Joint Statement from Water Sector Associations to their Respective Memberships Concerning the Flint Water Crisis

In light of the recent crisis in Flint, Michigan the leadership of the undersigned organizations have come together to share information and develop a collaborative and unified response to these unfolding events.

First and foremost, all of our organizations share a deep concern for the people of Flint and a desire to help in whatever way possible in line with our respective missions and capabilities.

The technical drinking water issues at the forefront in Flint are best addressed by the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA). Both organizations are reaching out to their members with informative materials and helpful guidance on how to respond to questions about water quality.

At the same time, all of our organizations are committed to ensuring that the people and leaders of Flint have access to the best possible information and that drinking water agencies, policymakers, and media are directed to the organizations best-suited to respond effectively and knowledgably. Most importantly, we want to ensure that the response to this crisis is swift and substantial—and that lessons learned from it are shared broadly.

The water sector organizations understand that we must also help lead and shape a broader dialogue on the massive water infrastructure needs facing America and the appropriate policy steps to guarantee a sustainable and strong local-state-federal partnership to address them. We also understand that affordability issues are playing a larger role in providing fundamental drinking water and clean water services to our communities, and that this too will need to be a key topic of this broader discussion.

We are committed to working together to support the resolution of this crisis in Flint and to ensure that all people have access to safe and reliable water and wastewater service.

Please feel free to contact us with any thoughts or questions.

American Water Works Association (AWWA)
David LaFrance, Chief Executive Officer

Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA)
Diane VanDe Hei, Executive Director

National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA)
Adam Krantz, Chief Executive Officer

National Association of Water Companies (NAWC)
Michael Deane, Executive Director

U.S. Water Alliance
Radhika Fox, Chief Executive Officer

Water Environment Federation (WEF)
Eileen O’Neill, Executive Director

Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF)
Melissa Meeker, Executive Director

Water Research Foundation (WRF)
Robert Renner, Executive Director