



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.