

## **DOWNRIVER UTILITY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY**

### **RESOLUTION REGARDING USE OF AMERICAN RESCUE ACT PLAN FUNDS**

The Downriver Utility Wastewater Authority (DUWA) is a public body corporate organized pursuant to Act 233. Representatives from DUWA's 13 Communities act as Board Members. DUWA's Board Members exercise all powers of DUWA. The Authority provides a regional wastewater collection and treatment system vital to the health and safety of the residents of the region.

DUWA provides service to approximately 350,000 people in the Downriver area which includes Ecorse, River Rouge, Allen Park, Lincoln Park, Dearborn Heights, Taylor, Romulus, Riverview, Southgate, Wyandotte, Belleville, Van Buren, and Brownstown. The DUWA system processes 60 million gallons per day on an annual average at its wastewater treatment plant, with the ability to handle 225 million gallons per day during wet weather events. It also has a 15-million-gallon wet weather storage tunnel that is used to retain excess wastewater during wet weather events.

It is also recognized that the Southeast Michigan region has experienced a number of very large rain events in recent years. Many believe that this is due to climate change impacts and that such extremes will become more frequent.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is a federal response to financial damage caused by the pandemic since 2020. Included in ARPA is the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Relief Fund which allocated \$350 billion to states and local governments. Municipalities with greater than 50,000 residents receive funding directly from the US Treasury. For communities smaller than 50,000 residents, which is most of DUWA's 13 communities, the fund flows through Wayne

County. The funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and the period of performance ends December 31, 2026. The funds can be used for public health and economic impacts, premium pay, revenue loss and infrastructure.

**WHEREAS**, infrastructure is defined as including investments in Water and Sewer Infrastructure;

**WHEREAS**, Water and Sewer Infrastructure is defined as primarily projects that align with EPAs initiatives:

A. Remediating failing or inadequate infrastructure, much of which is publicly owned, and by addressing non-point sources of pollution.

B. Projects to ensure compliance with applicable water health and quality standards and provide safe drinking and usable water.

C. Assist systems most in need on a per household basis according to state affordability criteria would also have the benefit of providing vulnerable populations with safe drinking water that is critical to their health and, thus, their ability to work and learn.

D. Improve drinking water infrastructure such as building or upgrading facilities and transmission, distribution, and storage systems, including replacement of lead service lines.

**THEREFORE**, DUWA encourages its member communities to consider using a portion of the ARPA funds to support the improvement of underground infrastructure in its community that improves and tightens up the sewer collection system or the water distribution system.

**FURTHERMORE**, the System Manager shall provide a copy of this resolution to each Member Community.

**FINALLY**, Member Communities , the Chair, System Manager and other professionals should encourage Wayne County to provide ARPA funds to the Authority to improve its operations consistent with projects that align with EPA initiatives.

This resolution was based by the DUWA Board on March 10, 2022

Attested to by:



Gail McLeod, Mayor of Allen Park  
Chair of the DUWA Board