

*Letter to Riparians, City of Portage and Kalamazoo County*

\_\_\_\_\_, 2017

TO: \_\_\_\_\_

RE: **Austin Lake Aeration/Bioaugmentation Special Assessment Roll**

Dear Property Owner:

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Austin Lake Governmental Lake Board ("ALGLB"), has determined that your property benefits from the Aeration/Bioaugmentation project for reducing muck and odor in the South Bay of Austin Lake. The ALGLB has designated a Special Assessment District against which all or part of the cost of said improvement is to be assessed as consisting of all of the following described land, to wit: All parcels with shoreline (riparians) on Austin Lake, the City of Portage (at large) and the County of Kalamazoo (at large).

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that a Special Assessment Roll has been prepared and is on file in the offices of both the Portage City Clerk and the Kalamazoo County Clerk for public examination during regular working hours on regular working days; and said Special Assessment Roll has been prepared for the purpose of defraying that part of the cost which the ALGLB has decided should be paid and borne by the Special Assessment District for the above described public improvement project located in the City of Portage. ***The following is a summary of the apportionments proposed:*** The assessment is for three years, beginning in 2017. The City of Portage (at-large) will be assessed \$9000 annually and the County of Kalamazoo (at-large) will be assessed \$4000 annually. The riparian parcel owners on Austin Lake will be assessed \$102 annually.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the City of Portage Treasurer is authorized to bill and collect each assessment annually. A penalty interest rate of not more than 1% per month shall be added to those special assessments not paid when due.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the ALGLB will meet on the 16th day of August, 2017, at 7 p.m., local time, or as soon thereafter as may be heard, at Portage City Hall Council Chambers, 7900 S. Westnedge Avenue, Portage, MI 49002 for the purpose of reviewing the Special Assessment Roll, at which time and place an opportunity will be given to all persons interested to be heard.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the owner or any person having an interest in property that is specially assessed may file a written appeal with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 30 days after confirmation of the special assessment roll. However, appearance and protest at the public hearing are required in order to appeal the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. Any person or local unit of government objecting to the assessment roll shall file his or her objection in writing with the chairperson before the close of the hearing. The ALGLB shall maintain a record of parties who appear to protest at the hearing. If the hearing is terminated or adjourned for the day before a party is provided the opportunity to be heard, a party whose appearance was recorded shall be considered to have protested the special assessment in person.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the Austin Lake Governmental Lake Board will provide necessary and reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the meeting referred to above upon three (3) days notice given to James Hudson, the Portage City Clerk.

Dated: July 18, 2017

Brian Johnson,  
Chairman, ALGLB