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Via E-Mail

Chairman John Zech
Board of Directors
Great Lakes Water Authority
735 Randolph, Suite 1900
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Chairman Zech and Honorable Board of Directors:

On June 23, 2021, I requested the opportunity to meet with you to review my employment and the many accomplishments of this utility. While I am extremely proud of the many accomplishments that we have made during the first five years of GLWA's operations, I intended to inform you during that meeting that I had reached that point in my career where I wished to pursue other options available to me and was not sure I would continue as GLWA's Chief Executive Officer for the full term of a subsequent contract, if it was offered. It was my hope that I would be able to reach agreement with the Board on transition arrangements that would allow a smooth succession for the utility's continuity and initiatives after my departure.

Unfortunately, the June conversation could not take place as scheduled. Shortly thereafter, on June 25 and 26, 2021, this region suffered an unprecedented rain event that defied predictions.

GLWA has begun an internal after-action analysis report and the Board is conducting its own independent investigation into GLWA's response to this event. I am certainly supportive of these endeavors and have done my best to provide support. We must develop cohesive data as we move toward a period of increasingly volatile weather due to climate change where systems will be asked to perform functions not contemplated at the time they were designed. I have also indicated that the wastewater disposal system, while it provides limited wet weather mitigation, was designed as sanitary rather than a flood control system. We must address the issue of future system functions in a manner which balances efficacy and affordability. We must look at the balance between environmental protection and the cost and consequence to homeowners with an associated increase in wet weather events impacting their lives and property. Finally, the power disruption in recent rain events highlights the need for additional resiliency investment and coordination of both power and water utility activities and operations to protect the public during extreme weather.

Regardless of my career decision, I intend to do what I can to support these conversations on a regional, state, and national level. While I am extremely proud of all the GLWA team has accomplished in its first five years, I also recognize that now is the time for me to make my future intentions public as we all move forward.

As I have earlier indicated I remain committed to supporting GLWA and its activities. I also am aware that while my employment is "at will," my employment agreement contemplates my providing 60 days' notice of my resignation or retirement. While I remain flexible, I look forward to working with Chairman Zech to finalize a date for my departure.

It has been an incredible opportunity to work with our member partner communities to create a lasting partnership that will serve the region for decades to come.

This Authority has an amazing team of women and men who have invested so much of themselves in service to each other and this region. I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to again thank them for all that they do. I look forward to observing what the future holds for GLWA as we move forward upon the foundation that has been built in these first five years.

Sincerely,



Sue F. McCormick
Chief Executive Officer