



**City of Rochester Hills  
AGENDA SUMMARY  
NON-FINANCIAL ITEMS**

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**Legislative File No:** 2008-0026

**TO:** Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** Roger H. Rousse, Director of Public Service

**DATE:** January 28, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Resolution in Support of the Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) comments on the proposed NPDES Wastewater Discharge General Permit, No. MIG61000

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**REQUEST:**

That the Rochester Hills City Council adopts a resolution in support of the Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) comments on the proposed NPDES Wastewater Discharge General Permit, No. MIG61000.

**BACKGROUND:**

Pursuant to the Clean Water Act (CWA) and its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) provision, many municipalities that own or operate Municipal Separate Storm Systems (MS4's) throughout Michigan are required to obtain Storm Sewer System permits, commonly referred to as "NPDES Phase 2 permits".

The current permits are up for renewal on April 1, 2008. The proposed permit options are very different from the permits issued 5 years ago. The new permits are much more prescriptive and add several new requirements which may exceed the standards set by the federal mandate. If these differences are in the final permits, they will have a direct impact on community resources funding, put communities in a difficult regulatory dilemma, and require the community to deal with pollutant sources, which are outside of their control.

Several provisions suggested in the MDEQ draft NPDES Phase II permit options appear to be in excess of the federal mandate and will result in an unfair burden to municipalities. The level of regulatory authority and recordkeeping prescribed will likely lead to bigger, less efficient government and act as a disincentive to business investing back into the Michigan economy.

There has been significant discussion between the MDEQ and SEMCOG-led committee to suggest practical changes to the draft permits. Due to direct impact on each community it is imperative that affected municipalities express an opinion on this matter.

The draft resolution requests that MDEQ allow flexible, yet enforceable permit requirements that will lead to improved water quality, institute water quality control measures that target the challenges at a given location and re-institute the existing Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiative (SWPPI) process that allowed the MDEQ sufficient oversight and control to assure that all communities are making progress.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Rochester Hills City Council adopts a resolution in support of the Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) comments on the proposed NPDES Wastewater Discharge General Permit, No. MIG61000.

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**RESOLUTION**

**NEXT AGENDA ITEM**

**RETURN TO AGENDA**

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<b>APPROVALS:</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>	<b>DATE</b>
<b>Department Review</b>		
<b>Department Director</b>		
<b>Mayor</b>		
<b>City Council Liaison</b>		