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**GREAT LAKES WATER AUTHORITY PROCUREMENT MANAGER NAMED
2017 BUYER OF THE YEAR BY
THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC PURCHASING OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**

DETROIT— The Michigan Public Purchasing Officers Association (MPPOA) has presented Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) Procurement Management Professional, Joan Byrne, with the 2017 Buyer of the Year award. The award recognizes individuals who have successfully completed a unique project or have been outstanding employees.

Byrne, who served as a Procurement Management Professional for the Detroit Water & Sewerage Department (DWSD) prior to joining the Authority, led procurement efforts that aided GLWA in its groundbreaking formation as Michigan's largest regional water authority, serving nearly 40 percent of the state.

"Participating in GLWA's launch was a reward in itself as it afforded me the rare and enjoyable opportunity to coordinate procurement efforts that positively impacted millions of people," said Byrne. "Receiving the Buyer of the Year award from the Michigan Public Purchasing Officers Association, in addition to helping launch GLWA is an incredible honor."

During GLWA's formation, Byrne displayed versatile procurement strength as she immediately accepted the challenge of learning and executing public purchasing techniques, while leveraging her private sector purchasing experience. Additionally, she serves as a mentor to team members across varying functions within the Authority and is relied upon by GLWA executives to manage complex projects.

"Collaborating with five separate founding entities with over 150 volunteers, Joan navigated through some of the most innovative and financially challenging contracts," said Nicolette N. Bateson, GLWA CFO and Treasurer. "She operated on the strategic front line to procure and manage a wide range of services in order to launch GLWA in a



short amount of time. Joan is most deserving of this award, and I was delighted to nominate her.”

Byrne’s award follows the Authority’s increased focus on procurement and vendor outreach. In 2017, GLWA had over 200 vendors attend its annual vendor outreach meeting, 49 percent of which had not done business with the Authority before. The number of new attendees shows a clear interest by vendors in working with GLWA.

The 2017 Buyer of the Year Award was presented to Joan at the MPPOA Annual Educational Conference on October 5, 2017.

For more information on the Authority, please visit www.glwater.org.

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About the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA)

The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) is the provider of choice for water and wastewater services to 127 municipalities in seven Southeastern Michigan counties. With the Great Lakes as source water, the GLWA is uniquely positioned to provide its customers water of unquestionable quality. GLWA has capacity to extend its service to other Southeastern Michigan communities. The authority offers a Water Residential Assistance Program (WRAP) to assist low-income residential customers throughout the system. The GLWA board includes one representative each from Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties as well as two representatives from the City of Detroit, and one appointed by the governor of Michigan to represent customer communities outside the tri-county area.