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CITY COUNCIL SELECTS CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATER MANAGEMENT TO PROVIDE LAKE MICHIGAN WATER

Over the past year the City of Joliet has evaluated two Lake Michigan sources to supply the City with water in the future. At a special meeting of the City Council on January 28, 2021, the Council voted to select the City of Chicago Department of Water Management to provide Joliet with Lake Michigan water by 2030.

Joliet will reap the benefits of the state-of-the-art Eugene Sawyer Water Purification Plant. The facility includes a microbiology and chemistry lab that continuously tests the water for safety. The Chicago Department of Water Management has over 2000 employees working 24/7 to reliably deliver high quality drinking water to all of its customers. New infrastructure will be built near the existing Chicago Southwest Pumping Station to convey water to Joliet via 31 miles of new water transmission mains to be owned, operated and maintained by the City of Joliet.

“We are excited to partner with the City of Chicago. This decision gives the citizens of Joliet all the knowledge and resources of a system that purifies and distributes over 1 billion gallons of water each day to over 5.3 million residents in northeast Illinois,” said Mayor O’Dekirk. “We are excited to be a leader in the development of a long-term water supply for ourselves and the region. Our future and the future of all who live here will be better because of the decisions we made today.”

The next phase of work will begin immediately to establish the framework for the implementation of the new water system to provide Lake Michigan water to Joliet residents by 2030. Preliminary engineering activities include siting and routing for the improvements, updating the funding strategy, developing permitting and environmental plans, and ongoing evaluation of a regional water system. A preliminary schedule of work to be completed to bring Lake Michigan water to Joliet can be found on the program website at www.RethinkWaterJoliet.org.

Faced with a water supply that will no longer be sustainable by 2030, the City of Joliet launched a study of alternative sources of water in August 2018. Residents and businesses are encouraged to learn more about the alternative water source program at www.RethinkWaterJoliet.org, or by following the initiative through [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Visitors to the website can also sign-up for e-mail updates for the latest news on the initiative.

Details will be provided at a press conference to be held next week.

James V. Capparelli
City Manager

The City of Joliet is the third largest city in the state of Illinois and home to over 149,000 residents. Joliet sits 35 miles southwest of Chicago and is easily accessible by auto, train and bus; making it the perfect place to live, work and play. Joliet is constantly striving to promote growth and diversity. For more information on Joliet visit www.joliet.gov or call 815-724-4000. The City of Joliet’s Media Releases are always available on our website.