



**Candice S. Miller**

Public Works Commissioner  
Macomb County

April 1, 2022

Dear Honorable Council:

As you may recall, staff from our office briefed you last year about an upcoming vital infrastructure construction project: The In-System Storage project in the 8 ½ Mile Relief Drain Drainage District. The district serves the cities of Eastpointe and St. Clair Shores, handling the combined sanitary sewer flow and storm water runoff and snow melt from all of Eastpointe and most of St. Clair Shores. The In-System Storage project uses existing infrastructure by installing an inflatable bladder inside the large interceptor pipe far below the surface near Oak Avenue, from Interstate 94 to Boulder Street. When inflated, the bladder will permit combined sewer flow to be “stored” upstream and released as needed to maintain flow without creating a risk of basement flooding.

The purpose of increased storage capacity is to reduce combined sewer overflows and discharges of CSO’s into our beautiful Lake St. Clair. Although chemically-treated discharges of combined flow are permitted by the state, they have gone on for decades. No longer should we be pushing this problem onto future generations. Water quality equals quality of life, and this important project is one step to help us to better protect the lake and the environment. We believe this important project can help reduce CSO’s from the Chapaton Retention Basin by 30%.

With the recent announcement of federal earmarks and state funding to Macomb County for key sewer projects, we do not anticipate that the \$17 million In-System Storage project will itself not require an increase in sewer rates for the ratepayers in Eastpointe and St. Clair Shores, which is great news.

The reason we are doing this project is to protect water quality. Clean water is a common goal that we all share.

Also, we want to notify you about construction activity associated with this project that will get underway soon and which will impact motorists:

- **Excavation to install a manhole and below-grade odor control device. Excavation is expected to commence in mid- to late April and continue into May, and will result in intermittent traffic control and temporary closures of the northbound left lane and southbound left lane of Kelly Road at Oak Avenue.**

- **Depending on DTE Energy’s utility relocation schedule, excavation will begin in May to construct an access shaft at the intersection of Beaconsfield at Oak Avenue, to install the In-System Storage device inside the interceptor pipe. This will continue to June 2023 and will require traffic detours around the construction area as well as for overhead utility relocation. Equipment will be staged starting in mid-April in the greenbelt between Beaconsfield and Interstate 94, for subsequent installation of a control building.**

Please notify your police and fire departments about the upcoming construction and traffic impact. We also ask you to consider posting this traffic information on your city website.

We appreciate your support and cooperation for this important project! If you have any questions, please contact Macomb County Public Works wastewater services engineer Steve Rozycki at [steve.rozycki@macombgov.org](mailto:steve.rozycki@macombgov.org) or by phone at 586-696-0235.

Sincerely,



Candice S. Miller

Macomb County Public Works Commissioner