

## Grant Activity Overview

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded GLWA a FY 2023 Community Grant. The project selected is the “Per and Poly Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS Compounds) in the Great Lakes Water Authority Oakwood Sewer District and an Assessment of Remediation Opportunities”. GLWA was awarded \$3,452,972 in federal funding with \$863,243 cost share to support this project.

## Project Objective

GLWA is a Publicly Operated Treatment Works (POTW), as defined by section 212 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act [33 USC 1292], that provides wastewater treatment activities to residential and non-residential sources located within an 840 square mile service area and manages and disposes of residual and biosolid materials that result from such treatment. Since 2018, the State of Michigan has identified PFAS Compounds as emerging contaminants and required GLWA to “Control, Reduce or Eliminate” PFAS Compounds and minimize their impact upon the GLWA Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF). Currently, PFAS Compounds are believed to “pass-through” the municipal treatment plant and source control is the preferred method to reduce, control and eliminate these contributions.

To date, regulatory activities have focused on the identification of active PFAS Compound sources, however historic and unidentified on-going releases of PFAS Compounds to the sewer system creates a long-term uncontrolled risk to GLWA. Therefore, the objective of this project is to complete an investigation to “assess a sewer system’s potential for being a source of PFAS Compounds”.

For this project, GLWA selected the area of investigation as the Oakwood Sewer District 2, which is known to have had both historic and on-going releases of materials containing PFAS Compounds, including but not limited to PFOS, PFOA and PFBS3. Regulatory controls have been implemented to control existing PFAS Compounds.

The objectives of the investigation are as follows.

- Identify all current, former, and other incidental sources located within the Oakwood Sewer District (including the Melvindale-Oakwood add-on Area).
- Quantify the extent to which these sources have impacted the physical structures, including sewers, pump stations and CSO basins.
- Identify and quantify sedimentary deposits and/or build-up areas existing therein and ascertain whether they are contaminated with PFAS Compounds.
- Develop and prepare a sewer system mitigation and remediation plan and evaluate its feasibility within the current project and/or as may be recommended for future work.

## Proposed Grant Reimbursement

The GLWA project team in conjunction with the GLWA Procurement team released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for this project in Bonfire on June 28, 2025. Once the contract is awarded, the Grants team will monitor any cost and submit reimbursement requests quarterly to offset the expenses associated with this project.