



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 28, 2020

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Ashleigh Chatel / O: 313-324-7867 / ashleigh.chatel@fleishman.com

Michelle Zdrodowski / O: 313-224-4739 / michelle.zdrodowski@glwater.org

GLWA TRANSFERS OVER \$1.6 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL WRAP FUNDING TO CITIES OF DETROIT AND FLINT FOR BILL PAYMENT AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE

DETROIT – The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) Board of Directors has approved the transfer of more than \$1.6 million in additional WRAP (Water Residential Assistance Program) funding to the city of Detroit, as well as to the city of Flint.

The transferred funding is from the uncommitted 2019 bill assistance funds from GLWA's three major county partners: Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties. Of the \$1.6 million being transferred, \$1,182,593 will be directed to the city of Detroit, and \$471,562 to the city of Flint for conservation and direct assistance.

Since its inception in March 2016, 76 GLWA member communities have opted-in to WRAP, a first-of-its-kind program in Michigan and one of the few sustainable assistance plans in the country. More than 19,000 households across GLWA's service area are enrolled in WRAP, with Detroit and Flint residents making up 71 percent of all enrollments.

“The decision by the GLWA Board of Directors to transfer uncommitted WRAP funding to Detroit and Flint reinforces our strategic commitment to water affordability,” said Sue F. McCormick, Chief Executive Officer of GLWA. “We are proud to offer our member partner communities this program, as it not only provides financial support, but it also puts enrolled households on a path toward self-sufficiency through the conservation education and assistance provided.”

WRAP, which is administered by Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency (Wayne Metro), provides qualifying customers with help in paying current and past-due water bills. Eligible customers receive a \$25 monthly credit toward current water bills with any arrears suspended for 12-24 months. Participants are also eligible to receive a bill credit of up to \$700 toward any arrearages per year. In 2018, the GLWA Board updated WRAP to assist income-qualifying households with lead removal. The program now includes the replacement of kitchen and bathroom faucets predating the 1986 lead-free plumbing code change.

“The Board's vote further underscores GLWA's commitment to our low-income residents throughout southeast Michigan, particularly in the cities of Detroit and Flint,” said Abe

Munfakh, P.E., GLWA Board Chair and representative for Wayne County. “As a region, we must ensure that all of our residents have a path toward assistance, and WRAP is one tool that our member communities can use to provide this help.”

From March 2016 through December 31, 2019, \$16.8 million in total funding has been committed to communities throughout southeast Michigan through WRAP. In 2019:

- Nearly 700 homes with high usage have received a home water audit, with over 1,000 repairs performed;
- Approximately four fixture upgrades and conservation measures have been installed in per home that received a home water audit;
- On average, participating households have been able to save \$420 on their water bills.

Eligible residents may apply for WRAP by calling 313-386-9727 or learn more at waynemetrol.org/wrap.

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 eight southeast Michigan counties. With the Great Lakes as source water, 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. GLWA is recognized as a Utility of the Future Today, as well as a Leading Utility of the World, and has received the Gold Award for Exceptional Utility Performance from the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies.

###