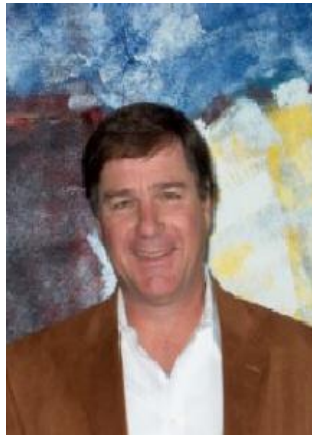


**A Message from the Chairmen  
(From the Winter 2008 Mayors Water Council Newsletter)**



Mayor Martin Chavez  
Albuquerque, NM



Mayor Dan Coody  
Fayetteville, AR

This edition of the MWC newsletter features water and wastewater infrastructure asset management. Along with summary results from the 2007 National City Survey we have included commentary by experts in the field (both public and private water managers) on the importance of asset management, and an interesting perspective from some of our municipal practitioners that is intended to advise about what every mayor should know about asset management and public infrastructure. Additionally, we have included articles addressing water conservation, water quality and watershed protection.

The “National City Water Survey 2007 – The Status of Asset Management Programs in Public Water and Sewer Infrastructure in America’s Major Cities” report was released at the Mayors Water Summit in San Francisco in September. This report continues our efforts to conduct city surveys on water resources issues. The findings, based on 330 major cities, suggest that integrating asset management techniques in municipal water and sewer operations around the country is gaining momentum. Most cities are employing comprehensive or partial asset management programs already, and cities that currently do not use them plan to do so in the near future. Other findings suggest that cost savings in operations and maintenance, as well as in capital spending, are being realized now or are expected to occur from these efforts. Most cities, however, oppose a Congressional mandate tying formal asset management programs to getting federal financial aid.

The MWC released “Who Pays for the Water Pipes, Pumps and Treatment Works? - Local Government Expenditures on Sewer and Water – 1991 to 2005” in June. This report consolidates 14 years of available U.S. Census data on local government expenditures and revenues related to provision of sewer and water services. Three findings in the report are important for all mayors to recognize. First, annual local government spending in FY2005 for water and sewer was \$82 billion, and is responsible for more than 95 percent of total expenditures for these services and infrastructure investments in the nation. Second, local government spent over \$841 billion for sewer and water services and infrastructure investment from FY1991 through FY2005. This number is significant because it can be compared to the

\$500 to \$600 billion estimated EPA “Needs Gap”. While it is not a direct comparison to the EPA’s estimate it certainly provides some perspective concerning the robust local government spending that has been occurring all along. The EPA’s “Needs Gap” estimate leads many people to assume that local government is not spending much money on municipal water and sewer services- that is not the case. Third, the MWC estimates that annual local government spending on sewer and water services and infrastructure investment will reach or exceed \$110 billion. And, the MWC estimate does not include additional expenditures that will likely result from adapting the public infrastructure to address climate change impacts. The two reports that can be found on the website [www.usmayors.org/urbanwater](http://www.usmayors.org/urbanwater).