

## Nestle Bottled Water Sources

White Pine Springs  
Proposed Increase from 250 to  
400 GPM

Evert Springs

Sanctuary Springs

Stanwood Bottling Plant  
4.8M average bottles packaged daily

# Citizens Fight Back to Protect Public Water

A History and Update  
of FLOW's Work to Stop  
Nestlé's Water Grab

## A CRITICAL PRIORITY

Our mission is to empower citizens and communities with public trust strategies to protect the Great Lakes forever. Nestlé's water grab is nationally significant, threatening public ownership of common waters like the Great Lakes, in addition to harming wetlands and streams.

## HISTORY

In 2009, Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation (MCWC) ended a 10-year battle with Nestlé/Ice Mountain, reducing the amount of water pumped so that nearby Mecosta County wetlands and streams would not be harmed. Nestlé had tried to play down the harm groundwater over-pumping causes to adjacent surface waters, wetlands, fish, and aquatic life. FLOW's founder and president, Jim Olson, represented MCWC as the lead litigator in this battle to safeguard our waters from privatization. These water protectors convinced the court that impacts of the original Nestlé request were far worse than the company admitted. Now, Nestlé is trying the same gambit.



**\$1680 PER YEAR**

The average cost paid by Flint Citizens for municipal water each year in their homes.



**\$200 PER YEAR**

The cost that Nestlé paid in 2016 for 210 million gallons of Michigan municipal water to bottle and sell for a tremendous profit.

Since 2001, Swiss-owned Nestlé has removed more than **4 billion** gallons of groundwater from its three Michigan wells in the



Muskegon River watershed for a paltry **\$200 annual** fee per well, according to MDEQ statistics.

Nestlé has now revived plans to more than double its pumping from 150 gallons per minute (gpm) to 400 gpm or 576,000 gallons per day (gpd) in Osceola County just north of Evart, Michigan (Production Well PWB101). When Nestlé applied for this pumping increase using the state's computer water withdrawal assessment tool, it failed. Nestlé then requested and obtained a site-specific review by DEQ staff, but the results of this review are deeply flawed.

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## PRIVATIZATION

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Nestlé continues to chip away at public ownership of Great Lakes waters. By authorizing Nestlé to take even more of the public's water for private profit, the state will further erode its job to be a trustee of water and other public trust resources. The state should impose a moratorium on all new or increased withdrawals of water for private sale.

Michigan also should take the initiative by invoking the Great Lakes Compact to treat proposals like Nestlé's to ship containerized water out of the basin as a diversion and require government authorization of any such export in advance.

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### FLOW HAS REVIEWED NESTLÉ'S FLAWED ANALYSIS AND CONCLUDED THAT THE LAW REQUIRES MDEQ TO REJECT THE APPLICATION BECAUSE IT:

- **Fails to fully evaluate existing conditions.** Data collected between 2001 and the onset of pumping in 2009 were not evaluated, nor were the seven years of data gathered since pumping at 150 gpm began. The data provided are insufficient to fully assess the impacts
- **Lacks adequate information about the predicted effects of their requested pumping.** The validity of groundwater model predictions of pre-pumping conditions is not adequately established, nor are predictions of effects of existing pumping within the system adequately established.
- **Neglects to consider, or provide a reasonable basis to determine, individual and cumulative harm from pumping.** The application does not address cumulative effects of pumping at the proposed 400 gpm, but rather solely discusses effects of the increase in pumping from 150 to 400 gpm.

Because of these gaps, the application skirts potentially significant environmental harm to local wetlands and streams. If the application is approved, Nestlé would be granted permission to bottle and sell 210 million gallons of Michigan public water, generating over \$1.6 Billion in revenue.

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