

For Media Inquiries:
Bob Dustman
(248) 568-2925

**Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner
Applauds Federal Judge's Decision to Continue Court Oversight
of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department**

Waterford, MI. Sept. 9, 2011---Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner John P. McCulloch said today the Detroit region, including the city and suburbs, will ultimately benefit from Federal District Court Judge Sean Cox's decision to maintain court oversight of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department(DWSD) until pollution problems are adequately resolved.

In his 44 page opinion, Judge Cox ordered Detroit Mayor Dave Bing, the City Council and a member of the current Board of Water Commissioners to develop a new structural plan within the next sixty days that would address the systemic and pervasive operational inadequacies of DWSD, most notably HR and procurement issues that have been the root causes of repeated non-compliance with the Clean Water Act since the Federal lawsuit was filed thirty-four years ago..

Judge Cox, in his order to deny the city's request to end court supervision of DWSD, also said the city would not be "constrained by any local Charter ordinance provisions or by the provisions of union or other contracts."

In a not so veiled threat, Judge Cox warned the city that if it did not come up with a workable structural plan to fix pollution problems, he would directly order a "more intrusive remedy."

"The judge's decision today bodes well for the Detroit region because it has the potential to benefit not only the suburbs, including Oakland County, but the City of Detroit as well, with a much improved water treatment system," McCulloch said.

In January of this year, McCulloch asked Judge Cox to create a regional management committee for DWSD. But in May, McCulloch withdrew his request when it was agreed DWSD would be governed by a seven member board, as it had been in the past, but which was strengthened by an agreement by all parties that the suburban counties would select their own representatives and that all major decisions would require a super-majority for passage.

###

