

## **Resolution on Source of Ann Arbor Municipal Drinking Water**

WHEREAS, The City of Ann Arbor has scheduled needed upgrades to the Municipal water infrastructure in the Capital Improvement Plan, projecting a >50 year service life;

WHEREAS, Four scenarios for city water infrastructure were 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, 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, parasitic microorganisms, 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, Water is a public good, and proactive local management of water quality based on routine, ongoing scientific testing is a public benefit valued by the community,

RESOLVED, The Environmental Commission advises Ann Arbor City Council to proceed with rehabilitation of the water treatment facility at the current site in Ann Arbor and continue to use Huron River water and local groundwater wells as the source of Ann Arbor water;

RESOLVED, That the Environmental Commission advises Ann Arbor City Council to direct the City Administrator to monitor and advocate for source water protection to ensure that the Huron River continues to serve as an adequate and healthy supply of drinking water for future generations, through coordination with the Michigan Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy, Washtenaw County, the Huron River Watershed Council, and other local governmental authorities.

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**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](#)