

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION

In re Flint Water Cases.

Judith E. Levy
United States District Judge

_____/

This Order Relates To:

ALL CASES

_____ /

**OPINION AND ORDER GRANTING FINAL APPROVAL OF A
PARTIAL SETTLEMENT, GRANTING CERTIFICATION OF A
SETTLEMENT CLASS, GRANTING APPOINTMENT OF
SETTLEMENT CLASS COUNSEL [1794], DENYING
OBJECTIONS, AND ADOPTING THE REPORT AND
RECOMMENDATION [2006]**

Before the Court is a motion for final approval of a partial settlement that provides compensation to tens of thousands of people who were impacted by exposure to lead, *legionella*, and other contaminants from the City of Flint's municipal water supply system during the events now known as the Flint Water Crisis. The settlement resolves thousands of claims pending in this Court, the Genesee County Circuit Court, and the State of Michigan Court of Claims. The settlement involves both class action and non-class action lawsuits. The portion of the \$626.25 million

settlement to be paid by the State of Michigan is one of the largest settlements in the State's history.¹

The settlement reached here is a remarkable achievement for many reasons, not the least of which is that it sets forth a comprehensive compensation program and timeline that is consistent for *every* qualifying participant, regardless of whether they are members of a class or are non-class individuals represented by their own counsel. For the reasons set forth below, the objections to the settlement are denied, and final approval of the settlement is granted. Plaintiffs' motion for attorney fees will be addressed in a separate opinion and order.

¹ See, e.g., Michigan S. Fiscal Agency, *FY 2018-19 Status of Lawsuits Involving the State of Michigan*, 4 (July 2020), https://www.senate.michigan.gov/sfa/publications/lawsuit/lawsuit_mostrecent.pdf [<https://perma.cc/W3ZQ-X7RK>] (showing, at Table 3, that the maximum settlement amount for all combined lawsuits against the State over a ten-year period did not exceed \$76,308,820).

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