

SCHEDULE 14A
(RULE 14A-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities
Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant [X]

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant []

Check the appropriate box:

[X] Preliminary Proxy Statement [] Confidential. For Use of the
Commission Only (as permitted
by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

[] Definitive Proxy Statement

[] Definitive Additional Materials

[] Soliciting Material Pursuant to Rule 14a-11(c) or Rule 14a-12

Middlesex Water Company

(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

[X] No fee required.

[] Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

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0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid
previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or
the form or schedule and the date of its filing.

[LOGO]

April 21, 1998

Dear Stockholder:

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT TO US! Whether or not you plan to attend the
Stockholders' Meeting, I urge you to vote. Please specify your choice by marking
the appropriate boxes on the enclosed proxy card and sign, date and return your

proxy in the enclosed postpaid return envelope as promptly as possible. If you date, sign and return your proxy card without indicating your choices, the persons designated as proxies will vote your shares in accordance with the recommendations of your Directors and management.

You are cordially invited to attend your Company's 1998 Annual Meeting of Stockholders which will be held at the office of the Company, 1500 Ronson Road, Iselin, New Jersey, on Wednesday, May 27, 1998, at 11:00 a.m.

Following the Annual Meeting you are also invited to tour our Company headquarters facilities and to remain for luncheon.

I hope you will be able to attend.

Sincerely,

/s/ J. RICHARD TOMPKINS

J. Richard Tompkins
Chairman of the Board and President

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[LOGO]

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
TO BE HELD ON MAY 27, 1998
AND
PROXY STATEMENT

To the Stockholders of MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY will be held at the office of the Company, 1500 Ronson Road, Iselin, New Jersey, on Wednesday, May 27, 1998, at 11:00 a.m., for the following purposes:

1. To elect two members of Class II of the Board of Directors and to elect and reclassify one member from Class I to Class II to hold office until the Annual Meeting of Stockholders in the year 2001, and in each case until their respective successors are elected and qualify.
2. To consider and act upon the approval of the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as independent auditors for the year 1998.
3. To amend the Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the authorized Common Stock from 6,000,000 shares to 10,000,000 shares.
4. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting and any adjournment thereof.

Only holders of record of Common Stock at the close of business on April 1, 1998, will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

The Company's Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 1997, has already been mailed to stockholders.

If you are unable to be present at the meeting but desire to have your shares voted, please execute the enclosed proxy and return it in the accompanying envelope, to which no postage need be affixed if mailed in the United States.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

/s/ MARION F. REYNOLDS

Marion F. Reynolds
Secretary

April 21, 1998

IMPORTANT

To assure your representation at the meeting, please
mail the enclosed proxy promptly.

[LOGO]

PROXY STATEMENT

Notice of the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Middlesex Water Company to be held on May 27, 1998, is attached. You are cordially invited to attend the meeting. If you are unable to attend, you are requested to sign and complete the enclosed proxy and return it in the accompanying envelope.

SOLICITATION AND REVOCATION OF PROXIES

The enclosed proxy is solicited by and on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Company. The cost of soliciting proxies will be borne by the Company. In addition to solicitation by mail, the Company may make arrangements with brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees, and fiduciaries to send proxies and proxy material to their principals and will reimburse them for their expenses in so doing. The solicitations will be initially by mail, and it may later be decided to make further solicitations by mail, telephone, telegraph, or personal calls by Directors, Officers, and employees of the Company. This proxy statement and the accompanying proxy are first being sent to stockholders on or about April 21, 1998.

The giving of a proxy does not preclude the right to vote in person should the Stockholder giving the proxy so desire, and a proxy may be revoked by giving notice to the Secretary of the Company in writing at any time prior to the commencement of the meeting or in open meeting prior to the taking of the vote to which such revocation relates.

SHARES ENTITLED TO VOTE

As of April 1, 1998, there were outstanding 4,315,632 shares of Common Stock which is the only class of capital stock entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. Each holder of Common Stock is entitled to one vote for each share held. As stated in the Notice of Meeting, holders of record of Common Stock at the close of business on April 1, 1998, will be entitled to vote at the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Management of the Company is under the general direction of a Board of Directors elected by the stockholders. The Board of Directors holds regular monthly meetings and meets on other occasions when required in special circumstances. The Board of Directors held thirteen meetings and the Board Committees held ten meetings during the year 1997. Each incumbent Director attended more than 83% of the total number of meetings of the Board and Committees on which each served. Attendance at Board and Committee meetings by Directors as a group averaged 95% in 1997.

The Board of Directors has an Audit Committee which reviews the scope of the audit and receives and reviews the auditors' annual report. The Committee held two meetings during the year 1997.

The Board of Directors has an Executive Development and Compensation Committee which reviews and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors as to the salaries and benefits of the Executive Officers of the Company and administers the 1989 Restricted Stock Plan. The Committee held four meetings during the year 1997.

The Board of Directors has a Pension Committee which reviews investment policies and determines recommended investment objectives for the Company's Pension Plan and meets periodically with the Company's Investment Managers. The Committee held four meetings during the year 1997.

The Board of Directors appoints an ad hoc Pricing Committee from time to time as needed. In September 1997 such a Committee was appointed to approve the terms of the proposed sale in 1998 of First Mortgage Bonds. The Committee did not meet in 1997.

The Board of Directors appoints an ad hoc Nominating Committee from time to time as needed. Such a Committee was not appointed in 1997. The Company does not currently have a Nominating Committee. Qualified nominations for Directors recommended by stockholders will be considered by a Nominating Committee when appointed. Recommendations should be sent to Middlesex Water Company, Office of the Secretary, 1500 Ronson Road, P.O. Box 1500, Iselin, New Jersey 08830-0452. Any nominations for Director should be received by the Secretary on or before December 22, 1998.

PROPOSAL 1

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

At the Annual Meeting of Stockholders two members of Class II of the Board of Directors are to be elected and one member of Class I is to be reclassified as a member of Class II each to hold office until the Annual Meeting of Stockholders in the year 2001, and until their respective successors are elected and qualify. The present terms of the two Directors included in Class II of the Board of Directors expire at the 1998 Annual Meeting. The present term of the one Director in Class I, Ernest C. Gere, expires at the 2000 Annual Meeting. His election and reclassification at this meeting will extend that term. The reclassification of one member from Class I to Class II is necessary in order that each Class of Director contains the same number of members.

The nominees listed were selected by the Board of Directors of the Company. Proxies in the accompanying form will be voted for these nominees, unless authority to vote for one or more of them shall have been withheld by so marking the enclosed proxy. Directors shall be elected by a plurality of the votes cast at the election.

If at the time of the meeting any of the nominees listed should be unable to serve, which is not anticipated, it is the intention of the persons designated as proxies to vote, in their discretion, for other nominees, unless the number of Directors constituting a full Board is reduced.

There is shown as to each nominee, and as to each Director whose term of office will continue after the 1998 Annual Meeting, age as of the date of the Annual Meeting, the period of service as a Director of the Company, and business experience during the last five years.

NOMINEES FOR ELECTION AS
DIRECTOR WITH TERM EXPIRING IN 2001 - Class II

NAME, PERIOD SERVED AS DIRECTOR OF COMPANY -----	AGE ---	EXPIRATION DATE OF NEW TERM -----	BUSINESS EXPERIENCE DURING PAST FIVE YEARS AND OTHER AFFILIATIONS -----
Ernest C. Gere Director since 1988	65	2001	Retired. Formerly Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Company. Chairman of Pension and Pricing Committees and Member of Executive Development and Compensation Committee.
Stephen H. Mundy Director since 1977	64	2001	Retired. Formerly Vice President, A. Stanley Mundy, Inc., Public Utility Contractor, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Chairman of Executive Development and Compensation Committee.

DIRECTORS WHOSE TERMS CONTINUE BEYOND
THE 1998 ANNUAL MEETING AND ARE NOT
SUBJECT TO REELECTION THIS YEAR

NAME, PERIOD SERVED AS DIRECTOR OF COMPANY -----	AGE ---	EXPIRATION DATE OF TERM AND CLASS -----	BUSINESS EXPERIENCE DURING PAST FIVE YEARS AND OTHER AFFILIATIONS -----
Richard A. Russo Director since 1994	52	2001	Executive Vice President of the Company since May 1995 and prior to that date was Vice President-Operations since 1989. Director and President of Tidewater Utilities, Inc., (TUI); Pinelands Water Company; Pinelands Wastewater Company; Director and Executive Vice President of Utility Service Affiliates, Inc.; subsidiaries of the Company and Director and President of Public Water Supply Company, Inc., and White Marsh Environmental Systems, Inc., subsidiaries of TUI.
John C. Cutting Director since 1996	61	2000 Class I	Consulting Engineer, Science Applications International Corporation, specialists in information, energy and military systems, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, since 1998 and prior to that date was Senior Engineer since 1987. Member of Audit and Pension Committees.
John P. Mulkerin (1) Director since 1996	60	2000 Class I	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director of First Savings Bank/SLA of Perth Amboy, New Jersey, since 1996 and prior to that date was Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer and Corporate Secretary since 1987 and General Counsel since 1993. Director of FSB Financial Corp.; Raritan Bay Medical Center and Daytop Village Foundation. Member of Audit and Pricing Committees.
Philip H. Reardon Director since 1991	61	2000 Class I	President and Chief Executive Officer, Essex County Gas Company, Amesbury, Massachusetts. Director of Essex County Gas Company, New England Gas Association, American Gas Association and First & Ocean National Bank. Chairman of Pension Committee and Member of Audit Committee.
William E. Scott Director since 1978	78	1999 Class III	Retired. Formerly Senior Executive Vice President, Public Service Electric and Gas Company, Newark, New Jersey. Trustee of Delta Dental Plan of New Jersey, Inc. Chairman of Audit Committee.
Jeffries Shein (1) Director since 1990	57	1999 Class III	Partner, Jacobson, Goldfarb & Tanzman, Industrial and Commercial Brokerage Firm, Woodbridge, New Jersey. Director of First Savings Bank/SLA, Perth Amboy, New Jersey, and Chairman of the Board of Raritan Bay Medical

Center.

Member of Executive Development
and Compensation Committee
and Pricing Committee.

DIRECTORS WHOSE TERMS CONTINUE BEYOND
THE 1998 ANNUAL MEETING AND ARE NOT
SUBJECT TO REELECTION THIS YEAR

NAME, PERIOD SERVED AS DIRECTOR OF COMPANY	AGE	EXPIRATION DATE OF TERM AND CLASS	BUSINESS EXPERIENCE DURING PAST FIVE YEARS AND OTHER AFFILIATIONS
-----	---	-----	-----
J. Richard Tompkins Director since 1981	59	1999 Class III	Chairman of the Board and President of the Company. Past President of National Association of Water Companies, Director of New Jersey Utilities Association and Raritan Bay Healthcare Foundation. Director and Chairman of Tidewater Utilities, Inc., (TUI); Pinelands Water Company; Pinelands Wastewater Company; Director and President of Utility Service Affiliates, Inc., subsidiaries of the Company, and Director of Public Water Supply Company, Inc., and White Marsh Environmental Systems, Inc., subsidiaries of TUI.

(1) In addition to maintaining lines of credit totaling \$20,000,000 with 3 other financial institutions, the Company has proposed to establish a \$10,000,000 line of credit with First Savings Bank/SLA of Perth Amboy, New Jersey. All such lines of credit may be drawn on for short terms at market rates.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF DIRECTORS, MANAGEMENT
AND CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS

The following table sets forth, as of April 1, 1998, beneficial ownership of Middlesex Water Company Common Stock by the Directors, Executive Officers named in the table appearing under Executive Compensation and all Directors and Executive Officers as a group. Jeffries Shein owned 1.46% of the shares outstanding on April 1, 1998. All other individual Directors and Executive Officers owned less than 1% of the shares outstanding on April 1, 1998.

NAME	AMOUNT AND NATURE OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP
----	-----
Walter J. Brady	7,583
John C. Cutting	16,147
Ernest C. Gere	4,920
John P. Mulkerin	3,500
Stephen H. Mundy	35,287
Philip H. Reardon	9,696
Richard A. Russo	6,582
William E. Scott	5,833
Jeffries Shein*	70,350
Dennis G. Sullivan	4,076
J. Richard Tompkins**	20,706
Ronald F. Williams	1,119
All Directors and Executive Officers as a group (14)	198,073***

* Includes 7,429 shares over which Mr. Shein has shared voting powers. Mr. Shein also disclaims beneficial ownership of 1,775 additional shares.

** Disclaims beneficial ownership of 202 additional shares.

*** 4.58% of the shares outstanding on April 1, 1998.

The following table sets forth information made known to the Company as of December 31, 1997, of any person or group to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of the Company's Common Stock:

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED AND NATURE OF	PERCENT
---	---------

NAME AND ADDRESS -----	BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP (1) -----	OF CLASS -----
Verona Construction Company 1201 Market Street Wilmington, Delaware 19801	329,800	7.73%

(1) Beneficial owner has sole power to vote and dispose of such shares.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

There is shown below information concerning the annual and long-term compensation for services in all capacities to the Company for the years 1997, 1996 and 1995 of certain officers whose total annual salary amounted to \$100,000 or more.

SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

Name and Principal Position -----	Year ----	Salary -----	Restricted Stock Award -----	All Other Annual Compensation -----
			(1)	
J. Richard Tompkins	1997	\$239,350	\$25,462	\$ 8,372 (2)
Chairman of the Board	1996	\$229,350	\$40,844	\$ 8,285 (2)
and President	1995	\$217,261	\$42,188	\$10,074
Richard A. Russo	1997	\$155,350	\$13,580	\$ 6,497 (2)
Executive Vice	1996	\$143,350	\$21,239	\$ 5,989 (2)
President	1995	\$132,885	\$16,875	\$ 5,483
Walter J. Brady	1997	\$119,950	\$ 6,790	\$ 5,373 (2)
Vice President-	1996	\$115,350	\$11,436	\$ 5,170 (2)
Administration	1995	\$111,350	\$10,125	\$ 4,569
Dennis G. Sullivan	1997	\$115,750	\$ 6,790	\$ 5,168 (2)
Vice President &	1996	\$111,350	\$13,070	\$ 4,974 (2)
General Counsel and	1995	\$106,816	\$13,500	\$ 4,350
Assistant Secretary & Assistant Treasurer				
Ronald F. Williams	1997	\$108,550	\$ 6,790	\$ 4,047 (2)
Vice President-	1996	\$104,350	\$ 8,169	\$ 4,023 (2)
Operations	1995	\$ 76,408 (3)	--	\$ 1,202

(1) The number and value of Restricted Stock held in escrow as of December 31, 1997, were as follows: Mr. Tompkins - 8,900/\$198,025; Mr. Russo - 4,600/\$102,350; Mr. Brady - 2,800/\$62,300; Mr. Sullivan - 3,200/\$71,200; and Mr. Williams - 900/\$20,025. Generally, the restrictions lapse on these awards five years from the date of grant. The restrictions also lapse in the event of a change in control of the Company. All dividends on these shares are paid to the awardees.

(2) Includes employer contribution to the Company's defined contribution plan and life insurance premiums for 1997: Mr. Tompkins (\$5,542 and \$2,830), Mr. Russo (\$5,425 and \$1,072), Mr. Brady (\$4,186 and \$1,187), Mr. Sullivan (\$4,039 and \$1,129) and Mr. Williams (\$3,648 and \$399).

(3) Mr. Williams began his employment with the Company in March 1995.

COMPENSATION OF DIRECTORS

A Director who is not an officer of the Company or its subsidiaries is paid an annual retainer of \$6,000 and a fee of \$500 for attendance at Board of Directors (Board) meetings; a fee of \$250 for attendance at special meetings of the Board and a fee of \$150 for attendance at special Board Committee meetings by means of communications facilities and a fee of \$350 for each committee meeting attended. Committee chairmen receive an additional \$200 for each committee meeting chaired. Directors who are officers of the Company are paid a fee of \$250 for each meeting of the Board attended.

COMPENSATION PURSUANT TO PENSION PLANS
Annual Benefit based on Compensation and Years of Service

Final Year's Compensation	Years of Service					
	15	20	25	30	35	45
\$100,000	\$ 59,125	\$ 59,125	\$ 59,125	\$ 59,125	\$ 59,125	\$ 72,726
\$125,000	\$ 77,875	\$ 77,875	\$ 77,875	\$ 77,875	\$ 77,875	\$ 92,476
\$150,000	\$ 96,625	\$ 96,625	\$ 96,625	\$ 96,625	\$ 96,625	\$112,226
\$175,000	\$115,375	\$115,375	\$115,375	\$115,375	\$115,375	\$120,126
\$200,000	\$134,125	\$134,125	\$134,125	\$134,125	\$134,125	\$134,125
\$225,000	\$152,875	\$152,875	\$152,875	\$152,875	\$152,875	\$152,875
\$250,000	\$171,625	\$171,625	\$171,625	\$171,625	\$171,625	\$171,625
\$300,000	\$209,125	\$209,125	\$209,125	\$209,125	\$209,125	\$209,125

All employees who receive pay for 1,000 hours during the year are included in the Qualified Pension Plan. Under the noncontributory trustee defined benefit plan current service costs are funded annually. The Company's annual contribution is determined on an actuarial basis. Benefits are measured from the member's entry date and accrue to normal retirement date or date of early retirement. Benefits are calculated, at normal retirement, at 1.25% of pay up to the Executive's benefit integration level, plus 1.9% of such excess pay, multiplied by service to normal retirement date, capped at 35 years of such excess pay, multiplied by service to normal retirement date of age 65. Average pay is the highest annual average of total pay during any 5 consecutive years within the 10 calendar-year period prior to normal retirement date. The benefit integration level is based on the 1997 Summary Compensation Table. The benefit amounts are not subject to any deduction for Social Security benefits or other offset amounts.

During the year 1997, the Company made a statutory contribution to the Pension Plan in the amount of \$50,000. Remuneration covered under the Pension Plan includes base wages only and not Directors' fees.

The estimated credited years of service based on normal retirement at age 65 includes 22 years, 20 years, 44 years, 22 years and 19 years for Messrs. Tompkins, Russo, Brady, Sullivan, and Williams, respectively.

Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan - All executive officers are eligible to participate in the deferred compensation plan known as the Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

A participant who retires on his normal retirement date is entitled to an annual retirement benefit equal to 75% of his compensation reduced by his primary Social Security benefit and further reduced by any benefit payable from the Qualified Pension Plan. In certain cases further reductions are made for benefits from other employment.

Vesting provisions start at 50% for 5 years of service and increases 10% for each year of service for a maximum of 100% vesting at 10 years of service. Annual retirement benefits are payable for 15 years either to the participant or his beneficiary.

Retirement benefits may be in the form of single life annuity, joint and 50% survivors annuity, joint and 100% survivors annuity, single life annuity with a 10-year certain period and single life annuity with a 15-year certain period paid on an actuarial equivalent basis.

The Company is not obligated to set aside or earmark any monies or other assets specifically for the purpose of funding the Plan. The benefits are in the form of an unfunded obligation of the Company. The Company has elected to purchase Corporate-owned life insurance as a means of satisfying its obligation under this Plan. The Company reserves the right to terminate any plan or life insurance at any time; however, a participant is entitled to any benefits he would have been entitled to under the Plan provisions. For the year 1997 the Company paid life insurance premiums totaling \$109,000 for Messrs. Tompkins, Russo, Brady, Sullivan and Williams, which provides a preretirement net death benefit of 1-1/2 times base salary at date of death.

Defined Contribution Plan - The Company matches 100% of that portion of the contribution which does not exceed 1% of basic pay plus an additional 50% of that portion from 2% to 6% of basic pay. Distributions under the Plan are made upon normal retirement, total and permanent disability or death and are subject

to certain vesting provisions as to Company contributions. In 1995, this Plan was converted from an after tax plan to a 401(k) pretax plan.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION

The members of the 1997 Executive Development and Compensation Committee were Stephen H. Mundy, Carolina M. Schneider and Jeffries Shein. The members of the 1998 Executive Development and Compensation Committee, appointed in September 1997, are Ernest C. Gere, Stephen H. Mundy and Jeffries Shein. During 1997, no member of the Executive Development and Compensation Committee was an officer or employee of the Company or a subsidiary. Stephen H. Mundy has a financial interest in a construction company that was awarded a contract by the Company in the amount of \$0.7 million in 1997. Ms. Schneider retired as a Director of the Company on November 18, 1997, and was formerly Secretary-Treasurer of the Company. Mr. Gere was formerly Senior Vice President of the Company.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT AND COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

The compensation program for executive officers of the Company is administered by the Executive Development and Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors. The 1997 Committee was composed of three independent Directors: Stephen H. Mundy, Jeffries Shein and Carolina M. Schneider. (Ms. Schneider retired as a Director of the Company on November 18, 1997.) The Committee is responsible for setting and administering the policies which govern annual compensation and Restricted Stock awards. Policies and plans developed by the Committee are approved by the full Board of Directors.

The Committee's compensation policies and plans applicable to the executive officers seek to enhance the profitability of the Company and shareholder value, as well as control costs and maintain reasonable rates for the customers. The Committee's practices reflect policies that compensation should (1) attract and retain well-qualified executives, (2) support short-and long-term goals and objectives of the Company, (3) reward individuals for outstanding contributions to the Company's success, (4) be meaningfully related to the value created for shareholders, and (5) relate to maintenance of good customer relations and reasonable rates.

The Committee meets with Mr. Tompkins to evaluate the performance of the other executive officers and meets in the absence of Mr. Tompkins to evaluate his performance. The Committee reports on all executive evaluations to the full Board of Directors.

Base salary levels are reviewed annually using compensation data produced by an outside compensation expert for similar positions and comparable companies. Base salaries for satisfactory performance are targeted at the median of the competitive market. Individual performance of the executive is determined and taken into account when setting salaries against the competitive market data. The Committee reviews, as well, the individual's efforts on cost control and his or her contributions to the results of the year. The Committee also reviews the Company's financial results compared with prior years and compared with other companies. It compares salaries with both water and general industry salaries.

The factors and criteria upon which Mr. Tompkins' compensation was based generally include those discussed with respect to all the executive officers. Specifically, however, his salary is based on his overall performance and that of the Company. His salary was set at a rate which was approximately the median of the utility market and below that of the general industry. In addition, in evaluating the performance of the CEO, the Committee has taken particular note of management's success with respect to the growth of the Company.

The Company maintains a restricted stock plan for the purpose of attracting and retaining key executives and other employees having managerial or supervisory responsibility who have contributed, or are likely to contribute, significantly to the long-term performance and growth of the Company and its subsidiaries. This plan is designed to enhance financial performance, customer service and corporate efficiency through a performance-based stock award. Annual stock awards are based upon several factors including the participant's ability to contribute to the overall success of the Company.

The level of awards and the value of the performance are reviewed annually by the Committee. The Committee submits reports on all executive evaluations and restricted stock awards to the full Board of Directors for approval.

1998 Executive Development
and Compensation Committee
Stephen H. Mundy, Chairman
Ernest C. Gere

STOCK PERFORMANCE GRAPH

Set forth below is a line graph comparing the yearly change in the cumulative total return (which includes reinvestment of dividends) on a \$100 investment for the Company's Common Stock, the NASDAQ and a peer group of investor-owned water utilities for the period of five years commencing December 31, 1992. The peer group includes Aquarion Company, California Water Service Company, Connecticut Water Service, Inc., Consumers Water Company, E'town Corporation, Philadelphia Suburban Corporation, SJW Corporation, Southern California Water Company, Southwest Water Company, United Water Resources and the Company. For 1997, the peer group was reduced by one company, IWC Resources Corporation, which was acquired in 1997.

[GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF CHART BELOW]

	12/31/92	12/31/93	12/31/94	12/31/95	12/31/96	12/31/97
MSEX	\$100	\$132	\$107	\$128	\$127	\$179
NASDAQ	100	115	112	159	195	240
Peer Group	100	115	106	122	155	211

PROPOSAL 2

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

Upon the recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Board of Directors has appointed Deloitte & Touche LLP of Parsippany, New Jersey, as independent auditors to make the annual audit of the books of account and supporting records of the Company for 1998, subject to the approval of the stockholders entitled to vote for the election of Directors, by a majority of the votes cast on the question of such approval, provided a quorum is present, at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Representatives of Deloitte & Touche LLP will be present at the meeting, and will be afforded an opportunity to make a statement if they so desire and to respond to appropriate questions.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR PROPOSAL 2.

PROPOSAL 3

AMENDMENT OF THE RESTATED CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION
TO INCREASE THE AUTHORIZED COMMON STOCK FROM
6,000,000 SHARES TO 10,000,000 SHARES

The Board of Directors unanimously recommends that the stockholders approve an amendment to the Company's Restated Certificate of Incorporation increasing the authorized Common Stock, without par value, from 6,000,000 shares to 10,000,000 shares. The text of the proposed amendment is attached hereto as Appendix A.

As of April 1, 1998, 4,315,632 shares of the 6,000,000 shares of Common Stock presently authorized were outstanding. 1,684,368 shares were available for issuance for other purposes, including the Dividend Reinvestment and Common Stock Purchase Plan.

The Board of Directors believes that it would be in the best interests of the Company to have additional shares available for issuance at its discretion for acquisitions, financings, stock dividends or splits, and other corporate purposes. The proposed amendment would not change the terms of the Common Stock, which does not have preemptive rights. No further stockholder authorization for the issuance of the additional shares will be solicited prior to issuance.

The power of the Board of Directors to issue additional shares of Common Stock (within the limits imposed by applicable law) with voting or other rights which might impede or discourage a takeover attempt, may make the Company a less attractive takeover candidate, and may deter takeover attempts not approved by the Board in which stockholders might receive for some or all of their shares a substantial premium above market value at the time such takeover bid is made. The Company has no specific plans and there are no commitments, understandings or negotiations at this time with respect to the issuance of additional shares of Common Stock. The Company has stated that, in connection with financing the cost of the upgrade, expansion and addition of facilities at its principle water treatment plant and a related water intake station, the Company will consider an offering of Common Stock depending upon the amount of funds generated internally and from the sale of Common Stock under the Company's Dividend Reinvestment and Common Stock Purchase Plan.

VOTE REQUIRED FOR PROPOSAL 3

The amendment of Article 7A of the Certificate of Amendment, which constitutes Proposal 3, will require the affirmative vote of the holders of two-thirds of the shares of the Company's Common Stock voting at the 1998 Annual Meeting (assuming the presence of a quorum).

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR PROPOSAL 3.

STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS

Stockholders are entitled to submit proposals on matters appropriate for stockholder action consistent with regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Should a stockholder intend to present a proposal at next year's annual meeting, it must be received by the Secretary of the Company at 1500 Ronson Road, P.O. Box 1500, Iselin, New Jersey 08830-0452, not later than December 22, 1998, in order to be included in the Company's proxy statement and form of proxy relating to that meeting.

OTHER MATTERS

The Management of the Company does not intend to bring any other matters before the meeting and has no reason to believe any will be presented to the meeting. If, however, other matters properly do come before the meeting, it is the intention of the persons named in the accompanying proxy to vote in accordance with their judgment in such matters.

MINUTES OF LAST PREVIOUS MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

The minutes of the last previous meeting of Stockholders will be submitted at the meeting for the correction of any errors or omissions but not for the approval of the matters referred to therein.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

/s/ MARION F. REYNOLDS

Marion F. Reynolds
Secretary

Iselin, New Jersey
April 21, 1998

APPENDIX A
PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF FIRST SENTENCE OF ARTICLE 7A
OF THE RESTATED CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

ARTICLE 7A. The total authorized capital stock of the Company is 10,249,980 shares, divided into 10,000,000 shares of common stock without nominal or par value, 149,980 shares of preferred stock without nominal or par value and 100,000 shares of preference stock without nominal or par value.

[MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY LOGO]

1500 Ronson Road,
Iselin New Jersey 08830-3020
732-634-1500

[MAP GOES HERE]

DIRECTIONS TO MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY

FROM GARDEN STATE PARKWAY (NORTH OR SOUTH): Take Exit 131A to second traffic light. Turn right onto Middlesex--Essex Turnpike and proceed (about 1/2 mile) to first traffic light (Gill Lane). Turn right and go (about 1 mile) under railroad underpass and make right onto Ronson Road. Proceed past three large mirror-sided office buildings on the right. Make right into Middlesex Water Company at sign.

FROM NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE (NORTH OR SOUTH): Take Exit 11 onto Garden State Parkway North and follow above directions.

FROM US ROUTE NO. 1 (NORTH OR SOUTH): Proceed to the Woodbridge Center area and follow signs to Gill Lane. When on Gill Lane, make left turn onto Ronson Road. Proceed past three large mirror-sided office buildings on the right. Make right into Middlesex Water Company at sign.

[X] PLEASE MARK VOTES
AS IN THIS EXAMPLE

REVOCABLE PROXY
MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY

ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS
MAY 27, 1998

The undersigned stockholder(s) hereby appoint(s) John C. Cutting and J. Richard Tompkins, and each of them, proxies, with the power to appoint his substitute, and hereby authorizes them to represent and to vote as designated, all the shares of common stock of Middlesex Water Company held on record by the undersigned on April 1, 1998, at the annual meeting of shareholders to be held on May 27, 1998, at 11:00 a.m., local time or any adjournment thereof.

Please be sure to sign and date _____
this Proxy in the box below.

Shareholder sign above Co-holder (if any) sign above

1. Election of Directors, Nominees for Class II term expiring in 2001:

FOR	WITHHOLD	FOR ALL EXCEPT
_	_	_

ERNEST C. GERE, STEPHEN H. MUNDY AND RICHARD A. RUSSO

INSTRUCTION: TO WITHHOLD AUTHORITY TO VOTE FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL NOMINEES, MARK "FOR ALL EXCEPT" AND WRITE THAT NOMINEE'S NAME IN THE SPACE PROVIDED BELOW.

2. Approve the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as auditors for the Company for the year 1998.

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
_	_	_

3. Amend the Restated Certificate of Incorporation by increasing the authorized Common Stock, from 6,000,000 shares to 10,000,000 shares.

For	Against	Abstain
_	_	_

In their discretion, the Proxies are authorized to vote upon such other business that may properly come before the meeting.

PLEASE CHECK BOX IF YOU PLAN |_ |
TO ATTEND THE MEETING.

IF THIS PROXY IS PROPERLY EXECUTED AND RETURNED, THE SHARES REPRESENTED HEREBY WILL BE VOTED. IF NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED, THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED FOR THE PERSONS NOMINATED AS DIRECTORS, AND FOR PROPOSALS NUMBER 2, 3.

THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

DETACH ABOVE CARD, SIGN, DATE AND MAIL IN POSTAGE PAID ENVELOPE PROVIDED.

MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY
[LOGO] C/O REGISTRAR AND TRANSFER COMPANY
 10 COMMERCE DRIVE
 CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY 07016-3572

PLEASE DATE AND SIGN EXACTLY AS YOUR NAME OR NAMES APPEAR ON THIS PROXY.

When signing as attorney, executor, administrator, trustee or guardian, please give full title as such. If signer is a corporation, please sign full corporate name by authorized officer and attach a corporate seal. For joint account, each joint owner should sign.

PLEASE ACT PROMPTLY
BE SURE TO COMPLETE, SIGN AND RETURN THIS PROXY, WHETHER OR NOT YOU ELECT TO BE PRESENT IN PERSON. ALL SIGNATURES MUST APPEAR EXACTLY AS YOUR NAME APPEARS ON THIS PROXY.

THANK YOU
