



**KALAMAZOO COUNTY
HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

Promoting Health For All

Gillian A. Stoltman, PhD, MPH
Director/Health Officer

Environmental Health

September 14, 2015

Alan Smaka, P.E.
Wightman and Associates
9835 Portage Road
Portage, MI 49002

Re: Proposed Sewer Project

Dear Mr. Landers:

This letter is in response to your request for support of providing municipal sewer to properties surrounding Barton Lake, Sugarloaf Lake, Sunset Lake, and Howard Lake. Our department is in support of municipal sewer serving properties around these lakes. We are in support of this for several reasons. Due to the generally small size of parcels around these lakes it is becoming increasingly difficult to locate replacement water wells and sewage treatment systems. Several items are required to ensure compliance with the Kalamazoo County Sanitary Code. These items include maintaining four feet above signs of a high water table for the sewage treatment system (STS), maintaining 50 feet from an STS to a water well (including maintaining these distances from neighboring parcels), and maintaining 50 feet from an STS to surface water.

Also, the Kalamazoo County Sanitary Code requires a suitable area for new and replacement sewage treatment systems for new construction. Current code also requires that new and replacement sewage treatment systems consist of a septic tank or tanks and a drainfield rather than drywells. Currently a variance is required for drywells to be installed for a replacement sewage treatment system. Drywells are not allowed to service new construction for a parcel. Although not indicative of every lot around these lakes, some of these lots may be too small to meet code requirements for new construction.

Municipal sewer would provide protection of the groundwater in these areas and improve water quality. Protecting groundwater and increasing water quality can help





**KALAMAZOO COUNTY
HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

Promoting Health For All

Gillian A. Stoltman, PhD, MPH
Director/Health Officer

Environmental Health

protect the health of the citizens living in these communities. Municipal sewer would also help protect the most used resource in these areas, namely the lakes.

We are pleased to lend our support of this project and appreciate the opportunity to comment on this issue. If you have any further questions please contact me at (269) 373-5356.

Sincerely,

Vern Johnson, REHS, Environmental Health Director
HEALTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT WEBSITE: www.kalcounty.com
EMAIL: vljohn@kalcounty.com
PHONE: 269-373-5356 FAX: 269-373-5333

