



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Interim Agreement Reached Between GLWA and the City of Highland Park
Related to Staying Pending Collections Cases, Including Payment of
\$24 Million Judgment for Water and Wastewater Services in the 2014 Case**

- *Both the 2014 and 2020 cases stayed (a pause or temporary suspension of court activities) until October 1, 2023*
- *Highland Park agrees to pay GLWA \$1 million by June 9, 2023, or stays will be lifted, and the judgment enforced*
- *All parties involved have committed to work together in good faith toward a comprehensive solution*

DETROIT – The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) and the city of Highland Park have reached an interim agreement related to staying the pending collections cases, including enforcement of the \$24 million judgment owed to GLWA by Highland Park for unpaid water and wastewater services in the 2014 case. Moving forward all parties involved will work in good faith toward a comprehensive solution.

Key elements of the agreement include:

- Highland Park paying and delivering to GLWA \$1 million by June 9, 2023, which will be applied to the judgment in the 2014 case or to a final settlement if one is reached. GLWA and Highland Park agree that the judgment of approximately \$24 million will continue to accrue interest until the full amount is satisfied;
- Upon receipt of the \$1 million by June 9, 2023, GLWA and Highland Park will request a stay of the 2014 case, from which the \$24 million judgment resulted, until October 1, 2023. In addition, GLWA and Highland Park will request a stay of the 2020 case (for monies owed post-2014) and an adjournment of the trial currently scheduled to begin in July) until on or after December 5, 2023 (on a date to be set by the court);
- If Highland Park does not make the \$1 million payment to GLWA by June 9, 2023, the stays are immediately lifted and GLWA may immediately enforce the judgment in the 2014 case. Enforcement of a judgment against municipalities involves serving the judgment on the city assessor who is then required to place the judgment on the city's tax rolls;

- GLWA and Highland Park understand the state of Michigan intends to file a position statement with the court in the 2014 case stating its support of the stay of the proceedings and explaining why the State is involved and intends to participate in efforts to resolve this matter and reach a final, comprehensive solution to all issues.

“I am pleased that we have been able to reach this interim agreement with the city of Highland Park,” said Suzanne R. Coffey, GLWA Chief Executive Officer. “I am confident the effort exhibited by all parties, which has allowed us to get to this interim step, will carry forward and move us toward a more comprehensive solution for our region. In addition, we appreciate the state of Michigan’s desire and intention to participate in the process moving forward, as they are key to any long-term solution.”

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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.