



## **Oakland County Opposes Flint and Genesee County's Plan to Build a Water Intake and Pipeline from Lake Huron**

**April 12, 2013**

### **For Immediate Release**

Today, Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner Jim Nash (D) and Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson (R) voiced their concern with the proposal by Genesee County and Flint to build a new water intake facility on Lake Huron and over 60 miles of pipeline, referred to as the Karegnondi Water Authority.

Commissioner Nash said that in the last month the state requested and received an analysis of this project from Tucker, Young, Jackson, Tull, Inc., a consulting firm established to provide comprehensive environmental and civil engineering services. "This report held that the project did not present a sound business case. The project estimates were significantly low and the rate impact on the rest of the system would be substantial."

Commissioner Nash believes that for those reasons this proposal is not something the state should support. Considering the facts of this case, as uncovered by the consultant hired by the state, Oakland County is asking Governor Snyder not to support this project. If the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD), in its present form, or as a separate regional authority, loses customers in Genesee County, the remaining customers will be required to pick up the costs – essentially a rate increase of 6 percent on top of the current 4 percent annual increase.

Currently, the Port Huron water intake capacity is 25 percent over existing use, to accommodate future growth. If this project goes forward, the facility will operate at less than 50 percent capacity for the foreseeable future, while a new intake only adds more over-capacity. That's a huge waste of taxpayer dollars.

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson also expressed concerns about the costs to Oakland County rate payers. "I don't believe Oakland County residents should pay higher water rates and independent analysts have said this project costs too much and leaves the remaining water customers with higher bills."





Commissioner Nash said Genesee County and Flint should seriously consider the latest offer by DWSD Director Sue McCormack to sit down and work out a new contract and solve this problem without major, expensive and unneeded system changes. The DWSD has proposed giving Genesee County a seat on the Detroit Water Board.

“That’s a huge step in the right direction,” Nash said. “We must to act as a region for a sustainable future; this project runs against that effort.”

