

Resolution on Source of Ann Arbor Municipal Drinking Water

(**DRAFT**, by SCBrown browns6887@att.net)

Reference Documents:

[Ann Arbor Water Treatment Facilities Plan](#) includes links to documents for Sept. 13, 2021 Ann Arbor City Council Work Session
[City Council Working Session dated September 13, 2021](#) Videorecording
[Black & Veatch report dated August 24, 2015](#)

Background Information:

[Ann Arbor Water Resources Team webpage](#)
[Ann Arbor Surface Water Intake Protection Plan](#)
[City of Ann Arbor 2020 Water Quality Report](#)
[MLIVE article dated May 31, 2019](#)

WHEREAS, The City of Ann Arbor has scheduled needed upgrades to the Municipal water infrastructure in the Capital Improvement Plan, projecting a ??? year service life

WHEREAS, Four scenarios have been investigated and reported by Black & Veatch in 2015 that include detailed financials and risk/benefit analyses;

WHEREAS, City Staff and several consultants under contract have since updated and refined the cost/benefit analyses, focusing on two alternatives of the four--either rehabilitate the current facility at the same site and continue using the existing water intakes; or contract with the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) to deliver processed drinking water to Ann Arbor for further processing and distribution;

WHEREAS, Risk/Benefit and Capital Cost comparisons clearly favor renovation of the current facility (~\$108M, 2021 dollars) rather than switching to GLWA delivered source water (~\$355M, 2021 dollars);

WHEREAS, Operating Cost comparisons are also projected to be 30% to 100% higher if source water is switched to GLWA;

WHEREAS, Long term risks to water quality are not under the control of the City of Ann Arbor, but reside in State and Federal regulatory agencies;

WHEREAS, Potential risks to intake water quality should be less likely and more manageable for the Huron River rather than the Detroit River;

WHEREAS, The Ann Arbor Dept. of Water Services has been acknowledged as one of the best in the State of Michigan, traditionally being proactive in monitoring potential threats such as PFOS, Algal toxins, and responding with timely improvements in treatment technologies;

WHEREAS, The superior quality of Ann Arbor Municipal water has been acknowledged over many years and staff has nourished a culture of transparency and responsiveness to customer concerns;

WHEREAS, Maintaining local control over water quality is a public good that should not be surrendered lightly;

RESOLVED, ???That City Council approve further pursuit of rehabilitating the water treatment facility at the current site and continue to use Huron River water and groundwater wells as source water???

RESOLVED, ???That City Council continue to monitor and take actions to improve the health of the Huron River through coordination with Washtenaw County and the Huron River Watershed Council???

RESOLVED, ???That City Council consider instructing staff to continue contingency planning for sudden interruption of water intakes;???

RESOLVED, ???That City Council consider instructing staff to educate and encourage residents and businesses to adopt water conservation habits???