

**Rouge River Advisory Council (RRAC)**  
**Conflict of Interest Policy**

**Purpose:** The Rouge River Advisory Council (RRAC), a Remedial Action Plan Public Advisory Council, receives its authorization and sanction from the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA), as amended, and the Rouge River Basin Strategy that was adopted by the State Water Resources Commission on October 1, 1985. The mission of the RRAC is to assist in the attainment of the goals of the RAP by enhancing public awareness and education concerning RAP issues, providing a mechanism for the participation of all interested parties, seeking broad-based support for the RAP update, assisting in implementation of the RAP, and independently evaluating progress toward the goal of restoring designated uses and delisting the Rouge River watershed as an AOC. Voting Membership on the RRAC brings with it the trust and confidence of the RRAC members, the Alliance of Rouge Communities (fiduciary) and the general public that the voting members of the RRAC conduct themselves in the highest ethical standards of conduct in carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the RRAC. To that end, the RRAC sets this policy to guide the RRAC voting members and assure the RRAC members and the public that each of the RRAC voting members will conduct themselves with the highest degree of ethical standards that voting membership on the RRAC brings with it.

This “Conflict of Interest” policy applies to all current voting members and officers. It is expected that all persons subject to this policy will conduct themselves under strict rules of honesty and fair dealing between themselves and RRAC. Such persons shall not use their positions or knowledge gained for their private benefit, nor to obtain an unfair advantage over any aspect of their dealings with this organization. RRAC voting members and officers are asked to maintain independence, objectivity, and confidentiality.

It is recognized that RRAC depends upon volunteers to serve on its council. Because of the varied interests and backgrounds of members who are active in the community in their private and public lives, situations may result that could create, or which might be construed to create, a conflict of interest. Thus, conflicts of interests are natural and sometimes inevitable.

In general, a conflict of interest will be presumed when the voting member or officer, or someone with whom he or she has a close relationship (a family member or member of the household) serves as a trustee, director, officer, or substantial stockholder of an affected organization or firm; has a formal affiliation or interest in an affected organization or firm; or could expect financial gain or loss from a particular decision.

On an annual basis, each voting member shall complete the RRAC *Annual Conflict of Interest Statement*. Uncertainties regarding potential conflicts shall be resolved in favor of disclosure.

Whenever a voting member identifies or suspects that a conflict of interest may exist with a matter being considered, the individual shall inform the Chair and/or Committee of such conflict of interest. Based on the conflict, a determination on the individual's participation in the discussion will be agreed upon by the Chair and/or Committee. The individual will refrain from any voting on the specific matter in which he or she has a conflict of interest. The minutes of the meeting should reflect that a disclosure was made and that abstention from voting was made by the member having such a conflict.

Rouge River Advisory Council

Annual Conflict of Interest Statement

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

AFFIRMATION: I have read and understand the provisions of the Rouge River Advisory Council (RRAC) **Conflict of Interest Policy**. I recognize the need to maintain the confidentiality of information I might receive as a voting member regarding activities of the RRAC and hereby affirm that the following affiliations may represent a potential conflict of interest:

Business and professional affiliations in which I or an immediate family member hold as an owner, officer, board member, partner, employee or other beneficiary position at some point:

BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	POSITION HELD/BY WHOM

*Other activities or affiliations that may produce a possible conflict of interest:*

BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	POSITION HELD/BY WHOM

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_