

## **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](#)

**SCIO TOWNSHIP  
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
RESOLUTION #2021-38  
URGING ANN ARBOR CITY COUNCIL TO IMPROVE  
THE CITY WATER TREATMENT PLANT IN LIEU OF PURCHASING WATER  
FROM GREAT LAKES WATER AUTHORITY**

**September 28, 2021**

At a Regular Meeting of the Township Board of Scio Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan, held at Township Hall, 827 N. Zeeb Road, on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of September 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Hathaway, Palmer, Flintoft, Courteau, Jerome, Knol, Vogel  
Members Absent: None.

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Trustee Courteau and supported by Trustee Knol.

**WHEREAS**, The City of Ann Arbor (“City”) has determined, in a document titled “Presentation and Discussion of the City’s Water Treatment Plant Alternatives: Evaluation and Recommendations” and dated September 13, 2021 (the “2021 City WTP Report”), that in order to “ensure reliable, high-quality water into the future... City must invest in significant infrastructure improvements in its water treatment facilities” or purchase water from a regional water authority; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2015 the City commissioned from Black & Veatch an evaluation of alternatives (the “Alternative Evaluation Report”) to improving the Ann Arbor Water Treatment Plant (“City WTP”), which recommended that the City rehabilitate portions of the City WTP in lieu of purchasing water wholesale from a water authority after considering the impact on rates, water, quality, environmental stewardship, operational impact, reliability of water supply over the long-term and consistency with the City’s strategic priorities among other factors; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 16, 2016, after evaluating the Alternative Evaluation Report, which found that rehabilitation of the City WTP would be the most cost-effective option with the lowest impact on rates over the long-term, City Council approved moving ahead with improvement to the treatment plant; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council met in Working Session on September 13, 2021, to revisit the recommendations in the Alternative Evaluation Report and seek feedback from the current City Council on the alternatives of continuing to improve the City WTP or purchase water from the Great Lakes Water Authority (“GLWA”) and install the infrastructure necessary to deliver that water to its customers; and

**WHEREAS**, Scio Township (“Township”) contracts with the City for the purchase of water to distribute to a portion of its residents and to the businesses along the Jackson Road corridor; and

**WHEREAS,** City staff recommends continuing to improve the City WTP in lieu of purchasing water from GLWA; and

**WHEREAS,** Global Environmental Alliance, LLC prepared a Review of the City of Ann Arbor and Great Lakes Water Authority Water Quality & Great Lakes Water Authority Alternative to City Council of Ann Arbor Drinking Water (the “Global Environmental Alliance Report”), which reports that:

- Overall, the City WTP provides better drinking water quality with significantly less cancer-causing chemicals and lead than GLWA;
- The City WTP includes an activated carbon system to remove PFAS and many other organic chemicals, while GLWA does not;
- The City WTP is one of the most advanced drinking water treatment plants in Michigan; and
- The Alternative Evaluation Report estimated that the capital cost to improve and maintain the existing City WTP was \$80M to 90M, while the capital costs to purchased water from GLWA was \$250M to \$300M.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that based upon the 2021 City WTP Report, Alternative Evaluation Report, the Global Environment Alliance Report, and the recommendation of City staff, the Scio Township Board of Trustees urges Ann Arbor City Council to continue to improve the City WTP instead of purchasing lower quality water from GLWA and incurring the significant additional cost of infrastructure necessary to deliver the water to its customers.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**AYES:** Hathaway, Palmer, Courteau, Jerome, Knol, Vogel

**NAYS:** Flintoft

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

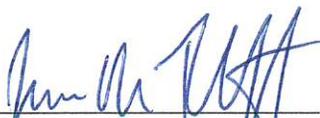
**RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.**

  
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Jessica Flintoft, Clerk  
Scio Township

DATED: September 28, 2021

**CERTIFICATE**

I, Jessica M. Flintoft, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Board of Scio Township, County of Washtenaw, State of Michigan, at a Regular Meeting held on September 28, 2021, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Act.

  
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Jessica M. Flintoft, Clerk  
Scio Township

DATED: *October 5, 2021*

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF ANN ARBOR  
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**Resolution Urging Ann Arbor City Council to Improve the City Water Treatment Plant  
in Lieu of Purchasing Water from Great Lakes Water Authority**

Resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan, on September 20, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. held electronically via video conference which was open and made available to the public via a registration link and dial in number located on the Township website.

PRESENT: John Allison, Rena Basch, Della DiPietro, Michael Moran, Diane O’Connell, Kris Olsson, Rodney Smith

ABSENT: N/A

Resolution by Trustee Allison; supported by DiPietro.

Whereas, City of Ann Arbor (“City”) has determined, in a document titled “Presentation and Discussion of the City’s Water Treatment Plant Alternatives: Evaluation and Recommendations” and dated September 13, 2021 (the “2021 City WTP Report”), that in order to “ensure reliable, high-quality water into the future...City must invest in significant infrastructure improvements in its water treatment facilities” or purchase water from a regional water authority;

And, whereas, in 2015 City commissioned from Black & Veatch an evaluation of alternatives (the “Alternative Evaluation Report”) to improving the Ann Arbor Water Treatment Plant (“City WTP”), which recommended that City rehabilitate portions of the City WTP in lieu of purchasing water wholesale from a water authority after considering the impact on rates, water, quality, environmental stewardship, operational impact, reliability of water supply over the long-term and consistency with the City’s strategic priorities among other factors;

And, whereas on September 16, 2016, after evaluating the Alternative Evaluation Report, which found that rehabilitation of the City WTP would be the most cost-effective option with the lowest impact on rates over the long-term, City Council approved moving ahead with improvements to the treatment plant;

And, whereas City Council met in Working Session on September 13, 2021, to revisit the recommendations in the Alternative Evaluation Report and seek feedback from the current City Council on the alternatives of continuing to improve the City WTP or purchase water from the Great Lakes Water Authority (“GLWA”) and install the infrastructure necessary to deliver that water to its customers;

And, whereas, Ann Arbor Charter Township (“Township”) contracts with City for the purchase of water to distribute to a portion of its residents and to the businesses in the Ann Arbor Tech Park (which is

located in the Township) including Toyota, National Sanitation Foundation, NSK Bearings, IMRA and others;

And, whereas City staff recommends continuing to improve the City WTP in lieu of purchasing water from GLWA;

And, whereas, in addition, Global Environmental Alliance, LLC prepared a Review of the City of Ann Arbor and Great Lakes Water Authority Water Quality & Great Lakes Water Authority Alternative to City Council of Ann Arbor Drinking Water (the "Global Environmental Alliance Report"), which reports that:

- Overall, the City WTP provides better drinking water quality with significantly less cancer-causing chemicals and lead than GLWA;
- The City WTP includes an activated carbon system to remove PFAS and many other organic chemicals, while GLWA does not;
- The City WTP is one of the most advanced drinking water treatment plants in Michigan; and
- The Alternative Evaluation Report estimated that the capital cost to improve and maintain the existing City WTP was \$80M to \$90M, while the capital cost to purchase water from GLWA was \$250M to \$300M.

Now, therefore, based upon the 2021 City WTP Report, Alternative Evaluation Report, the Global Environmental Alliance Report, and the recommendation of City staff, Ann Arbor Charter Township urges Ann Arbor City Council to continue to improve the City WTP instead of purchasing lower quality water from GLWA and incurring the significant additional cost of infrastructure necessary to deliver that water to its customers.

#### **RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED**

I certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Ann Arbor Charter Township Board, County of Washtenaw, State of Michigan, at a regular meeting held on September 20, 2021 that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Act.



Diane O'Connell, Township Supervisor



Rena Basch, Township Clerk