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**THE GREAT LAKES WATER AUTHORITY RECEIVES 2020 PLATINUM AWARD
FOR UTILITY EXCELLENCE**

The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies recognized GLWA as one of three utilities nationwide for its industry-leading use of Effective Utility Management

DETROIT – The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) announced it is one of three utilities in the nation to receive the Platinum Award for Utility Excellence from the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA). The national award recognizes the exceptional performance of public drinking water utilities where management vision and employee commitment create sustainable utilities producing ample supplies of clean, safe drinking water.

To be invited by AMWA to apply for the Platinum Award, a utility must win the association's Gold Award, which GLWA received in 2017. It must then, over the next three years, exhibit measurable progress in implementing the industry standard 10 Attributes of Effective Utility Management and Keys to Management Success, as well as a distinctive level of management expertise and expanded utility achievement.

“Being only one of three utilities to receive AMWA’s highest honor is a testament to the efforts of the more than 1,000 men and women at GLWA who are focused on delivering the nation's best water and wastewater services in partnership with our member partners every day,” said Sue F. McCormick, Chief Executive Officer, GLWA. “I am so proud of the team’s accomplishments and commitment to providing water of unquestionable quality, especially when faced with a global pandemic, where providing water and wastewater services has been of utmost importance to public health.”

AMWA selected GLWA to receive this service sector honor based on the Authority’s following milestones:

- GLWA has been in continuous compliance with state and federal drinking water standards since its establishment, while proactively undertaking a broad cross-section of operational optimization efforts, including a comprehensive corrosion control optimization study and a water balance program.
- The Authority operates collaboratively, which has resulted in overall member partner satisfaction of 90 percent.

- Nearing its fifth operating anniversary, GLWA is taking collaboration to the next level, focusing on becoming a “Hub Utility,” and bringing the region together for a common purpose and vision.
- GLWA has launched a strategic asset management plan and implemented a critical valve program for its transmission system.
- In the last three years, GLWA has experienced two rounds of ratings agency upgrades – reaching AA category status in September 2018 and further incremental upgrades in March 2020. With the completion of a successful refunding in FY20, GLWA has achieved a total of debt service savings of over \$1 billion for the systems.
- Focused on long-term sustainability, for the last three years, GLWA has kept annual charge increases to less than half of that indicated for its peers in the Black & Veatch Utility Rate Index, and further supports affordability by evolving its Water Residential Assistance Program to better meet the needs of its member communities.

“In an unprecedented year for this nation, these systems are at the forefront of providing innovative solutions to the multiple challenges a global pandemic, extreme weather events, and infrastructure gaps are creating,” said AMWA President Steve Schneider, General Manager of Saint Paul Regional Water Services. “By supplying their communities with clean, safe, and affordable drinking water, these water utilities are helping to safeguard the nation’s health.”

AMWA is an organization of the largest publicly owned drinking water systems in the United States and is the only policy-making organization solely for metropolitan drinking water suppliers. GLWA was one of three recipients of the Platinum Award and one of 13 public drinking water systems recognized with a top utility management award. The awards were presented at AMWA’s 2020 Executive Management Conference on October 13.

For more information on GLWA, please visit www.glwater.org.

About the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA)

The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) is the provider-of-choice for drinking water services to nearly 40 percent, and efficient and effective wastewater services to nearly 30 percent, of Michigan’s population. With the Great Lakes as source water, GLWA is uniquely positioned to provide those it serves with water of unquestionable quality. GLWA also has the capacity to extend its services beyond its 88 member partner communities. As part of its commitment to water affordability, the Authority offers a Water Residential Assistance Program to assist low-income households in participating member communities throughout the system. GLWA’s board includes one representative each from Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties, two representatives from the city of Detroit and one appointed by the Michigan governor to represent member partner communities outside of the tri-county area.

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