



**Cheryl Porter**  
Chief Operating Officer  
Water and Field Services  
735 Randolph Street, Suite 1900  
Detroit, Michigan 48226  
Phone: 313-964-9390

## Memorandum

---

**To:** The Honorable Board of Directors

**From:** Cheryl Porter, COO – Water Operating Officer, Water Operation Services  
Sonya Collins, Chief Procurement Officer

**Cc:** GLWA Executive Leadership  
Dima El-Gamal, Capital Improvement Planning Director  
Jill Kusters, Financial Reporting & Accounting Director

**Date:** May 7, 2026

**RE:** **REQ-0009662, West 14 Mile 48”/54” Transmission Main Emergency Improvements –Field Investigation and Preliminary Design Development**  
**Cost: \$912,000.00 – Award to Ric-Man Construction, Inc.**  
**Emergency Procurement – West 14 Mile 48”/54” Transmission Main Emergency Improvements – Field Investigation and Preliminary Design Development**

---

This memorandum is provided to the Honorable Board of Directors for the Great Lakes Water Authority in support of Water Engineering Groups action of authorizing the Emergency Contract in the amount of \$912,000.00 to Ric-Man Construction, Inc. for field investigation and preliminary design work for the transmission main from Haggerty Booster Station to Farmington Road in Oakland County.

### Background

There is an existing 54”/48”/42” Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Transmission main along West 14 Mile Road from Farmington Road to Haggerty Booster Station installed in the early 1970’s. There have been three (3) watermain breaks along this particular section of main since October 2017.

- October 2017: 48” transmission main between Farmington Road and Drake Road
- October 2021: 48” between Drake Road and Halstead Road

- March 2026: 48” between Drake Road and Halstead Road

As this honorable Board is aware, each time this section of transmission main breaks, there is a large disruption to our Member Partner communities in the area that includes but not limited to no water and/or boil water advisories. These emergencies require GLWA to activate the emergency plan and our Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

## **Justification**

The Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) within the section between Farmington Road and Haggerty Booster Station was manufactured by Interpace. PCCP that was manufactured by Interpace during that time frame, has been determined to be an inferior product and is susceptible to issues. These issues originate from modifications to Interpace’s design that resulted in the pretensioned wires being more vulnerable to accelerated degradation due to the manufacturing process involved in attempting to achieve a higher strength classification of the wires.

## **Proposed Solution and Procurement Approach**

A previous emergency purchase request was submitted to secure the pipe material and begin fabrication (Phase 1). This current request, Phase 2, allows the Design-Build team to begin the necessary survey and geotechnical services to begin the development of the Basis of Design Report (BODR) while GLWA continues to review CIP impacts and make decisions on the final scope of work for the project. Phase 3 will include the remaining design work and construction of the new 54-inch water transmission main (WTM).

### Phase 1 – Purchase and Fabricate 54” Steel Pipe (In-progress)

- Fabricate the new steel 54” pipe
- Delivery new steel 54” pipe to storage or site location
- Work will be completed under an emergency Purchase Order (PO-0009398) not to exceed \$17,446,080.00
- Estimated duration: 9 - 26 weeks.

### Phase 2 – Preliminary Design & Field Investigation (This Emergency Purchase)

- Field Investigation
  - Begin Surveying Services
    - Topo Data Collection
    - Alignment Mapping
    - Right-of-Way and Monumentation
    - Project controls
  - Geotechnical Services
    - Soil borings
    - Lab testing
    - Exploration report
- Preliminary Design Services

- Coordinate and manage field investigation work
- Begin BODR development

### Phase 3 - Final Design & Construction (Future Emergency Request)

#### **Timing**

Pipe procurement is in process, and the Design-Build team needs to begin field investigation as soon as possible to maintain a forecasted construction start date in late September/early October of 2026.

#### **Summary and Recommendation**

The team recommends moving forward with Phase 2 consisting of field investigation and preliminary design services for the WTM to maintain the accelerated schedule while allowing GLWA flexibility for future decisions related to final scope and CIP.

GLWA staff recommends awarding this emergency procurement project to Ric-Man Construction, Inc. Ric-Man Construction is contractor that has completed many contracts with GLWA. The Ric-Man Construction team is familiar with the work in this area and confirmed their interest and resource availability for doing this work. The Chief Procurement Officer executed a Letter of Intent to award the contract on April 13, 2026, authorizing Ric-Man Construction to start the work and accumulate charges. A final completion date will be established during review of the contract documents.