

## ***\$1 Billion Bond Approved to Assist Sewage and Stormwater Projects***

Last month Michigan voters approved Proposal 2, providing for \$1 billion in general obligation bonds for sewage and stormwater projects. The bonds are designed to provide low-interest loans to municipalities strained with the cost of improving infrastructure and separating sanitary and stormwater sewer systems. According to the House Fiscal Agency, the bonds may also be used to finance various treatment works and stormwater projects, in addition to assorted pollution projects.

James Clift, policy director of the Michigan Environmental Council, expressed his support for the proposal. "Michigan over the next five to 10 years will be able to make a substantial improvement in sewer infrastructure to the point beach closings will be much more rare due to combined sewer overflows. We'll have more open beaches, cleaner beaches, and a better quality of life that will attract people to Michigan."

## ***MDEQ Appointments***

The final appointments were announced to complete the MDEQ reorganization by Director Russell Harding in a news release dated November 1, 2002. MDEQ has officially announced the following new Division Chiefs: George Bruchmann will head the Waste and Hazardous Materials Division; Amy Butler has been appointed to head the Environmental Science and Services Division; and G. Vinson Hellwig will head the Air Quality Division. All three appointments were necessitated by the retirement of the previous department leaders.

In other news, Governor John Engler announced that he has appointed MDEQ Director Russell Harding and Office of Great Lakes Director, David Ladd, to the Great Lakes Protection Fund Board of Trustees. This fund was established in 1989 and provides grants for projects that

assist agencies of the Great Lakes region to work with one another to clean up their shared lake resources.

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