



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
LANSING



LIESL EICHLER CLARK
DIRECTOR

November 14, 2019

VIA E-MAIL

The Honorable Sheldon Neeley
Mayor of Flint
1101 South Saginaw Street
Flint, Michigan 48502

WSSN: 02310
City of Flint

Dear Mayor Neeley:

SUBJECT: Technical, Managerial, and Financial (TMF) Plan Comments

Thank you for the recent update on your Technical, Managerial, and Financial Plan as required by the December 17, 2018 Voluntary Agreement between the City of Flint (City) and the State of Michigan.

In the update, new information was presented concerning the state of the City's Water Fund. The City now shows a Fiscal Year 2020 balance of \$23.5 million. Setting aside \$8 million of funds for contingencies, this allows a balance of \$15.3 million available for the City to apply toward its public water supply operations, maintenance, and construction.

We strongly recommend the City follow the priorities and recommendations provided in the April 2018 Water Distribution System Optimization Plan provided by Arcadis. This plan provides prioritized recommendations both for projects and staffing. Specific recommendations from the plan are:

1. Follow hiring plan from TMF plan – 11 personnel identified as high priority:
 - a. Laboratory Technician (1) (currently Fleis & Vandenbrink (F&V))
 - b. Cross Connection Program Manager (1)
 - c. Water Distribution Valve and Hydrant Crew (3)
 - d. Customer Service/Call Center Staff (4)
 - e. Enterprise Asset Manager (1)
 - f. Geographic Information System Specialist/Hydraulic Modeler (1)
2. Additional personnel for distribution system – hire or contract personnel to respond to main breaks, etc. The current contract with F&V has options for response to main breaks.
3. Hire medium priority staff from plan:
 - a. Construction Inspectors (2)
 - b. Leak Detection Team (2)
4. Execute high priority projects from optimization plan:
 - a. Asset Management Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) Implementation
Coordination: \$950,000
 - b. Cross Connection - Update Commercial Cross Connection Control Program
\$155,000
 - c. Cross Connection - Develop a Residential Cross Connection Control Program:
\$3,710,000

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- d. Customer Complaints - Establish a Call Center: \$500,000
- e. Update the existing Emergency Response Plan (ERP) to meet Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) standards: \$69,000
- f. Valve & Hydrant - Develop a Planned/Preventative Maintenance Plan: \$30,000
- g. Valve & Hydrant - Develop Valve & Hydrant Manual Library: \$10,000
- h. Water Loss - Develop and Review Water Loss Control Plan: \$1,739,000
- i. Capital Improvement Program, Online Monitoring Implement Distribution System Online Water Quality (WQ) Monitoring Stations: \$955,000
- j. Information Technology - Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Upgrades: \$100,000
- k. Contractor - Storage Facility Comprehensive Inspection: \$375,000
- l. Security & Emergency - Site Control and Intrusion Detection: \$406,200
- m. Security & Emergency - Fencing at Cedar Street Reservoir (CSR): \$15,000
- n. Update Pipe Assets in GIS/Valve-Hydrant Model Review: \$150,000
- o. Miscellaneous - Vertical Asset Rehabilitation & Replacement (R&R): \$4,943,000
- p. Valve & Hydrant - Wachs Valve Assessment: \$350,000
- q. Valve & Hydrant - Valve & Hydrant Replacement: \$24,171,000
- r. Other - Vehicle Replacement: \$10,000,000

These priorities provide the opportunity to make significant improvements to the City's drinking water system. We congratulate the City on increasing the revenue for the water fund. The increased available funding should be put to immediate use, along with other funding available to the City, to improve the drinking water system.

If you have questions, please contact me at 517-284-6544; Oswalde1@Michigan.gov; or EGLE, Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division, P.O. Box 30817, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8311.

Sincerely,



Eric J. Oswald, Director

Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division

cc: Mr. Robert Bincsik, Director, Department of Public Works, City of Flint
Mr. Blair Selover, Manager, F&V Operations, Contractor for City of Flint
Ms. Sarah Tallman, Natural Resources Defense Council
Ms. Nefertiti DiCosmo, Acting Chief, Groundwater Drinking Water Branch,
United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
Mr. Richard Kuhl, Michigan Department of Attorney General
Ms. Liesl Eichler Clark, Director, EGLE
Mr. Aaron B. Keatley, Chief Deputy Director, EGLE
Mr. George L. Krisztian, EGLE