



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GLWA Provides its Member Partner Communities with Important Information
About a Slight Rise in the Level of Total Organic Carbon in the Water at its Water
Works Park Water Treatment Plant**

- *Rise in TOC does not represent a drinking water quality concern*
- *Water remains safe for drinking and all other uses*
- *Notification made to five impacted communities: Detroit (downtown, midtown and the lower eastside of Detroit), Grosse Pointe Park, Hamtramck, Harper Woods and Highland Park*

DETROIT -- As part of routine Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) monitoring, the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) recently found that the level of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) in the water at its Water Works Park Water Treatment Plant was slightly above the standards required.

All organic molecules have carbon in them: TOC is the measure of the concentration of organic carbon in a substance. For water, TOCs are used as one measure of source water quality. Included in the normal treatment processes at Water Works Park is the removal of TOC from its source water in the Detroit River.

“I want to assure everyone in the communities served by Water Works Park that the water they receive from the Water Works Park Water Treatment Plant remains safe for drinking and all other uses, Cheryl Porter, Chief Operating Officer-Water and Field Services, GLWA. “This slight rise in TOC levels does not indicate any form of water quality issue.”

As a part of its commitment to continuing to provide water of the highest quality, GLWA is taking all available steps to improve its TOC removal, including reviewing our treatment process to enhance what the Authority is already doing. The Authority is also increasing its monitoring for TOC to monthly (from every three months).

“GLWA takes seriously its commitment to transparency and has alerted our member partner communities served by Water Works Park of this issue,” said Suzanne R. Coffey, Chief Executive Officer, GLWA. “Our Chief Operating Officer-Water and Field Services and

the head of our Water Quality Team have also met with them to answer any questions and provided an [FAQ/public notice](#) for each community that they can share with their residents. We will continue to share information as it becomes available, but I want to emphasize that this is not a drinking water quality issue.”

The Water Works Park Water Treatment Plant provides treated water to a portion of the city of Detroit (downtown, midtown and the lower eastside of Detroit), the city of Grosse Pointe Park, the city of Hamtramck, and the city of Harper Woods, and the city of Highland Park from its Water Works Park Water Treatment Plant.

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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.