



# VILLAGES OF GLENCOE & WINNETKA JOINT PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

April 17, 2019

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## **GLENCOE AND WINNETKA TO PARTNER ON WATER SYSTEM ANALYSIS**

*(Glencoe and Winnetka, Illinois)*—The Boards of Trustees for the Villages of Glencoe and Winnetka this week approved a joint water system analysis that will explore possible opportunities for combining part or all of their water production and distribution systems. The feasibility study will be completed by professional engineering firm Strand Associates, which is familiar with both communities' water distribution systems and treatment facilities. Strand will develop conceptual alternatives for water production facilities, conduct a hydraulic analysis of a combined Glencoe-Winnetka water system, evaluate emergency interconnects and provide the communities with cost estimates for the various conceptual alternatives.

It is anticipated that Strand Associates will deliver their analysis and make reports to both Boards of Trustees in spring 2020. At that time, the Boards will consider what, if any, legitimate opportunities exist and what possible next steps might be. Any further partnering effort would be preceded by the development of a formal agreement between the two Villages.

Both communities expect extensive investment in their water production and distribution infrastructure in the coming decades. In 2017, the Village of Glencoe completed a comprehensive water rate analysis that helped form a rate increase plan to accommodate the future needs of the water distribution system. The need for future water supply planning is a priority outlined in Glencoe's Strategic Plan as the community's Water Treatment Plant was constructed in 1928 and will require major investment in the coming decades. Further, the Village of Glencoe's water tower (built in 1930 and in a location that complicates system maintenance) is included in the Village's 10-Year Community Improvement Program (CIP) for replacement in the next five years. Part of the feasibility study is determining whether the communities could invest in a single water tower (elevated tank) to serve both Villages.

For the Village of Winnetka, the decision to enter into discussions about the concept of combining systems also originates from strategic reviews of its Water Treatment Plant and distribution assets. The Water Plant was originally constructed in 1893, and the facility is integrated with Winnetka's Electric Power Plant. Unlike most water distribution systems, the Village does not have elevated storage to maintain system water pressure, but relies on electric pumps. Beyond the concept of a combined system and/or shared storage, the study provides an opportunity to examine interconnections that both

communities rely on to support their systems during an emergency. In 2017, the Village completed a Water Rate Study that incorporated the significant capital investments that will be required in the near and long-term. Modeling results from the study will assist both communities with decisions on future asset replacement and their relative level of importance as interconnected neighbors.

Both communities also consider the feasibility study a first step toward investigating ways to expand inter-governmental cooperation and partnerships, with the collective goal of investing in major infrastructure as wisely as possible.

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