

2026-099

Resolution In Support of the Great Lakes Water Authority's Request for an Appropriation to Support the Utility's Central Post Beard Transmission Main Renewal Project

WHEREAS, the Great lakes Water Authority (GLWA) is a regional sewer authority organized under the provisions of Michigan Public Act 233 of 1955; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, pursuant to lease agreements with the City of Detroit, GLWA began operations of the regional water and sewer located in southeastern and mid-Michigan; and

WHEREAS, GLWA is the largest drinking water provider in Michigan providing water of unquestionable quality to 115 communities located throughout Oakland, Wayne, Macomb, Monroe Genesee, Lapeer, St. Clair, and Washtenaw Counties; and

WHEREAS, GLWA is the largest wastewater treatment provider in Michigan providing effective and efficient wastewater services to 79 Michigan Communities located within Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland Counties; and

WHEREAS, GLWA has a six member Board of Directors (Board) consisting of a representative appointed by the County Executive of Macomb County, a representative appointed by the County Executive of Oakland County, a representative appointed by the County Executive of Wayne County, two representatives appointed by the Mayor of the City of Detroit, and a representative appointed by the Governor of the State of Michigan who resides in a community served by GLWA located outside of Macomb, Oakland and Wayne Counties; and

WHEREAS, GLWA's Articles of Incorporation intended that GLWA's Board be reflective of the communities served by the utility and join collaboratively to establish policy for the region, its residents, and the utility; and

WHEREAS, GLWA is committed to delivering water of unquestionable quality to its member partner communities in a safe and affordable manner; and

WHEREAS, GLWA is responsible for maintaining 816 miles of drinking water transmission mains within its 1,688 square mile service area; and

WHEREAS, GLWA and the member partner communities it serves recognize that infrastructure management is not only essential to water quality but is a key component of water affordability; and

WHEREAS, on February 17, 2025, residents of southwest Detroit were awakened to find that a section of 54-inch diameter steel Central Post Beard water transmission main running through that densely populated community had failed and water from that main began flooding homes over land; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the failure of that main, residents had to be evacuated by boat in single digit temperature winter conditions and cars were frozen in place; and

WHEREAS, the failed main was quickly taken out of service and GLWA and the City of Detroit provided emergency repairs and coordinated services to the affected residents in this densely populated area; and

WHEREAS, after addressing the initial emergency, GLWA had an opportunity to view the point of failure on the main and determined that failure was caused by a failed weld in a 10-foot section of that main; and

WHEREAS, this type of failure for steel mains of this vintage was previously unseen by GLWA personnel and the experts they consulted with; and

WHEREAS, GLWA has started a Central Post Beard Transmission Main Renewal Project to address this event under which it will complete a survey of approximately 24,000 feet of 66-inch and 54-inch diameter water transmission mains, built in the early 1930s, and develop a strategy to rehabilitate, replace, or abandon all or portions of the main based on the current needs of the GLWA and City of Detroit water supply system; and

WHEREAS, given the operational and community impact, were a second failure to occur, renewal of this transmission main is a high priority to ensure an appropriate level of service for the system; and

WHEREAS, GLWA seeks consideration of an appropriation to support the utility's Central Post Beard Transmission Main Renewal Project; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that such an appropriation is consistent with the desire and needs of the communities served by GLWA,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT:

RESOLVED, that for the reasons set forth above, the Board of GLWA supports GLWA's request for a federal appropriation to support the utility's Central Post Beard Transmission Main Renewal Project.