

# JUNE & JULY RAIN EVENTS UPDATE

## As of August 25, 2021

Approximately 60 days since the June 25-26, 2021 rain event, GLWA finds it prudent to provide an update on the status of its internal investigation into the June and July rain events. This update does not restate prior updates provided by GLWA on the rain events; prior updates are found on GLWA's website (<u>PR and Media - Great Lakes Water Authority (glwater.org</u>)). In addition, this update does not speak to the status of the Board-initiated independent investigation conducted by attorney Jeff Collins, AECOM and ASI. Attorney Collins will report directly to the Board on the progress on the independent investigation.

Instead, this update provides a review of Wade Trim's Detroit East Side Flooding Event Analysis July 8 and August 16, 2016 Report (the "2016 Wade Trim Report"), which included flood mitigation recommendations, identifies GLWA's immediate efforts to build further resiliency in the system since the June 25-26, 2021 rain event, and informs claimants of GLWA's next steps on reviewing their individual claims.

At GLWA's September 1, 2021 Board meeting, GLWA plans to make a presentation on these topics and provide preliminary results on GLWA's hydraulic modeling of the June 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> rain event. In 30-45 days, GLWA plans to provide a comprehensive report about the June and July rain events and recommended actions. GLWA will make the report available to the public upon completion.

### THE 2016 WADE TRIM REPORT ANNOTATED

To be clear, the internal investigation is a systemwide investigation, residents throughout Southeast Michigan experienced historic rainfalls and property damage because of these rain events. Further, the investigation is not limited to mechanical elements of GLWA's system; it will include an investigation into whether the interceptors failed to properly convey the flow during the rain events. However, specific attention on the Freud and Conners Creek Pump Stations is warranted because residents that convey flow to these pump stations experienced sewer back-ups in July and August 2016 and want to know if GLWA has made flood mitigation improvements to the stations. As a result of the 2016 rain events, Wade Trim recommended flood mitigation improvements. Below is a verbatim copy of the flood mitigation actions recommended in the 2016 Wade Trim Report. A copy of the 2016 Wade Trim Report is available on GLWA's website. It should be noted that the undisputed facts associated with the 2016 rain event were not repeated in 2021, but the mitigation actions would be applicable to any significant rain event. In the same row of the recommended action, GLWA annotates its efforts in response to the Wade Trim Report. Where applicable, GLWA outlines how these flood mitigation actions performed during the June 25-26, 2021 and July 16, 2021 rain events.

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#### **5.0 FLOOD MITIGATION ACTIONS**

In response to the recent events occurring during the July 8 and August 16, 2016 storms, the GLWA has implemented immediate system improvement modifications to the operating protocols for the Fairview, Conner Creek and Freud Pump Stations and the Conner Creek CSO Basin.

In addition, GLWA is currently in the process of implementing immediate and near-term system improvements that will provide additional hydraulic relief for the east side system during storm events. GLWA has already begun implementing immediate improvements to the system that are directed at providing relief to the system more quickly and reducing the reliance on operator response.

These immediate and near-term system improvement projects have an estimated total infrastructure investment in excess of \$12,000,000. These projects have been moved forward in the FY 2017-21 approved Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and the funding source has been secured. These system improvements are described in detail below.

2016 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	GLWA POST REPORT ACTION	STATUS DURING JUNE & JULY RAIN EVENTS
<b>5.1 IMMEDIATE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS</b> (Begin on Page 49 of the report)		
Immediate system improvements include protocols and projects that were implemented without any detailed analysis of the system or new construction. Below is a summary of system changes that have been implemented by GLWA staff since the July 8, 2016 storm.		
<b>1. Conner Creek CSO Basin Staffing</b> Prior to the July 8, 2016 storm, staffing for the Conner Creek CSO Basin (as well as the eight other CSO control facilities) was deployed in anticipation of major storms or in response to lesser storms. None of the CSO control facilities were staffed on a full-time basis. During the July 8, 2016 storm, staff that had been called to the facility were delayed access due to substantial street flooding caused by the storm. This delay in staff arriving at the basin delayed the opening of the in-system influent and discharge gates. As part of the system improvement strategy, the GLWA has assigned full-time staff to the Conner Creek CSO Basin. Having staff on site 24 hours a day and 7 days per week eliminates facility access issues and prevents any delay in gate operation.	As noted in the last two sentences, GLWA has staff on site 24 hours a day and 7 days per week at the Conner Creek CSO Basin.	During the June 25-26, 2021 and July 16, 2021 Rain Events, the Conner Creek CSO Basin was fully staffed.
<b>2. Launder Gate Settings</b> The launder gates are the upper point of discharge from the Conner Creek CSO Basin to the Detroit River. These gates are intended to prevent high river levels greater than 98 feet from backfilling the Conner Creek CSO Basin, while also preventing fish and foreign objects from entering the launder channels. When opened, these gates allow flow to be discharged from the Conner Creek CSO Basin up to a design flow rate of 4,100 cfs. Prior to the July 8, 2016 storm, the launder gates were normally kept in the closed position. To prevent any risk of delay opening the launder gates, the launder gates will be kept in an open position through the summer and fall storm season.	Launder gate positions are dependent on river levels to prevent inflow (i.e. Detroit River water entering the basin). The launder gates were maintained in an open state following the 2016 events because they could only be operated locally (at each gate). Subsequent to the 2016 events, the Conner Creek CSO Basin is staffed 24 hours per day and 7 days per week. Further, the launder gates were retrofitted to be remotely operated from both the Conner Creek CSO Basin and Systems Control Center. These improvements eliminated the need to maintain the launder gates in an open position.	During the June 25-26, 2021 and July 16, 2021 rain events, the launder gates were opened in advance of the basin reaching the discharge weir elevation of 98 feet.
<b>3. Influent Gate Settings</b> The influent gates are located in channels just upstream of the mechanical screens and are used to isolate the screening equipment and Conner Creek CSO Basin storage from the upstream system. Prior to the July 8, 2016 storm, 7 of the 10 gate openings were in a normally closed position. The 3 remaining channels do not have gates and therefore are always open. To	Influent gates remain open at all times.	During the June 25-26, 2021 and July 16, 2021 rain events, the influent gates were in the open position.

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prevent delays in opening these gates, all influent gates are now in a normally open position.		
<b>4. Emergency Relief Gates</b> The 16 emergency relief gates are located below the launder gates and are used as a secondary point of discharge from the Conner Creek CSO Basin to the Detroit River. These gates are intended to be opened when the hydraulic head in the facility requires relief. This hydraulic head is generated when flow into the Conner Creek CSO Basin exceeds 4,100 cfs (maximum capacity of the launder weirs). These gates extend more than 20 feet below the Detroit River level. Due to the high differential hydraulic head when the Conner Creek CSO Basin is empty, considerable damage to the basin can occur if the emergency gates are opened prematurely. To prevent accidental damage to the facility, the emergency gates were kept locked prior to the July 8, 2016 storm and required a key to open the gates. To prevent delays in opening these emergency gates for each of the 4 bays comprising the basin) in an unlocked condition. These unlocked gates can be operated locally without a key to provide relief from the Conner Creek CSO Basin and upstream system more quickly.	GLWA maintains all emergency relief gates in an unlocked condition. Further, the improvements completed following the 2016 events enabled the emergency gates to be remotely controlled at the Conner Creek CSO Basin as well as Systems Control Center.	During the June 25-26, 2021 and July 16, 2021 rain events, all 16 emergency relief gates were unlocked.
<b>5. Fairview Pump Station</b> The Fairview PS operating protocol has been modified to continue pumping operations during storms. This update to the operational protocol was put in place after the August 16, 20166 [sic] storm. The intent of this operational change is to increase the amount of pumped flow from the DRI and Jefferson Relief sewers.	This recommendation is implemented until the DRI [Detroit River Interceptor] is flowing full when pumping is scaled back to avoid street flooding.	During the June 25-26, 2021 and July 16, 2021 rain events, the Fairview PS [Pump Station] pumped until the DRI was full.
<b>6. Freud Pump Repair</b> At the Freud PS there were two pumps that required repair and were not available for service. Pump No. 7 has been repaired and returned to service. Pump No. 5 has already been removed and sent to the manufacturer for repair. Pump No. 5 is expected to be repaired and returned to service within the next 4 weeks.	Pumps No. 5 and 7 were returned to service.	During the June 25-26, 2021 rain event, 6 pumps were available for service, however no more than 3 pumps could be operated at one time due to the external power supply issue. Pumps No. 5 and 7 were two of the available pumps. During the July 16, 2021 rain event, 7 pumps were available for use and GLWA operated 5 pumps.
<b>7. Interceptor Sewer Inspection</b> Restrictions in the interceptors can cause increased head loss in the collection system resulting in higher than expected sewer hydraulic gradient levels. Restrictions in the sewer can be the result of sediment buildup, damage to the sewer, or even historical bulkheads. To address if there are any	Since GLWA began operations on January 1, 2016, the Authority has completed two inspections and condition assessments using Pipeline Assessment Certification Program (PACP) of nearly all the regional conveyance system (approximately 190 miles of major pipelines). The first inspection and assessment began in February 2016 and was	

2016 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	GLWA POST REPORT ACTION	STATUS DURING JUNE & JULY RAIN EVENTS
restrictions in the interceptors, the GLWA has initiated an investigation of the major interceptor sewers within the east side system. This investigation will include a review of recently completed sewer inspections and additional supplemental inspections.	completed in December 2017. The second inspection and assessment began in November 2019 and ended in March 2021. GLWA intends to request FEMA assistance to conduct another inspection to assess any damage as a result of the recent historic rain events.	
	Based on the inspections and condition assessments, GLWA completed emergency repairs and prioritized capital improvements to the regional conveyance system. To date, GLWA has expended approximately \$50 million in repairs and improvements to the regional conveyance system. Since the inspections and condition assessments started, GLWA has completed the emergency repairs at the following locations:	
	<ul> <li>Northwest Interceptor Rehabilitation at Warren</li> <li>Northwest Interceptor Rehabilitation – Trinity to Pierson</li> <li>Fox Creek Sewer Rehabilitation</li> <li>Jos Campau Sewer Rehabilitation</li> <li>Clark Sewer Rehabilitation</li> <li>Six Mile Sewer Rehabilitation</li> <li>Mt. Elliot Sewer Cleaning and Rehabilitation</li> <li>Rouge River Log Jam Removal</li> <li>Lynch Sewer Rehabilitation</li> <li>Outfall B-10 cleaning</li> <li>Outfall B-023 River Gate Installation</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Further, the following capital improvements are completed, in design or under construction:</li> <li>DRI Outfall Rehabilitation – Phase 1 – Complete</li> <li>DRI Outfall Rehabilitation – Phase 2 – Complete</li> <li>DRI Outfall Rehabilitation – Phase 3 – Under construction</li> <li>DRI Outfall Rehabilitation – Phase 4 – Under Design</li> <li>Rouge River Outfall Rehabilitation – Under Design</li> <li>Woodward Sewer Rehabilitation – Under construction</li> <li>Conner Creek Sewer Rehabilitation – Under Design. Ready for bid</li> <li>Northwest Interceptor Rehabilitation – Under Design. Ready for bid</li> <li>7 Mile Sewer System – Under Design</li> <li>Joy Road Sewer – Under Design</li> <li>Brush Sewer – Under Design</li> <li>Bates Sewer – Under Design</li> </ul>	

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<b>8. Conner Creek Pump Station – Priming System</b> The large stormwater pumps at the Conner Creek Pump Station require vacuum priming before starting. This priming sometimes does not function effectively and prevents, or otherwise hinders, the startup of the stormwater pumps. The GLWA is currently exploring approaches to enable priming of these pumps. These approaches will provide relief until permanent modifications are made to the Conner Creek Stormwater Pump Station through a longer-term capital improvement project.	To make the vacuum priming system more reliable, GLWA 1.) constructed new weir in the discharge channel with elevation 82.0 feet; 2.) Constructed a new access hatch; 3.) Reestablished a 7-foot conduit connecting the Conner Sewer to Conners Creek Pump Station discharge channel; and 4.) Automated the 7-foot sluice gate for local and remote operation by the Systems Control Center. This work was completed in December 2016.	During the June 25-26, 2021 rain event, these improvements operated as intended. During the July 16, 2021 rain event, these improvements operated as intended. For both rain events, GLWA will investigate whether the standard operating procedures for these improvements were followed.
8. [sic] Sewer Inspection The major trunk sewers within the east side system were constructed over a half century ago, many nearly a century ago. Although several of these sewers have been inspected in the past, the GLWA has implemented additional inspections of the sewers to ensure that the sewer conditions are not contributing to flooding problems within the east side system. These inspections will look for structural defects in the system and possible buildup of sediment.	Since GLWA began operations on January 1, 2016, GLWA completed two inspections and condition assessments using Pipeline Assessment Certification Program (PACP) of nearly all the regional conveyance system, approximately 190 miles of major pipelines. The first inspection and assessment began in February 2016 and ended in December 2017. The second inspection and assessment began in November 2019 and ended in March 2021. Based on the inspections and assessments, GLWA has prioritized repairs throughout the regional conveyance system. GLWA intends to request FEMA assistance to conduct another inspection to assess any damage as a result of the recent historic rain events. Based on the inspections and condition assessments, GLWA completed emergency repairs and prioritized capital improvements to the regional conveyance system. To date, GLWA has expended approximately \$50 million in repairs and improvements to the regional conveyance system. Since the inspections and condition assessments started, GLWA has completed the following emergency repairs at the following locations: • Northwest Interceptor Rehabilitation at Warren • Northwest Interceptor Rehabilitation – Trinity to Pierson • Fox Creek Sewer Rehabilitation • Jos Campau Sewer Rehabilitation • Jos Campau Sewer Rehabilitation • Clark Sewer Rehabilitation • Mt. Elliot Sewer Cleaning and Rehabilitation • Rouge River Log Jam Removal • Lynch Sewer Rehabilitation • Outfall B-10 cleaning • Outfall B-023 River Gate Installation	

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<ul> <li>5.2 NEAR-TERM SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS (Begin on Page 52 of the report)</li> <li>Near-term improvements to the system require some level of analysis to verify that they will provide the intended benefit, can be implemented quickly without long-lead time, fabrication or procurement, require minimal modification to the system to implement, do not cause harm or detriment to other systems, facilities or equipment, and can be implemented safely. Below is a summary of these near-term system improvements.</li> </ul>		
<b>1. System Analysis</b> To better understand the causes of the flooding during the July 8, and August 16, 2016 storms and to analyze possible solutions to prevent the flooding, GLWA has engaged two separate consultants to collect data, analyze the system performance (during the July 8, and August 16, 2016 storms and during design storm conditions), and develop and test short-term and long-term system relief options. These analyses are ongoing and some of the initial findings are included in this report. Additional analysis will continue and the findings presented to the GLWA. The focus of this analysis is on the physical features, equipment and hydraulics at the Conner Creek CSO basin, Conner Creek PS, Fairview PS, Freud PS, Bluehill PS,	The consultants focused on improvements to the Conners Creek Pump Station priming system, automation of the pumping systems, metering of influent flow, replacement of the mixers and rehabilitation of the chemical feed system, rehabilitation of pumps, and automation of the gating systems. Other improvements include the regulator orifice enlargement program, outfall rehabilitation, and backwater gate installation program.	

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interceptor and trunk sewers tributary to these pump stations, and local existing and former overflow relief points.		
<b>2. Conner Creek CSO Basin Instrumentation</b> Many of the operations at the Conner Creek CSO Basin were originally intended to be operated remotely from the SCC. Since the time of the facility's commissioning, some of the instrumentation and control systems have been damaged and unavailable for use. Known damage impacts include remote control of the influent basin gates, launder gates, and emergency relief gates. These systems are currently dependent on human operators on-site for operation. To provide for remote control, the GLWA has begun a program to inventory the instrumentation and control systems and begin preparation for repair and/or replacement as needed. As these instrumentation and control systems are addressed, a separate uninterruptable power supply (UPS) will be added to the system in case of power failure.	GLWA improved facility gating instrumentation and automation to increase remote operability at the Conner Creek CSO Basin. An uninterruptable power supply and flow meters have been installed. The influent basin gates are maintained in the open position.	During the June 25-26, 2021 and July 16, 2021 rain events, these improvements operated as intended.
To supplement the existing equipment and to provide improved monitoring of the system, additional monitoring equipment will be installed. This monitoring equipment will include additional level sensors and flow meters.		
<b>3. Conner Creek PS – Priming System</b> GLWA will implement modification to the discharge channel for the Conner Creek PS to provide for sufficient depth of wastewater to enable the vacuum priming system to operate more reliably. This modification will provide for pump station operation until permanent modifications are made to Conner Creek PS through the long-term CIP.	Conner's 8 storm pumps and 4 sanitary pumps underwent the following automation upgrades: 1.) hardwiring sanitary pumps directly to the Ovation System; 2.) Upgrade programable logic controllers (PLCs) for storm pumps and tie to Ovation; 3.) revising control strategy for vacuum priming system; 4.) upgrading control system graphics to assist in operation of the pump station.	During the June 25-26, 2021 rain event, these upgraded systems were impacted temporarily by a loss of in-house power, however the sanitary and storm pumps remained in operation during the rain event. During the July 16, 2021 rain event, priming system operated as intended.
<b>4. Fox Creek Regulator Overflow – System Relief</b> The Fox Creek regulator chamber regulates flow from the Fox Creek Enclosure and Ashland Sewer into the East Jefferson Relief Sewer. This chamber includes three-6'x6' regulator gates. Due, in part, to the head required in the chamber to overcome the Detroit River levels, this regulator chamber rarely overflows. The GLWA is investigating the option of throttling the three-6'x6' regulator gates and limiting the flow into the East Jefferson Relief sewer to relieve the downstream system.	GLWA performs routine maintenance, repair and rehabilitation of facilities and equipment at the Fox Creek Regulator and Backwater Gate Chambers, including calibration of instrumentation. The option of throttling the 3 regulator gates and limiting flow into the East Jefferson Relief Sewer to relieve the downstream region was not implemented.	Based on information and belief, use of the recommended system modification would have likely exacerbated upstream conditions during the June 25- 26 rain event.
<b>5. Continuation of Sewer Inspection</b> To ensure no problems with wastewater conveyance through the major trunk sewers, the GLWA will continue inspection of the sewers.	Best practices recommend that a sewer inspection is completed every 7 years. Since GLWA began operations on January 1, 2016, GLWA completed two inspections and condition assessments using Pipeline Assessment Certification Program (PACP) of nearly all the regional conveyance	

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<b>6.0 FUTURE FLOOD MITIGATION ACTIONS</b> (Begin on Page 54 of the Report)		
The focus of the GLWA's long-term flood mitigation actions for the east side system is centered on the rehabilitation of the Conner Creek and Freud Pump Stations to provide for reliable firm pumping capacity. These are long-term projects will require detailed engineering study, design and construction. The following is a list of these future flood mitigation projects.		
<b>1. Conner Creek Pump Station Facility, Pumping and Priming</b> <b>System Rehabilitation/Replacement</b> The pumps at the Conner Creek PS were installed in the 1920's when the pump station was originally constructed. These pumps and the pump priming system will be evaluated to determine if it is necessary to modify, rehabilitate or replace the components of the pumping systems.	The Conners Creek Pump Station replacement is under design. GLWA has acquired title to one property and has a purchase agreement in place for the other parcel needed to build the new pump station. As a result of the rain events, GLWA is reviewing whether additional considerations need to be included in the design, however, this additional work should not impact the start of construction in 2023.	
<b>2. Freud Pump Station Facility Rehabilitation</b> The Freud PS facility, including the power system and instrumentation, will be evaluated to determine if it is necessary to modify, rehabilitate or replace components of the station to improve reliability and level of service. All eight stormwater pumps will be retrofitted to allow future repairs to be performed locally more quickly and efficiently.	The Freud Pump Station rehabilitation is under design. As a result of the rain events, GLWA is reviewing whether additional considerations need to be included in the design, however, this additional work should not impact the start of construction in 2022.	
<b>3. Emergency Overflow</b> The Freud and Conner Creek Pump Stations and Conner Creek Enclosure were originally constructed with an emergency overflow to the Detroit River. During the construction of the Conner Creek CSO Basin, these emergency overflows were eliminated. The GLWA will investigate whether emergency overflows could be restored to provide system relief during emergency conditions when the system is operating above design conditions and the potential exists for flooding of neighborhoods.	This recommendation must be viewed in conjunction with the Conners Creek Pump Station replacement and the Freud Pump Station rehabilitation. It was not intended to be a standalone project. This recommendation is being reviewed in the design process for the new Conners Creek Pump Station and improvements to the Freud Pump Station. It is important to note that this emergency overflow concept was intended to consider how to bypass the CSO facility, not the pumping stations.	

#### **OPERATIONAL UPDATES POST JUNE 25-26, 2021 RAIN EVENT**

Several operational updates have been made since the June 25-26, 2021 rain event. First, GLWA issues severe weather alert news releases when significant rain events are predicted. These notices supplement notifications from the National Weather Service, local media outlets and municipalities. All of these notices help residents prepare their dwellings for a significant rain event.

In addition to providing SCADA data via dashboards, which provides a real time status of the regional system to its member partners, GLWA is implementing efforts to better coordinate operations with the communities it serves on the eastside.

Finally, GLWA has been working with its energy service provider, DTE Energy (DTE), to ensure reliable power service to GLWA's Pump Stations. GLWA and DTE are accelerating the conversion from Detroit Public Lighting Department's distribution system to DTE's distribution system. Further, GLWA successfully installed, commissioned and connected power quality monitors for Conners Creek, Freud and Blue Hill Pump Stations to the SCADA system for real time monitoring of facility power quality. GLWA shares this information with DTE and PLD so that adjustments can be made inside and outside of the Pump Station's fence lines.

#### **CLAIMS UPDATE**

GLWA received thousands of claims related to the June and July rain events. Each claim will be reviewed and entered into a database. Pursuant to the liability standard established by Michigan law and based on the conclusions reached in the internal and/or Board-led investigation, GLWA will determine whether it is legally responsible for the damages caused by the June and/or July rain events. No decisions have been made in this regard and they will not be made until the two investigations conclude. Shortly after the investigations conclude, GLWA will inform each claimant.

As noted above, GLWA will present to the Board at its September  $1^{st}$  meeting on the status of the internal investigation.