wastewater utilities (treats 100+ mgd) in the country, according to the most recent NACWA rate survey (2014).



## Water Resource Planning

MCES provides water quality monitoring and analysis of regional lakes, streams and rivers; partners with public, private and other partners to protect and restore water quality; provides technical assistance to watersheds and communities on water planning and management; and provides regional and subregional water supply planning services and technical assistance to cities.

