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**GREAT LAKES WATER AUTHORITY HOSTS FOURTH ANNUAL VENDOR
OUTREACH EVENT; ROLLS OUT NEW DIRECT PAYMENT PROGRAM FOR
VENDORS**

DETROIT— The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA), Michigan’s largest drinking water and wastewater treatment service provider, hosted its fourth Annual Vendor Outreach event: *Doing Business with GLWA*, on May 16. Focused on building relationships between GLWA and its growing vendor community, the event was attended by 240 individuals representing 193 companies across a diverse range of consultants, suppliers, and contractors. This is a 15 percent increase in the number of companies represented over the previous year.

This year’s theme had a strong focus on increasing networking and engaging in discussions with the GLWA team, which was a direct result of feedback from the 2018 event.

The day began with a networking breakfast, followed by a general session covering a variety of topics suggested by previous attendees including approaches to responding to solicitations, an introduction to GLWA’s new Capital Program Delivery Initiative and its procurement opportunities, as well as an update on the Authority’s Small Business Initiative. There were also interactive breakout sessions featuring expert panels on construction, consulting, IT and other commodities. Additionally, a new Resource and Networking Room was added to give vendors the opportunity to talk one-on-one with GLWA experts.

"GLWA's Vendor Outreach event is very informative, and I appreciate the fact that they are trying to be inclusive," said Wendy Lewis, President and CEO, Superior Innovative Solutions. "The Authority is really interested in engaging businesses both large and small, and finding ways for companies to work together from a collaborative perspective. I feel like they are giving everyone an opportunity to engage."

GLWA’s Financial Services Area also announced a new direct electronic payment program called “GLWA Direct to You,” an optional program in partnership with Comerica Bank to deposit payments directly to vendor bank accounts via ACH-Direct Deposit.

“GLWA understands that having a vendor community of large multi-national companies, regional organizations and small local entities is just good business,” said Nicolette N. Bateson, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, GLWA. “We are committed to continuing to grow our relationships with current vendors and cultivate new partnerships with those whom we have yet to do business.”

For more information on doing business with GLWA, please visit www.glwater.org/vendors.

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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.