STATE OF MICHIGAN

COURT OF CLAIMS

GREAT LAKES WATER AUTHORITY,

Plaintiff,

v

Case No. 24-000019-MZ

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION,

Hon. Sima G. Patel

Defendant.
_____ /

NOTICE OF TRIAL AND PRE-TRIAL ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. **Trial** will begin on **Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** at the Michigan Court of Appeals courtroom located at One Cadillac Place, 3020 W. Grand Blvd., Suite 14-300, Detroit, Michigan. Trial will continue on **October 28, 2026, and October 29, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.** The trial may continue on the additional day of **October 30, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.**, if needed.
2. No later than **October 6, 2026**, the parties must jointly prepare and file with the Court the Final Pretrial Order providing the following:

    a) **Plaintiff's Theory:** Statement of claim or claims, including legal theories.
    b) **Defendant's Theory:** Statement of claim or claims, including legal theories.
    c) **Uncontested Facts:** A stipulation of all uncontested facts (including admissions).
    d) **Contested Facts:** A statement of the contested facts.
    e) **Relevant Law:** A list of the elements for each cause of action (with citation to authority).
    f) **Witnesses:** The names of all witnesses (including experts) intended to be called at trial.
    g) **Depositions:** A list of all depositions to be used at trial.
    h) **Exhibits:** The parties must prepare a list of all exhibits which will be offered into evidence and identify those exhibits, if any, to which any objection will be made (with the specific basis for the objection).
    i) **Damages:** An itemized statement of specific damages.

3. All **Exhibits** will be provided to the Court by **October 16, 2026**, in the manner indicated below:

   a) The parties will meet and confer to prepare and assemble a joint Exhibit Book which contains all exhibits which will be offered at trial.

   b) Each exhibit and each page of each exhibit will be identified; for example: Plaintiff's Exhibit 1, Page 1 of 10; Plaintiff's Exhibit 1, Page 2 of 10, etc.

   c) The parties shall generate and place in the Exhibit Book a joint Exhibit Chart that appears similar to the following:

Plaintiff's Exhibit List					
Exhibit No.	**Description**	**Witness to be Offered Through**	**Date Offered**	**Date Admitted or Rejected**	**Other**
1	Contract between parties	Jane Smith	by stipulation	by stipulation	
2	Expert's Chart of Damages	John Jones	by stipulation	by stipulation	

   d) Section 1 of the Exhibit Book shall be plaintiff's stipulated exhibits; Section 2 of the Exhibit Book shall be defendant's stipulated exhibits; Section 3 of the Exhibit Book shall be plaintiff's contested exhibits; and Section 4 of the Exhibit Book shall be defendant's contested exhibits.

   e) Absent conditions of a truly exceptional nature and not able to have been anticipated before trial, if a party offers an exhibit at trial that is not in an Exhibit Book as described in (d) above, the exhibit shall not be admitted or allowed for any use at trial, including cross-examination and impeachment.

   f) The Exhibit Book shall be prepared in both a physical book as well as a digital version (thumb drive, etc.). The parties shall provide the Court with three copies of the Exhibit Book: one each for the judge, the judge's law clerk, and the Court of Claims Clerk's Office; as well as three digital versions.

4. Fourteen (14) days before trial, parties who intend to present evidence or otherwise utilize courtroom computer technology must consult the Court of Claims' Courtroom Technology team. For contact information, please see: https://www.courts.michigan.gov/4a483b/siteassets/court-of-claims/coc-courtroom-technology.pdf.
5. Any pretrial, non-dispositive motions must be filed no later than **October 13, 2026**. Any responses must be filed no later than **October 20, 2026**. The Court will schedule a hearing if deemed necessary.
6. An adjournment or recess will not be granted because a witness or evidence is not ready or present. Any witness who is not present and ready to testify will be deemed waived.
7. Following a bench trial, the Court may require the parties to submit proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law.

Date: September 16, 2026

Sima G. Patel
Judge, Court of Claims