

NOTE 7 – JOINT VENTURES

The State participates in two joint ventures as described below. Joint ventures are not reflected as component units within this report because they do not meet the generally accepted accounting principles criteria for inclusion. Their separately issued financial statements may be obtained by directly contacting the applicable organizations. To obtain their phone numbers, you may contact the Office of the State Budget, Office of Financial Management, Financial Reporting Section at (517) 373-3029.

Great Lakes Protection Fund

The Great Lakes Protection Fund (GLPF) is a not-for-profit corporation located in Evanston, Illinois. Its purpose is to finance and support research with respect to water quality of the Great Lakes. The eight states bordering the Great Lakes are eligible to become members if they make a required contribution to the endowment of GLPF.

Contribution requirements were established based upon water consumption and usage. Contributions to GLPF are permanently restricted and are not available for disbursement. Michigan is the largest contributor, having made a contribution of \$25.0 million, constituting approximately 31% of the total. Michigan made its required contribution by issuing GLPF a general obligation bond authorized as part of the State's environmental protection bond program. No additional contributions from Michigan will be required.

Two members on GLPF's board of directors represent each of the participating seven member states. The states' respective governors select the board members. Directors control GLPF's financing and budgeting operations, within requirements established by the Articles of Incorporation. One-third of the net earnings on total contributions (after operating expenses) is granted to the respective states in proportion to their contributions to GLPF. Two-thirds of the net earnings are available to GLPF to make other grants. The State's equity interest in GLPF of \$25.0 million is reflected as an asset in the government-wide financial statements.

Joint International Bridge Authority

The International Bridge in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan is a joint venture of the State and Canadian governments. The Joint International Bridge Authority (JIBA) consists of six people, three appointed by each government. JIBA oversees the operations and maintenance of the Bridge. The International Bridge Administration, an administrative entity within the Michigan Department of Transportation, is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Bridge. JIBA reimburses the State for costs incurred to provide these services.

For the period ending December 31, 2007 (JIBA's most recently audited financial statements), its net assets increased by approximately \$.7 million. The Bridge and the ancillary assets on Michigan's side of the Bridge, in addition to one-half of the balance of funds not required to pay liabilities, represent the State's equity interest. The State is obligated to pay one-half of any claims incurred by JIBA that are not covered by insurance or existing resources. The State's equity interest of \$7.9 million is reflected as an asset in the government-wide financial statements.