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# Water Resources Commissioner Praises Sewer Rate Settlement

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Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner John P. McCulloch heralded today's unanimous vote of the Detroit City Council to approve the sewer rate settlement as an important step in the right direction.

"This vote represents a new era of regional cooperation that I am confident will extend to other challenges in the region," McCulloch said. "This vote also recognizes the importance of working cooperatively toward collective benefits and to secure outside sources of funding for regional water and sewer infrastructure challenges facing all ratepayers served by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department."

McCulloch explained that all parties to the lawsuit recognize the need to create a mechanism to settle disputes other than running to court.

"Litigation is an expensive and time-consuming activity," McCulloch said. "And it doesn't compare to the kinds of excellent results we can anticipate through cooperation."

McCulloch added that the settlement establishes a director's council that will be able to work cooperatively to address concerns and issues raised by customers relating to the DWSD's operation.

"That means Oakland County along with other DWSD customers will have a seat at the table," McCulloch said. "As I've said before, if customers have a better idea of what goes into the rates and how they are calculated, they have more confidence in the equitability."

The director's council will be comprised of the director of the DWSD, the Macomb County Public Works Commissioner, the Wayne County Executive, the chairman of the Southeast Michigan Consortium for Water Quality and the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner.