



## WASTEWATER DIVISION

# MCUA Receives Homeland Security Grant to “Harden” Facilities

This fall, the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (OHSP) confirmed that the MCUA would receive a \$150,000 grant to enhance the existing security infrastructure at the wastewater treatment facilities.

MCUA staff sought the grant to improve and sustain its preparedness capabilities, as well as its contingency and continuity plans in the event of a service interruption.

Homeland security experts identify wastewater treatment plants as targets due to the nature of the services they provide and their proximity to population centers.

OHSP recommends layered security enhancements around the Wastewater Treatment Facility to deter and address detection. These would include the use of video surveillance and physical barriers.

The grant is part of the Urban

Area Security Initiative (UASI), a federal program aimed at “hardening” targets in what it deems high-risk, high-density zones in the United States. In the homeland security context, “hardening” refers to reducing the vulnerability of a site.

In New Jersey, UASI focuses on the northeastern section of the state, including its two largest cities, Newark and Jersey City, and the surrounding counties of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, and Union. Approximately 4.6 million people live in this zone, representing 53% of the state’s population and 62% of the state’s critical infrastructure sites. The close proximity to New York City elevates the area’s importance and risk profile.

According to OSHP, efforts at protecting water treatment facilities should include lighting, access control, communication systems, and back-up generators.



## Wastewater Division

### October 2016 Statistics

- Average Influent flow – 83.12 mgd
- Average Effluent TSS – 27 mg/l
- Average Effluent BOD – 18 mg/l
- Biosolids production – 11,580 wet tons, an 8.8% decrease over the five-year average. Approximately 8,877 tons (77%) were processed through the dryers, 2,703 tons (23%) were lime stabilized and disposed out of state. The dryers were down from September 30 – October 6 for fall maintenance.

*\*Rainfall for the month was 2.27 inches as measured at the plant.*

## WASTEWATER DIVISION

# Raritan Bay Continues to Support Marine Wildlife

## *Humpback Whale Recently Sighted in Bay*

Earlier this month, two local fishermen came upon a humpback whale in the Raritan Bay. The whale was “lunge feeding” – essentially jumping out of the water with mouthfuls of fish – which made for a spectacular display.

Though whales are more regularly spotted around the Verrazano Bridge, there have been increased sightings of these whales further into the Bay as of late. According to one local marine biologist, it may have been the same whale that was identified in the

Bay this spring and last fall.

Bunker fish, which is a favorite of the humpback whale, are prevalent in the Bay.

That the Raritan Bay supports such an abundance of marine life is a credit to the Middlesex County Utilities Authority and its vigilance in thoroughly treating wastewater. When reintroduced into the Raritan Bay, clean water entices additional species and strengthens the overall ecosystem.

**The Raritan Bay and its surrounding environment are home to numerous wildlife species.**

### Solid Waste Division

#### October 2016 Tonnage Figures

	Monthly Tons	Cumulative Tons
2016	44,319	441,719
2015	48,135	467,065

An average of 250 trucks hauled a total of 1,773 tons of waste to the landfill facility each day.