



A Chapter of the American Planning Association

Public Policy Platform Water Resource Management

Michigan has an abundance of fresh water within its lakes, rivers, streams and ground; ensuring that this water remains clean and productive for current and future people is a priority of The Michigan Association of Planning.

GENERAL POLICY

1. Water should be treated as a collective public resource and managed in a sustainable manner.
2. Water should not be consumed to such an extent or be discharged in such a manner so as to:
 - interfere with its reasonable use by others;
 - impair the ability of a water resource to be naturally replenished or create hazardous conditions (e.g., erosion, sedimentation, flooding and subsidence);
 - impair its ecological, recreational or navigational functions.
3. Pollution and other manmade threats to water resources should be minimized.

SPECIFIC POLICIES FOR WATER USE

POLICY 1. State Water Resource/Supply Plans The Michigan Association of Planning supports legislation and funding to establish state comprehensive water resource and supply planning (conducted cooperatively with appropriate state and federal agencies, other states and provinces within the Great Lakes basin, appropriate regional authorities, water utilities, and local governments), based upon watersheds and other natural hydrological boundaries (such as aquifer recharge and discharge areas).

POLICY 2. Water Use Permits: The Michigan Association of Planning supports legislation to establish requirements for state comprehensive surface and ground water use permits issued pursuant to policies and criteria set forth in state comprehensive water resources and supply plans. State (and/or regional) requirements should be made pursuant to a public hearing process that involves all appropriate levels of government and allows public input the decision-making process.

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POLICY 3. Source Water Protection: The Michigan Association of Planning supports legislation requiring land use and health regulations for source water protection in order to protect the existing water quality and capacity of aquifers and surface water resources.

POLICY 4. Water Conservation: -The Michigan Association of Planning supports state legislation requiring water conservation for public, and private users.

POLICY 5. Well Permits/Construction. Use & Abandonment: The Michigan Association of Planning supports state legislation and local policy action initiatives establishing long term standards and permits for construction, operation and abandonment of all wells.

POLICY 6. Appropriate Land Uses & Local Development Standards: The Michigan Association of Planning supports locating appropriate land uses in areas of sensitive water resources, and supports the establishment of local development standards for managing impacts on surface- and ground-water resources. .

POLICY 7. Wastewater Facility Plans: The Michigan Association of Planning supports legislation, and federal funding, for periodic comprehensive updating of Wastewater Facility Plans. Wastewater facility plans should be consistent with local comprehensive plans, as a condition for receipt of state revolving loans or grants. The process for updating facility plans should be coordinated with revisions to community comprehensive plans and the integration of Smart Growth policies to focus new development in those areas served by existing wastewater infrastructure.

POLICY 8. Water Quality & Habitat Preservation: The Michigan Association of Planning supports programs that reduce hydrological alterations, the deterioration of habitat quality, and the deterioration of water quality.

POLICY 10. Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act & Coastal Zone Management Act: The Michigan Association of Planning ~~should~~ supports implementation of and legislation to reauthorize and expand federal funding under the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Acts and the Coastal Zone Management Act.

POLICY 11. Interstate, International and Regional Compacts: The Michigan Association of Planning supports legislation establishing interstate, international and regional compacts to limit drawdowns of shared aquifers and the use of common surface waters and strengthening those that exist.

POLICY 12. Integrated Management of Ground and Surface Water Supplies: The Michigan Association of Planning supports legislation providing opportunities for the integrated management of ground and surface water supplies, and funding for research on strategies for the integrated management, monitoring, and use of surface and groundwater.