

Subject: Do Not Support the the Comprehensive Land Use Plan

From: Vince Caruso
Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2025 9:03 AM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>
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Water supply limits, cost and water quality - this may be the strongest argument in the issue of
CondosEverywhere in Ann Arbor

Can Ann Arbor supply clean drinking water with the home increases proposed? **No**, according to the City of Ann Arbor in 2023. See below.

We do **not have easy access to large amounts of fresh drinking water in this area**. Detroit water, **Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA)**, is **not a viable option** for several reasons, not least of which is the **very poor water quality that GLWA** relies on for what would have been water for Ann Arbor and Scio Twp. The **city council roundly rejected the GLWA** drinking water source in 2023 after several commented to city council on this issue. Dr. Rita Loch-Caruso (Professor Emeritus U of M SPH and LSA, ACWG, CARD) and Dan Bicknell MPH (who first found the pollution at the Gelman Site and long-time follower of Gelman Pollution) and others in ACWG commented.

City utility staff did not support the GLWA switch for Ann Arbor drinking water in reports to City Council yet **many on council including the mayor ignored the concerns**.

Black and Veatch Consultant's 2015 Report and the **city staff recent report not to pursue GLWA**.

We have high quality drinking water from the Ann Arbor Water Treatment Facility. If we move to the Great Lakes Water Authority, we trade local control of high quality water testing, treatment, and service for water with higher levels of chemical contaminants, greater risk for future contamination, and more unwanted chlorination.

Having control of drinking water is a critical issue for communities. City staff stated that directly at the time.

With potential well contamination of township homes from the Gelman plume we **will need to supply water** to these residents. Ann Arbor must supply this water due to federal agreements when the treatment plants were built with partial federal funding.

Costs to use GLWA/Detroit water are much higher than Ann Arbor \$355 million to connect to Detroit's water system, and only \$110M to upgrade Ann Arbor water plant.

GLWA was chastised by international bodies for cutting off water to **low income homeowners in recent years**.

Dr. Rita Loch-Caruso (Founding Member of CARD and ACWG, and City of Ann Arbor's Environmental Commission, founding and 13 year member) commented at the Council Work Session on why **we should not switch**, with water quality, costs and sustainability issues at the intake of the GLWA for YCUA.

I did discuss these concerns with Brett Lenart, (City Planning Director) and left written comments at the Planning Event at the recent West Gate Library meeting.

More details at ACWG.ORG on Updates Page, search “GLWA”

Additionally:

Headlee Amendment changes with higher taxes proposed by the city, trying to change state law, will force more folks out of houses, increase taxes, push lower income residents out of the city. We do not support this.

Thank You,

Vince Caruso

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