



**CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL**  
**MARCH 23, 2026**

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Resolution renewing participation in the Southeastern Oakland County Public Works Association Mutual Aid Agreement.

**SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT:** Department of Public Works, Field Operations Division

**KEY HIGHLIGHTS:**

- The Agreement will secure to each participating community the benefits of mutual aid in public works to include personnel and equipment in the event of an emergency, disaster or other serious threat to the public's infrastructure.
- This Public Works Mutual Aid Authority agreement replaces the original one from 1987.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

As a member community of the Southeastern Oakland County Public Works Association (SOCPWA), the City of Novi benefits from the provisions outlined in Public Act 35 of 1951. This Act authorizes intergovernmental contracts between municipalities and authorizes any municipal corporation to contract with any other person or municipality; to furnish lawful municipal service to property outside its limits.

This Act resulted in the formation of a regional mutual aid association, known as the *Public Works Mutual Aid Authority*, consisting of 21 communities in Southeast Michigan with authority and responsibilities relating to the utilization of resources concurrent with disasters common to all communities. Communities include Auburn Hills, Berkley, Birmingham, Bloomfield Township, Clawson, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Madison Heights, Oak Park, Orchard Lake, Pleasant Ridge, Rochester, Rochester Hills, Royal Oak, and Southfield.

Each SOCPWA member agency has entered into the same agreement, all agreeing to send available resources to assist a stricken community. The benefits of SOCPWA include improving disaster response capabilities, reducing the impact of disasters, strengthening interstate mobilization, and bringing public works stakeholders together.

This Public Works Mutual Aid Authority agreement replaces the original one from 1987. This agreement term is for five years with a one-year renewal. As with other

agreements, the City of Novi will need a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into the SOCPWA Agreement. The City as a party to the Agreement would have the option to request mutual aid from the other parties to the Agreement in an emergency. The City may, but is not required to, respond to requests for mutual aid from the other parties. There is no obligation to respond and provide services. Responses for the first 48 hours are at no cost to the requesting party, other than potentially fuel costs. After 48 hours, the responding party may receive reimbursement for equipment and labor expenses. Each party is responsible for its own liability. The City Attorney has reviewed the agreement and finds there is no legal impediment to entering this agreement (Beth Saarela, March 12, 2026).

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approval of Resolution renewing participation in the Southeastern Oakland County Public Works Association Mutual Aid Agreement, an intergovernmental agreement providing public works mutual aid assistance among other signatories.

CITY OF NOVI

COUNTY OF OAKLAND, MICHIGAN

**RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO THE SOUTHEASTERN OAKLAND COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION PUBLIC WORKS MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT FOR THE SHARING OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT DURING EMERGENCIES**

Minutes of a Meeting of the City Council of the City of Novi, County of Oakland, Michigan, held in the City Hall of said City on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_ o'clock P.M. Prevailing Eastern Time.

PRESENT: Councilmembers \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: Councilmembers \_\_\_\_\_

The following preamble and Resolution were offered by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_

**WHEREAS;** the Southeastern Oakland County Public Works Association (SOCPWA) has established a regional Public Works Mutual Aid Authority to provide assistance among member communities during emergency situations; and

**WHEREAS;** pursuant to Michigan Public Act 35 of 1951, municipalities are authorized to enter into intergovernmental agreements for the joint exercise of powers and to provide municipal services; and

**WHEREAS;** the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement allows participating communities to request and provide assistance in the form of personnel, equipment, and materials during emergencies or disasters that exceed the capacity of a single community; and

**WHEREAS;** participation in this cooperative mutual aid system will enhance the ability of the City of Novi to respond to emergencies and protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residents; and

**WHEREAS;** the governing body of the City of Novi has reviewed the proposed agreement and finds it to be in the best interest of the municipality and its residents.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the City of Novi hereby approves participation in the Public Works Mutual Aid Authority Agreement administered through the Southeastern Oakland County Public Works Association.

**AYES:**

**NAYS:**

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Novi, County of Oakland, and State of Michigan, at a regular meeting held this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026, and that public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting have been kept and made available to the public as required by said Act.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cortney Hanson, City Clerk  
City of Novi

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ROSATI | SCHULTZ  
JOPPICH | AMTSBUECHLER

March 12, 2026

Matt Wiktorowski, Senior Manager  
Field Operations Division  
City of Novi  
Field Services Complex  
26300 Lee BeGole Drive  
Novi, MI 48375

**Re: Joint and Cooperative Agreement for Use of Personnel and Equipment During Emergencies - Southeastern Oakland County Public Works Association Public Works Mutual Aid Authority**

Dear Mr. Wiktorowski:

We have received and reviewed the proposed Joint and Cooperative Agreement for Use of Personnel and Equipment During Emergencies drafted by the Southeastern Oakland County Public Works Association Public Works Mutual Aid Authority. The City must approve the Agreement to receive and provide public works mutual aid services from the members of the Authority. The Agreement is a standard Mutual Aid Agreement. The City as a party to the Agreement would have the option to request mutual aid from the other parties to the Agreement in an emergency. The City may, but is not required to, respond to requests for mutual aid from the other parties. There is no obligation to respond and provide services. Responses for the first 48 hours are at no cost to the requesting party, other than potentially fuel costs. After 48 hours, the responding party may receive reimbursement for equipment and labor expenses. Each party is responsible for its own liability. The initial term of the Agreement is five years with a one year renewal. Parties may terminate their participation in the Agreement with 30-days notice to the Authority. We see no legal impediment to entering into the Agreement.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns in regard to this matter.

Very truly yours,

ROSATI SCHULTZ JOPPICH  
& AMTSBUECHLER PC

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Kudla Saarela', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Elizabeth Kudla Saarela

EKS

Enclosure

C: Cortney Hanson, Clerk (w/Enclosure)  
Jeffrey Herczeg, Public Services Director (w/Enclosure)  
Ben Croy, City Engineer (w/Enclosure)  
Thomas R. Schultz, Esquire (w/Enclosure)

JOINT AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT  
FOR USE OF  
PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT DURING EMERGENCIES

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SOUTHEASTERN OAKLAND COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION  
PUBLIC WORKS MUTUAL AID AUTHORITY

I. PURPOSE

The member communities of the Southeastern Oakland County Public Works Association (SOCPWA) recognize that they have authority pursuant to the provisions of Public Act 35 of 1951, an Act to authorize intergovernmental contracts between municipal corporations and to authorize any municipal corporation to contract with any other person or any other municipal corporation; to furnish any lawful municipal service to property outside the corporate limits of the first municipal corporation for consideration. The result establishes a regional mutual aid association, to be known as the Public Works Mutual Aid Authority, representative of the various communities with authority and responsibilities relating to utilization of resources to counteract natural and man-made disasters common to all communities, together with the power and authority to implement such services as set forth herein.

II. DEFINITION OF TERMS

For purposes of this Agreement, the terms defined in this section shall have the meanings given them.

1. *Party* means a governmental unit which is a party to this Agreement.
2. *Eligible party* means a governmental or corporation unit which is entitled to become a party to this Agreement, at its own option.
3. *Requesting party* means a party which requests assistance from other parties.
4. *Responding party* means a party which provides assistance to a requesting party.
5. *Assistance* includes personnel, materials and equipment.
6. *Requesting official* means the person who has been designated by the requesting party to request assistance from other parties.
7. *Responding official* means the person who has been designated by a party to determine whether and to what extent that party should provide assistance to a requesting party.
8. *Emergency* means a sudden and unforeseen situation requiring immediate action beyond the requesting party's capability.
9. *Authority Secretary* means the secretary of the Public Works Mutual Aid Authority.

10. *Public Works Mutual Aid Authority* means the organization formed by the Southeastern Oakland County Public Works Association to meet emergency situations within the boundaries of its member communities.

### III. PARTIES

1. The parties to this Agreement shall consist of members of the Southeastern Oakland County Public Works Association and shall be known as the Public Works Mutual Aid Authority. Upon the adoption of a resolution by its governing body, an executed copy of this Agreement shall be forwarded by the member party together with a certified copy of the resolution authorizing the Agreement.
2. The Authority Secretary shall maintain a current list of the parties to this Agreement. Whenever there is a change of the parties to this Agreement, the Authority Secretary shall notify the designated responding official of each of the parties of such change.

### IV. PROCEDURE

1. Each party shall designate and keep on file with the Authority Secretary the name of the person of that party who shall be its requesting official and responding official. A party may designate alternate officials to act in the absence of the primary official.
2. Whenever, in the opinion of a requesting official of a party, there is a need for assistance from other parties to assist the requesting party, such requesting official may, at his or her discretion, call upon the responding official of any other party to furnish assistance to and within the boundaries of the requesting party. It is the intention of the parties to this Agreement to cooperate in the event of an emergency by making available to a requesting party necessary or requested personnel, materials, and equipment without undue delay.
3. Upon the receipt of a request for assistance from a party, the responding official for any other party may authorize and direct the personnel of the responding party to provide assistance to the requesting party. Whether the responding party shall provide such assistance to the requesting party, and, if so, to what extent such assistance shall be provided, shall be determined solely by the responding official subject to such supervision and direction as may be applicable for him or her within the governmental structure of the party by which he or she is employed. Failure to provide assistance will not result in liability to any party.
4. When a responding party provides assistance under the terms of this Agreement, it may in turn request assistance from other parties as "back-up" during the time that it is providing assistance outside its boundaries.
5. Whenever a responding party has provided assistance to a requesting party, the responding official may at any time recall such assistance or any part thereof to

the responding party, if the responding official in his best judgment deems this is in the best interest of his own agency.

6. When a responding party supplies equipment and personnel to a requesting party, said equipment and personnel shall remain under the direction and control of the responding party; shall be paid by the responding party; shall be protected by the Worker's Compensation of the responding party; and shall otherwise be deemed to be performing their regular duties for the responding party. However, the responding party shall undertake to coordinate with the requesting party the assistance which it provides. The requesting party shall provide all routine fueling and servicing of respondents' equipment and materials, and shall assume all costs thereof during the assistance period.
7. A responding party shall be responsible for its own personnel, equipment, and materials and for injuries or death to any personnel, or damage to any such equipment or materials, except that unused equipment and materials provided by the responding party shall be returned to the responding party by the requesting party when circumstances permit this to be done.
8. The requesting and responding parties may review any equipment repaired to determine if such repair was directly related to the emergency operation. If mutually agreed that repairs are required, they shall be the responsibility of the requesting party. Any disagreement which cannot be resolved by the responding and requesting parties shall be resolved by a committee established from the Public Works Mutual Aid Authority. Materials and supplies used by the responding party at the request or direction of the requesting party shall be reimbursed by the requesting party to the responding party.
9. An emergency response by a responding party, which is provided on a "gratis" basis, shall be limited to a maximum of forty-eight (48) hours duration. After such time, the responding party shall be reimbursed for labor and equipment by the requesting party. During this period of time, the requesting party shall actively seek to engage outside contractors to conduct the work being done by the responding party so as to expedite the return of the responding party to its home community.
10. The responding party shall maintain such records of the cost of labor, equipment and materials provided; and hours of work or operation as deemed necessary for recovery of costs in the event the incident becomes eligible for Federal or State Disaster Assistance. If declared eligible, these costs shall then be reimbursed by the requesting party in full or in a prorata share of assistance provided.
11. The requesting party shall not be responsible for any injuries, losses, or damages to persons or property arising out of the acts of any of the personnel of a responding party. Nor shall the responding party be responsible for injuries, losses or damages arising out of the acts of any of the personnel of the requesting party or the personnel of any other responding party.

12. Technical service and assistance of non-emergency nature may be requested and/or provided by the parties to this Agreement.

#### V. INSURANCE

Each party to this Agreement shall maintain appropriate insurance policies covering personal and public liability. Said policies shall cover damage or injury caused by negligent operation of its vehicles while operating under the terms of this Agreement outside of its corporate limits or contract areas.

#### VI. RESPONSIBILITY PROVISION

Each party agrees that it shall be responsible for any and all claims, costs, actions, causes of action, losses or expenses – including attorney fees, resulting from or caused by its acts or omissions, the acts or omissions of its employees, officers, or officials, pursuant to this Agreement.

Each party shall be responsible for any claims made against that party and for the acts of its respective officers, officials and employees. For any claims that may arise from the performance of this Agreement, each party shall seek its own legal representation and bear the costs associated with such representation including any attorney fees. Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, none of the parties shall have any right under any legal principle to be indemnified by either of the other parties or any of the other parties' respective officers, officials, or employees in connection with any claim. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "claims" shall mean and include any alleged losses, claims, complaints, demands for relief or damages, suits, causes of action, proceedings, judgments, deficiencies, liability, penalties, litigation, costs and/or expenses of any kind which are imposed upon, incurred by, or asserted against a party.

Nothing in this Agreement is intended, nor shall it operate, to diminish, delegate, divest, impair, or contravene any constitutional, statutory, and/or other legal right, privilege, power, obligation, duty, capacity, immunity or character of office including, but not limited to, governmental immunity on behalf of the parties to this Agreement or any of their respective employees, appointees, officials or agents.

#### VII. COMPLETE AGREEMENT

The parties agree that the conditions set forth in this Agreement sets forth all terms and conditions of this Agreement. This Agreement supersedes all prior agreements or understandings between the parties. There are no promises, conditions, or understandings other than those stated herein, and, that any prior negotiations, terms or conditions discussed shall not constitute a part of this Agreement. The term "agreement" as used in this clause shall include any future written amendments, modifications, or supplements made in accordance herewith.

#### VIII. APPROVALS

All of the parties have taken all actions and secured all approvals necessary to authorize and complete this Agreement. The person signing this agreement on

behalf of each municipality have legal authority to sign this Agreement and bind the parties to the terms and conditions contained herein.

#### IX. WITHDRAWAL, TERM, AND TERMINATION

This Agreement shall be for an Initial Term of five (5) years, from \_\_\_\_\_, 2025 through \_\_\_\_\_, 2030. If this Agreement is not terminated as provided below, it shall automatically renew annually for a Renewal Term of one (1) year, subject to the terms and conditions below. The Renewal Terms possible under this Section are not limited. Any party may withdraw from the Association at any time upon thirty (30) days written notice to the Authority. The Authority Secretary shall thereupon give notice of such withdrawal, and of the effective date thereof, to all other parties, as hereinbefore provided.

#### X. NO THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARIES.

This Agreement is not intended to, and does not, create any special or other duty, obligation, promise, benefit or right to services not herein described in favor or for the benefit of any person, entity, or organization that is not a named party to this Agreement. The parties will not authorize third party use of the system without prior approval of those entering into this Agreement.

#### XI. ASSIGNMENTS.

The rights, duties and obligations under this Agreement are not assignable and may not be delegated by any party, except with the written approval of the other parties to this Agreement.

#### XII. NOTICES.

Notices under this Agreement shall be directed to current designated the Requesting/Responding Official identified on file with the Secretary.

#### XIII. AMENDMENTS.

Amendments of this Agreement shall be in writing, approved by resolution of the councils and boards of the parties, and be signed by authorized representatives of the parties.

#### XIV. SEVERABILITY.

If a court of competent jurisdiction finds a term, or condition, of this Agreement to be illegal or invalid, then the term, or condition, shall be deemed severed from this Agreement. All other terms, conditions, and provisions of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

#### XV. APPLICABLE LAW.

This Agreement is made and entered into in the State of Michigan and shall in all respects be interpreted, enforced and governed under the laws of the State of Michigan. The language of all parts of this Agreement is intended to and, in all cases, shall be construed as a whole, according to its fair meaning, and not construed strictly for or against any party. As used in this Agreement, the singular or plural number, possessive

or non-possessive, shall be deemed to include the other whenever the context so suggests or requires.

XVI. NO WAIVER.

Absent an express written waiver, the failure of a party to pursue any right granted under this Agreement shall not be deemed a waiver of that right regarding any existing or subsequent breach or default under this Agreement. No failure or delay on the part of a party in exercising any right, power or privilege hereunder shall operate as a waiver thereof, nor shall a single or partial exercise of any right, power or privilege preclude any other or further exercise of any other right, power or privilege.

XVII. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS.

Each party shall comply with all federal, state, and local statutes, ordinances, regulations, administrative rules, and requirements applicable to its activities performed under this Agreement.

XVIII. FILING.

As provided in MCL 124.510, this Agreement and any amendments of it shall be filed with the Oakland County Clerk and Michigan Secretary of State before taking effect.

XIX. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Agreement shall become effective on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, on behalf of their governmental unit, have executed this Agreement pursuant to authorization by the City/Township of \_\_\_\_\_, MICHIGAN on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

City/Township of \_\_\_\_\_

WITNESS: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Elected Official

WITNESS: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SOUTHEASTERN OAKLAND COUNTY  
PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

WITNESS: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
OF THE  
SOUTHEASTERN OAKLAND COUNTY  
PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION'S  
PUBLIC WORKS MUTUAL AID AUTHORITY

ARTICLE I

Name and Purpose

Section I: This organization shall be known as the "Public Works Mutual Aid Authority".

Section II: The purpose of membership in this association shall be to assist member communities in emergency situations, to exchange ideas, equipment, and methods of dealing with emergencies, and to protect the lives and property within member communities in the case of any emergency or disaster.

ARTICLE II

Membership

Section I: Membership in this authority shall refer to public works departments, or its equivalent department.

Section II: Any public works department or organization holding membership in the Southeastern Oakland County Public Works Association, and that can be of reciprocal service to other members of said organizations evidenced by its maintenance of a level of equipment and labor sufficient to meet the ordinary and routine operations and services within its community, and are from an incorporated Village or City, a Township, or an authority created by such bodies, and is approved by a simple majority of the membership, shall be eligible for membership in this authority.

Section III: The following shall be known as members of this authority as of June 12, 2025:

Auburn Hills	Berkley	Birmingham	Bloomfield Township
Clawson	City of Farmington	Farmington Hills	Ferndale
Hazel Park	Huntington Woods	Lathrup Village	Madison Heights
Novi	Oak Park	Orchard Lake Village	Pleasant Ridge
Rochester	Rochester Hills	Royal Oak	Southfield
SOCRRA	SOCWA	Village of Franklin	

ARTICLE III

Dues

Section I: Each member shall pay an annual membership fee of \$10.00 per year, which shall be due and payable on January 31 of each year.

ARTICLE IV

Officers

Section I: The officers of the Authority shall be Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and a Secretary-Treasurer, and shall constitute the Executive Committee.

## ARTICLE IV

### Officers

Section I: The officers of the Southeastern Oakland County Public Works Association shall be Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and a Secretary-Treasurer, and shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Public Works Mutual Aid Authority.

Section II: The Chairperson shall have the following duties: To call all regular and special meetings; to preside and preserve order at all meetings; to appoint committees; to see that subordinate officers execute the obligations and duties of their respective offices to the best of their ability.

Section III: The Vice-Chairperson shall have the following duties: To assist the Chairperson in the discharge of his or her regular duties, and in the event of the absence of the Chairperson, to assume the duties of Chairperson.

Section IV: The Secretary-Treasurer shall have the following duties: To call the roll; to keep a record of all proceedings of the Authority; to collect all dues and other monies due the Authority; to pay out said monies on the order of the Authority; and to send notices of all regular and special meetings of the Authority. The Secretary-Treasurer shall make an itemized report of all income and expenses to be presented at the first regular meeting of each year. In addition, the Secretary-Treasurer shall maintain a current list of all members in the Authority.

## ARTICLE V

### Meetings

Section I: The regular meeting of the Authority shall be held in January of each year. The time and location shall be determined by the executive committee.

Section II: Special meetings shall be called by the Chairperson with at least seven (7) days written notice to the membership.

Section III: A simple majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

Section IV: The Roberts Rules of Order shall govern.

Section V: Each member shall have one (1) vote.

## ARTICLE VI

### Elections

Section I: The election of officers shall be held at the regular meeting of each year. This election shall be by secret ballot, or by open ballot, at the selection of the membership.

Section II: The officers of the Authority shall be elected for a term of two (2) years.

Section III: In the event of a vacancy occurring in the office of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall succeed to that office. The Chairperson shall appoint replacement officers for all vacancies.

ARTICLE VII  
Committees

Section I: The Authority shall have the following annual committee: Executive. Other committees may be formed to serve in an ad-hoc capacity, at the discretion of the executive committee.

Section II: Any committee shall have the authority to request assistance from any members of the Authority.

Section III: It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to handle all matters that pertain to state legislation on matters of importance to the Authority.

ARTICLE VIII  
Amendment and Dissolution

Section I: No amendment shall be made to these By-Laws unless proposed at the regular meeting in writing.

Section II: An amendment requires a two-thirds majority vote of the entire membership for acceptance.

Section III: This Authority may be disbanded by a three-fourths vote of the entire membership of the Authority, and a published or served notice shall be given to all members for that purpose at least one month before such a vote shall be taken.

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