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June 15, 2017

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**MELVINDALE BECOMES LATEST COMMUNITY TO ENROLL IN  
GREAT LAKES WATER AUTHORITY'S WATER RESIDENTIAL ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM**

*Signature program is first sustainable assistance program dedicated to residential  
water services in the state of Michigan*

DETROIT— The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) is pleased to announce that the city of Melvindale has become the latest member community to enroll in its Water Residential Assistance Program (WRAP). WRAP is a first-of-its-kind sustainable assistance program in Michigan that is focused solely on providing assistance for residential water services. Melvindale residents will now have access to water bill payment assistance, water conservation measures, and other supporting resources.

"I am so pleased to bring WRAP to Melvindale and I encourage residents who qualify to take full advantage of all the program benefits," said Melvindale Mayor Stacy Bazman. "Bill payment assistance is just one component of the program. There is also education, conservation, and home repair services that can help residents lower their bills."

Unlike assistance programs in the past that rely on outside sources for funding, WRAP has a dedicated funding source with half-percent of GLWA revenue being dedicated to the program each fiscal year. As revenues increase for the Authority, so too will the available amount in the WRAP program. WRAP funding for the coming Fiscal Year is \$4.9 million.

"The Authority is proud to be able to extend this important benefit to Melvindale to assist their residents in need," said Sue McCormick, CEO, GLWA. "WRAP is an important tool for households within our 127 customer communities to take advantage of, and truly assists residents who may be struggling with their water bills. It is my hope that more member communities will follow Melvindale's lead in joining the program, and giving their residents a pathway towards self-sufficiency."

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR RECIPIENTS**

To qualify for WRAP, participants must meet the following requirements:



- Have income at or below the 150 percent federal poverty threshold;
- Be residential customers of the GLWA service area, with first priority to customers who have a past due bill and/or are in active shutoff;
- Provide proof of residency or provide renter's proof of responsibility for water on lease;
- Customers with water usage 20 percent or more above average must participate in a home water audit and install water conservation measures, and;
- Stay current on monthly bill payment for 12 months.

Now that Melvindale is enrolled in WRAP, the program administrator will work with local communities to suspend customer shutoffs and freeze arrearages. Qualified participants are also eligible to receive:

- Payment assistance up to \$1,000 per household per year— \$25 per month towards a bill credit, and assistance with arrears;
- Home repairs up to \$1,000 per household to fix plumbing issues causing high usage;
- Water saving kits and consumer training classes, and;
- Supportive wrap-around services, which include referrals to energy, food, and clothing assistance programs.

The WRAP program is administrated by [Wayne Metro Community Action Agency](#), in collaboration with a total of five community action agencies to ensure that all member communities within the GLWA service area will have access to WRAP resources. Currently, 59 member communities throughout six counties within GLWA's service area are enrolled in the program.

For more information regarding the program, please visit [www.waynemetro.org/WRAP](http://www.waynemetro.org/WRAP) or call (313) 386-WRAP (9727).

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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.