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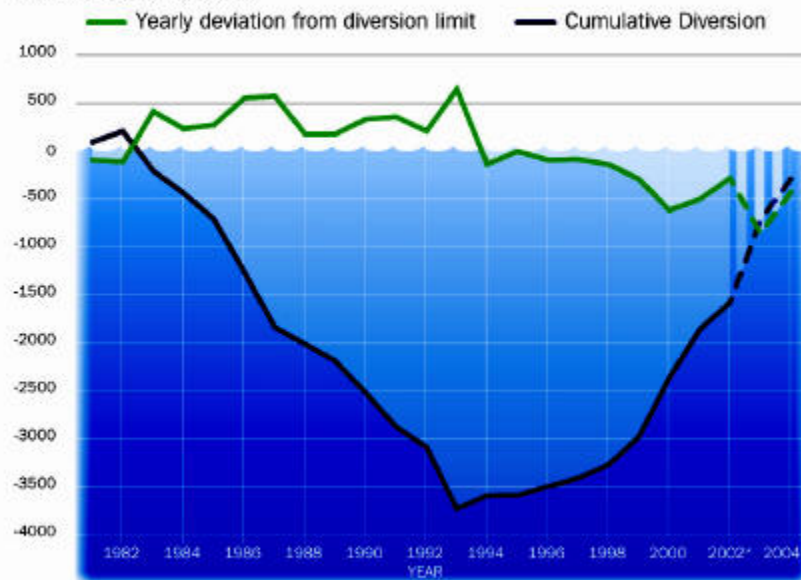
Press Contact: Tom Garritano (312-386-8609 or tgarritano@cmap.illinois.gov)

Eleven counties in northern Illinois prepare regional response to statewide water-supply study

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning will coordinate the 11-county planning area's efforts to anticipate and address potential water shortages

CHICAGO, November 16, 2006 -- The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) has been commissioned by the State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to facilitate water-supply planning for an 11-county area of northern Illinois. CMAP will host an open forum on November 17 in Oak Brook to launch this three-year regional initiative, meant to anticipate and address potential water shortages in Boone, Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties.

Status of Illinois' Lake Michigan Diversion
in cubic feet per second



*Note: Years 2002 through 2004 are estimates
Source: Illinois Department of Natural Resources (Office of Water Resources), January 2006

The forum in Oak Brook represents a critical first step toward creating a new Regional Water Supply Planning Group (RWSPG), which will be charged with making recommendations on water-resource policies and plans. The forum is described at

www.cmap.illinois.gov/watersupply/default.aspx, which includes a form to nominate potential members of the RWSPG.

Lake Michigan is one of the world's largest fresh-water resources, but population forecasts indicate parts of the region may suffer water deficits in coming years. The northern Illinois study will focus on the planning area's deep bedrock aquifer and the Fox River Basin's shallow bedrock aquifer. (An aquifer is a body of geologic material that can supply useful quantities of groundwater to natural springs and water wells.)

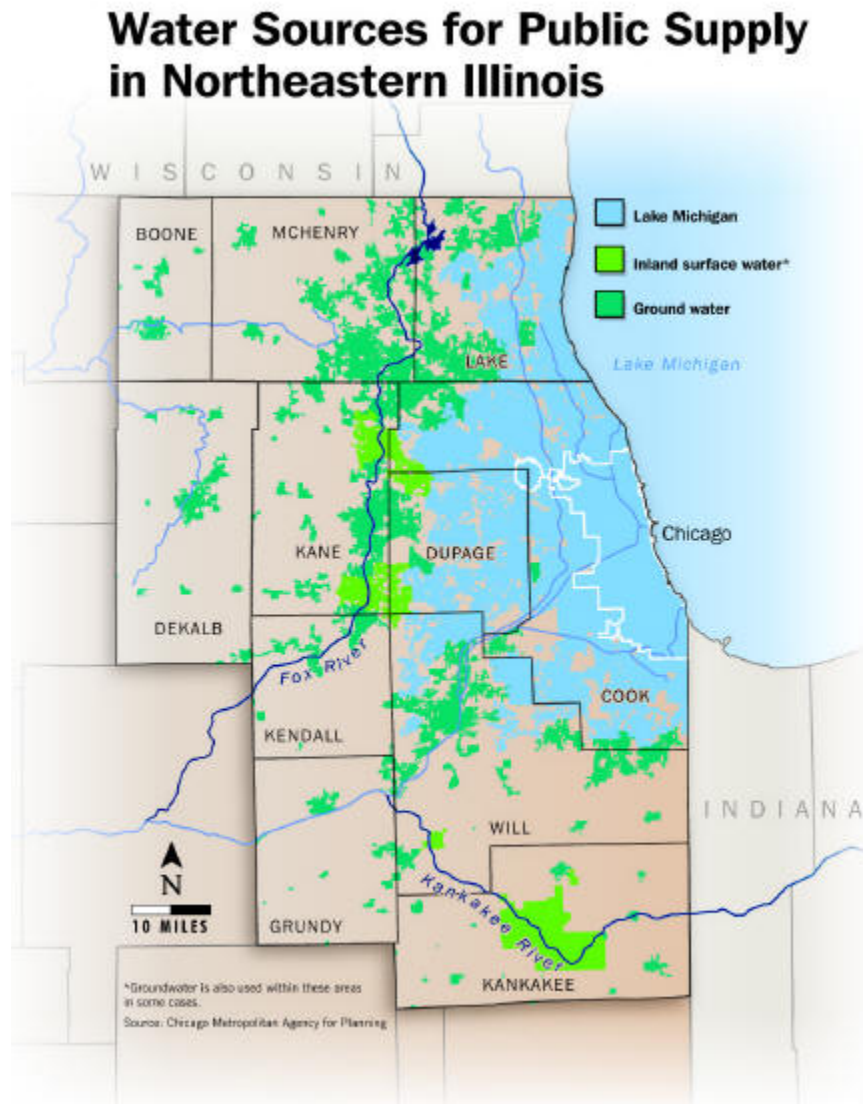
The three-year regional effort will be funded by IDNR at \$1.4 million. This is one of two initial priority areas

selected by the State of Illinois in response to Governor Blagojevich's Executive Order 2006-1, calling for a statewide study of water-supply issues. The other area is the Mahomet Aquifer of east-central Illinois.

"Our region's economy and well-being depend on the availability of water," said Randy Blankenhorn, CMAP executive director. "Yet decisions about how, when and where land gets developed often don't give full consideration to long-term water supplies. And often as a region, we haven't given our communities the water data to make well-informed choices. As part of the broader statewide initiative, CMAP is excited to help coordinate this regional planning effort."

RWSPG members will be picked in December 2006 by caucuses that represent each of the following stakeholder groups:

1. Municipalities and Municipal Water Suppliers
2. Counties



3. Agriculture
4. Business, Industry, and Power
5. Conservation and Resource Management
6. Environmental Advocacy
7. Academia and Public Interest in Regional Planning
8. Real Estate
and
Development
9. Wastewater
Treatment and
Non-municipal
Water Suppliers

"Lessons learned from the two pilot studies will lead to effective planning processes in other regions of Illinois," said Karen McConnaughay, Kane County Board chairperson, who will also chair the RWSPG. "It's vitally important that our region and the

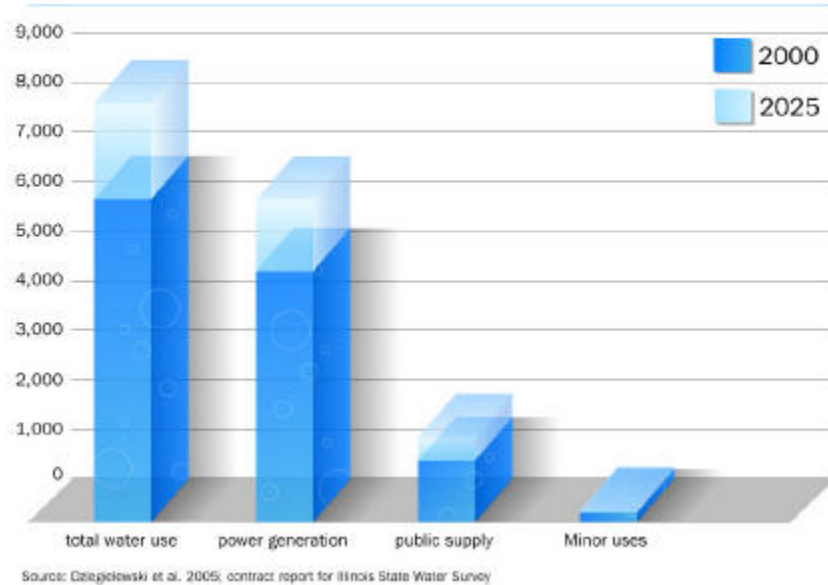
state establish a framework for planning and cooperation now, before water supplies reach a potential crisis stage. With its rapid growth, Kane County has already been aggressively studying these issues, and I look forward to this regional effort to improve communication, coordination, and decision making."

In addition to facilitating creation of the RWSPG, CMAP will develop water-demand forecasts for the Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) and work with the RWSPG to craft a plan that includes implementation strategies. The ISWS will match water-demand forecasts with data on water supply to develop water-availability scenarios projected to the year 2050. Other partners in the regional effort include county planning departments, the Metropolitan Planning Council, and the Openlands Project.

CMAP and the RWSPG will submit the resulting water-supply plan to the State of Illinois for approval. Over the next three years, the State of Illinois is expected to define a comprehensive program for state and regional water-supply planning, including development of standards for regional plans and guidance for regional planning processes.

Projections for Water Use by Sector

11-County Northeastern Illinois Region, in millions of gallons per day



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Event details:

Open Forum on Water-Supply Planning in Northeastern Illinois

Friday, November 17, 2006

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Hamburger University

McDonald's Corporate Campus

2715 Jorie Blvd.

Oak Brook, IL 60523