

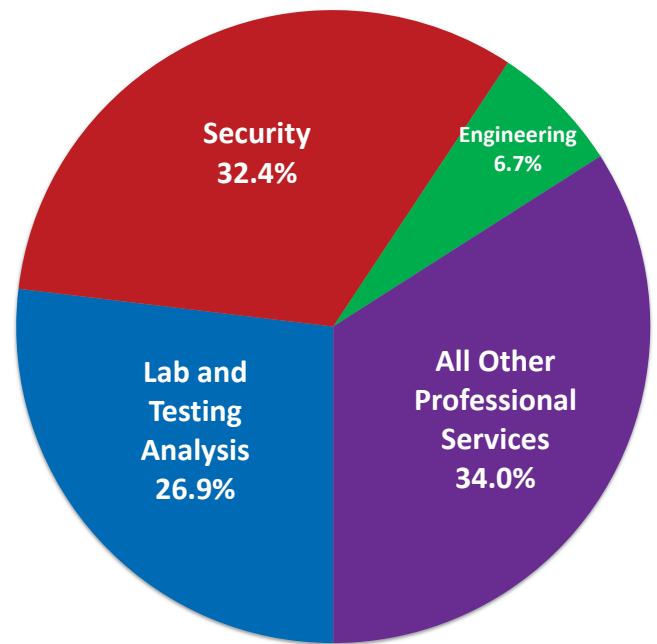
Table 31

Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Professional Services Summary (\$s)				
<i>Line Item/Description</i>	<i>Final FY15</i>	<i>Proposed FY16</i>	<i>Δ (\$s)</i>	<i>Δ (%)</i>
Lab and Testing Analysis	\$1,525,235	\$1,528,720	\$3,485	0.2%
Primarily harbor and outfall monitoring; some specialized outside lab services.				
Security	1,708,595	1,840,300	131,705	7.7%
Security and guard contracts.				
Engineering	682,000	378,118	-303,882	-44.6%
Specialized outside services such as dam inspection; beach nourishment studies for Deer Island; as needed engineering support.				
All Other Professional Services	2,041,371	1,934,366	-107,005	-5.2%
Legal Services, Audit Services, Local Limits Study, Communications; energy audits				
TOTAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES EXPENSES	\$5,957,201	\$5,681,504	-\$275,697	-4.6%

Other Highlights

- Security services increases reflect new and increased contract costs for the Chelsea, Deer Island, and Water Treatment Plant facilities; decreases for the Charlestown offices reflect a reduction in the number of hours of service.
- Reflecting the slow progress on issuing the next permit, the FY16 budget for engineering services (include funding of about \$250,000 for a Local Limits Study (as did the FY15 budget)
- All other professional services include:
 - Trustee, financial advisor and related services for the Treasury Department
 - Insurance consultant services
 - Audit services
 - Legal services
 - Energy consulting services
 - Technical and professional development services for the Human Resources Department plus services relating to the employee assistance program
 - MIS services relating to the upgrade of the MAXIMO system
 - Communications services, including funding for WAC and WSCAC

Figure 38



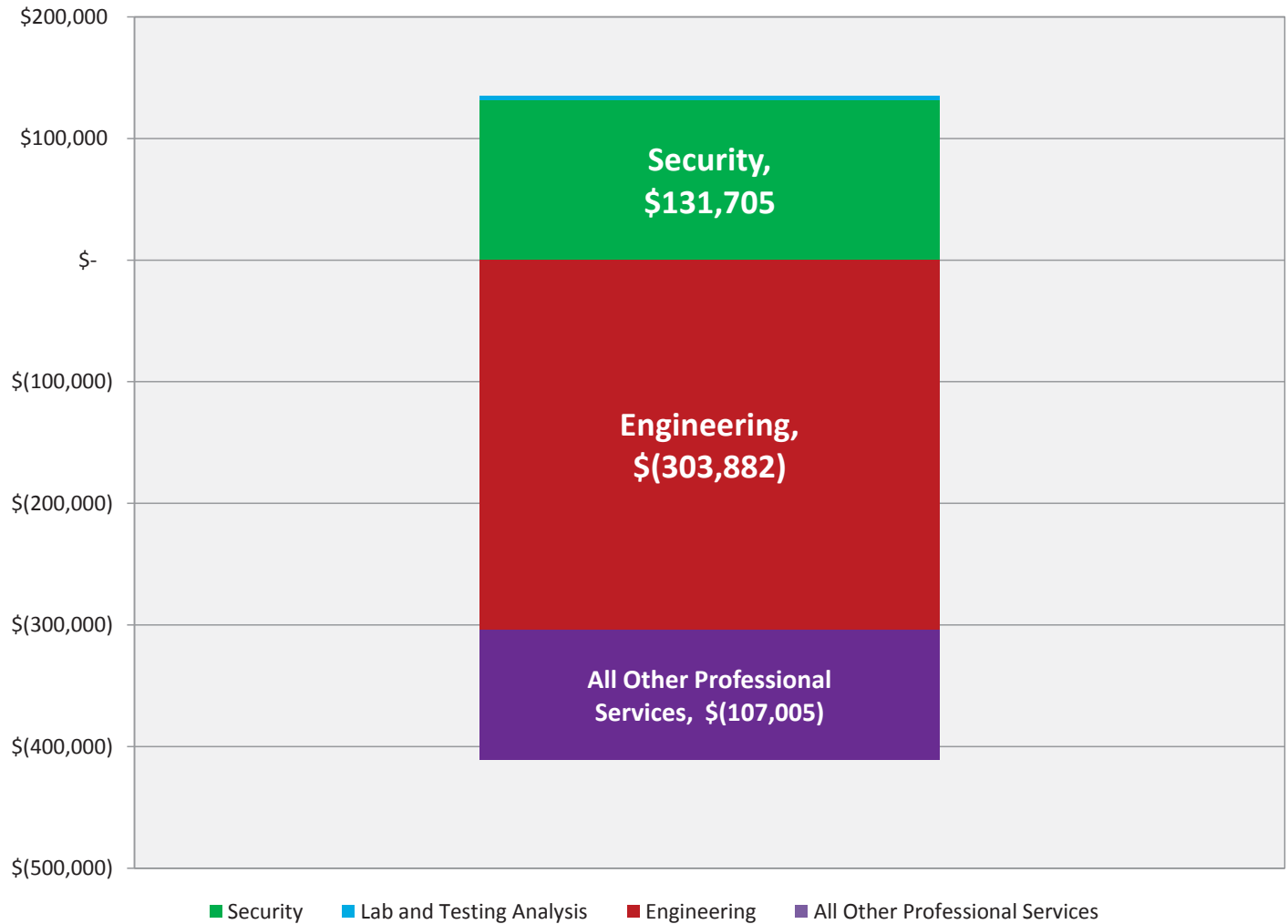


Figure 39

Laboratory, Testing, and Analysis Services

- FY16 harbor and outfall monitoring support: \$1.36 million
 - Largest area of expense within laboratory testing category
 - Slight increase from FY15 (budget): +\$5,435; from FY14 (actual): +\$115,500
 - Monitoring costs linked to existing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit
 - Current permit expired in August 2005
 - New permit not yet drafted or released for review
 - FY16 expense is approximately \$840 thousand lower than in earlier years
 - Changes to scope of monitoring
 - Transfer of some analyses to in-house staff
 - \$40 thousand/year savings due to regulatory approval to discontinue measuring floatables
- Remaining laboratory testing services: \$170 thousand
 - For outside, specialized laboratory testing services

Other Engineering Services Expenses

- As-needed engineering services
- Leak detection survey
- Dam safety

Security Services

- Budgeted at \$1.84 million
- Includes funding for security and related services for the Chelsea operations facility, Deer Island Treatment Plant, Carroll Water Treatment Plant and the Charlestown Navy Yard offices
- Spending increase: \$131,705 (+7.7%)

All Other Professional Services

- \$375 thousand for trustee bank services, financial advisory services, bond and disclosure counsels, insurance consultant services and related other services for the Treasury and Risk Management Departments; \$140 thousand for audit services
- \$240 thousand for professional assistance with network infrastructure, applications and design for the MIS Department
- \$225 thousand for legal services for outside legal counsel and arbitrators' and workers compensation claims administration services
- \$167.5 thousand in support of the WAC and WSCAC advisory committees
- \$155 thousand for technical and professional development training managed through the Human Resources Department
- \$150 thousand for contribution for modeling work coordinated through the Mystic River Watershed Association, pending further discussions (see discussion below)
- \$150 thousand for as needed engineering services for water operations and for Deer Island plant
- \$65 thousand for survey of new invasive aquatic plants plus \$55 thousand for monitoring mechanical harvesting of aquatic invasive plants in the Wachusett Reservoir; also, \$65 thousand for dam safety services and \$55 thousand for dam emergency action plan updates
- \$55 thousand for energy audits and advisory services

Policy Point

Mystic River Modeling Project

"Stormwater or Sewerage?"

Last year, the Advisory Board recommended a limit to the contributions the Authority made to the Mystic River Modeling Project.⁴⁷ The aim and purpose was to ensure that the Authority did not end up fully funding a project that was purported to have other entities contributing funds; moreover, to not spend one dollar on this project until the other funds were secured. This caution was evidently well placed, since much of the additional funding did not come to fruition.

⁴⁷ Note: official name is Mystic River Flow Monitoring and Water Quality Improvement Project

At the April 2015 meeting of the MWRA Board of Directors, the Authority entered into a multi-year Joint Funding Agreement (JFA) with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for the installation, maintenance, and ongoing operation of three streamgaging stations on the Mystic River. This streamgaging is one small component of the broad-based Mystic River Modeling project discussed last year. Though a part of the larger project, here are a couple of compelling reasons for the Authority to have entered into the JFA this time.

First, "contracting with MWRA will allow USGS to provide \$16,700 annually in matching funds that it would not otherwise be able to provide if contracting with a nongovernmental agency such as the Mystic River Watershed Association."⁴⁸ Securing USGS funding is consistent with the Advisory Board's recommendation to find outside funding toward the Mystic River, and could only be done with the aid of a governmental agency such as the Authority.

Second, MWRA staff believes that:

further studying the Mystic River flows and nutrient loadings will support the appropriateness of MWRA's Long-Term CSO Control Plan and demonstrate that CSO discharges and very infrequent sanitary sewer overflows are not the cause of significant nutrient loading and the subsequent heavy growth of invasive aquatic vegetation in the Lower Mystic River.⁴⁹

The Advisory Board agrees with the Authority's current belief that CSO/SSO discharges are not the primary cause of the Mystic River's water quality issues. The challenges facing the Mystic River are substantially different than those facing the Charles River before its cleanup. As a recent Globe editorial noted:

It will take a different strategy for the Mystic, because the causes of its pollution are not identical. In addition to occasional sewage overflows, the Mystic is surrounded by dense communities that have little unpaved ground to absorb runoff before it reaches the river (about three-quarters of Somerville is paved). The river is also frequently the victim of illegal discharges by nearby businesses.⁵⁰

It should be noted that the MWRA currently has a CSO Variance with regard to the Mystic River. The Advisory Board supports using the timeframe of this variance to better understand the issues and challenges facing the Mystic River. In fact, the Advisory Board is supportive of the general concept of the broad-based collaborative Mystic River Modeling Project, particularly as it relates to corroborating the belief that CSO/SSO discharges are not the primary cause of the Mystic River's water quality issues. **However, the Advisory Board recommends that the Authority limit its financial participation to the amount committed to in the JFA, and to revisit further contributions if and when the other collaborating entities secure funds for their portion of the project. Consistent with this recommendation, the Advisory Board recommends a reduction of the Mystic River Modeling Project by \$116,000 in the final FY16 CEB.**

⁴⁸ April 2015 MWRA Board of Directors staff summary (<http://mwraadvisoryboard.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/BOD-Pack-2015-04-15.pdf>)

⁴⁹ April 2015 MWRA Board of Directors staff summary (<http://mwraadvisoryboard.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/BOD-Pack-2015-04-15.pdf>)

⁵⁰ The Boston Globe (May 6, 2015): <http://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/editorials/2015/05/06/boston-olympic-bid-could-lead-swimmable-mystic-river/MqkHOuAmaLfAZYeSdrm3mM/story.html?event=event12>