



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GREAT LAKES WATER AUTHORITY CEO SUE MCCORMICK
RETIRING FROM REGIONAL AUTHORITY SHE HAS LED
SINCE ITS 2016 INCEPTION**

DETROIT— Great Lakes Water Authority Chief Executive Officer Sue McCormick, who has led the regional water and wastewater authority since its inception on January 1, 2016, announced on July 27, 2021, that she will be leaving the utility. She formally submitted her resignation to the GLWA Board of Directors at its regularly scheduled board meeting on Wednesday, July 28, 2021.

“For the past year and a half or so, I have been contemplating my retirement,” said McCormick. “However, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, I postponed making this decision because of the challenges placed in front of this organization. Now, as we approach our reconstitution and a return to the office environment this fall by those who have been working on flexible work arrangement and given all that we have accomplished the first five years of this organization, I believe the time is right.”

GLWA’s Board of Directors are discussing the process of appointing an interim chief executive, as well as conducting a national search for the utility’s next CEO. The Board Chair will work with McCormick between now and the Board’s next meeting on August 11, 2021, to finalize the details of her departure.

“Under Sue’s leadership, GLWA has been committed to serving the communities of southeast Michigan with a keen focus on optimizing the operations of the regional system and increasing collaboration and partnership with our member partners,” said GLWA Board Chairman John Zech. “GLWA has made massive infrastructure improvements while at the same time improving water quality and keeping affordability at the forefront. We wish her well in her retirement.”

“I am very confident in GLWA’s leadership as they conduct a transparent, comprehensive review of the Authority’s response to the recent devastating rain events in member partner communities in Wayne County,” said McCormick. “The findings of this report will help provide cohesive data as the Authority moves toward a period of increasingly volatile weather due to climate change and address the issue of future system functions in a manner which balances efficacy and affordability.”

The Authority will need to continually assess the balance between environmental protection and the cost and consequence to homeowners with an associated increase in wet weather events impacting their lives and property. The power disruption in recent rain events highlights the need

for additional resiliency investment and coordination of both power and water utility activities and operations to protect the public during extreme weather.

“I am extremely proud of the many accomplishments that we have made during the first five years of GLWA’s operations,” said McCormick. “It has been an incredible opportunity to work with our member partner communities to create a truly collaborative and lasting partnership that will serve the region for decades to come. GLWA has an amazing team that has invested so much of themselves in service to each other and this region. I can’t thank them enough for their hard work and I look forward to observing what the future holds for GLWA as it builds upon the strong foundation we created in the first five years of GLWA’s operation.”

For more information on GLWA, 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 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.