

ATTACHMENT 2 - SEWRPC STAFF MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the SEWRPC Environmental Justice Task Force

FROM: SEWRPC Staff

DATE: September 2, 2010

**SUBJECT: COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM THE REGIONAL
WATER SUPPLY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

During the August 24, 2010, meeting of the Regional Water Supply Planning Advisory Committee, three comments were received on the socioeconomic analysis of the regional water supply plan which are reported below for your information.

1. A comment was made that the regional water supply plan may have some beneficial socioeconomic impacts, in that water conservation programs might result in cost savings for utilities and lower water bills for economically disadvantaged utility customers. It was also noted that installation of green infrastructure related to the stormwater management element of the plan may abate flooding and make communities more livable. A comment was also made which indicated that some water conservation measures, such as rate structure revisions, can result in increases in water bills and have a negative impact on low-income and minority populations. It was also noted that a potential negative impact could be the discharge of any significant increased amounts of unregulated contaminants to Lake Michigan.
2. A comment was made that new advanced water metering is now available which can detect leaks in real time. This can be used as a basis to contact customers and avoid water loss and large water bills as sometimes occurs due to leakage such as caused by toilet valve malfunctioning.
3. A comment was made suggesting that in future water supply planning a specific plan objective and supporting standards be developed to address socioeconomic issues.

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