



**Candice S. Miller**

Public Works Commissioner  
Macomb County

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Water quality of Clinton River to be closely monitored**

The Clinton River is one of three rivers in southeastern Michigan that will soon be studied closely as part of a new effort to improve water quality and wastewater treatment in the region.

“Much like finding the sources of illicit sewage connections and discharges, responding to fuel spills, removing logjams and other ways we strive to protect our waterways, monitoring the health of the Clinton River is one of several contributing factors when our office points out that water quality and quality of life go hand in hand,” Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Candice S. Miller said.

The monitoring of the Clinton River is part of the Great Lakes Water Authority’s “Regional River Water Quality Monitoring Program” announced recently.

In Macomb County, the sensors will be installed in Sterling Heights and in Clinton Township. Both sites are among those that already have gages to monitor the flow and height of the water, so the new sensors will enhance monitoring capabilities at each site.

At the Sterling Heights location, a tube was recently installed into the river that will protect instruments expected to be placed to enable continuous readings of water quality.

Already in place is flow monitoring of the Clinton River, which is important when assessing flood conditions and water quality conditions, and how water flows off land.

Monitoring and data modeling will help stakeholders -- including representatives from the dozens of municipalities and watershed advocacy groups that provided input into GLWA’s master plan to protect waterways by controlling combined sewer overflows, sanitary sewer overflow discharges, fostering green infrastructure and separation of storm sewers from sanitary sewage flow -- to determine if those initiatives are successful.

“As part of GLWA’s new master plan, Macomb County has pushed for a regional approach to improving water quality in our lakes, rivers and streams,” Miller said. “The data will help

determine where maintenance and upgrades in our wastewater systems are needed in order to improve water quality and allow for healthy recreation on our lakes and rivers.”

While serving in Congress, Miller secured funding for the purchase and installation of sensors in 2006 at seven water intake valves along the St. Clair River, and two valves in Lake St. Clair near New Baltimore and Mount Clemens. Those sensors sampled the water every 15 minutes to check for 27 different chemical contaminants.

There are other indications that the water quality of the Clinton River is good. Last July, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources caught 1,038 fish in just one day at one spot of the Middle Branch of the Clinton River. The total catch included 25 different species, including an increasing number of fish considered to be “pollution intolerant” such as stonecat and three types of darters.

“That was excellent and important news as well,” said Miller. “Important because storm water from hundreds of drains flows into the Clinton River and eventually to Lake St. Clair, known for its popularity with fishermen, boaters and other water recreation enthusiasts. Still, all of us are environmental stakeholders and we must remain vigilant in protecting our waterways.”

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YouTube video: Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Candice S. Miller discusses the placing of sensors into the Clinton River to study the quality of the water. [https://youtu.be/gkdf6ptVg\\_A](https://youtu.be/gkdf6ptVg_A)

*Captions for attached photos:*

This tube recently placed into the Clinton River in Sterling Heights will help protect instruments that will gather data about the quality of the water. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Geological Survey)

A stretch of the Clinton River in Sterling Heights.

The current carries a group of geese floating down the Clinton River in Sterling Heights.



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