## Rouge cleanup tab 'staggering' to Oakland

um in Pontiae.
Few doubt the river should be cleaned of industrial wastes. Nor did they doubt that combined sewers should be separated into sanitary sewers and storm so that the over-flow in rainy seasons wouldn't dump untreated human wastes into the slow-flowing stream.
What they questioned was the ability of anyone to convince the public that heavy taxes and/or water rate.

"I HAVEN'T had anybody tell me they're concerned," said Lawrence Pernick, D-Southfield. "There are closs of lakes for fishing, And the Rouge isn't a source of water sup-ply."

## 'Village' school is

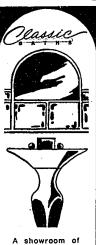
accredited Children's Village school, an educational center for youths who are wards of the court, is the first special learning institution in Michigan to receive full North Central accreditation.

The North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary School accredits more than 6,000 schools throughout the Midwest, Children's William strickets now receive full.

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By Tim Richard and Weyne Peal staff writers

Staff writers

"Stagering." The word was said repeatedly as Oakhand County officials got their lirst look at a \$500 million plan to clean the polluted Rouge River.

"That's the cost of 29 Silver-domes," said Patrick Nowak, deputy county executive, comparing the project to the Lions' football stadium in Pontiac.

Few doubt the river should be river should be recommended to the consumer of the control of the commended to the consumer of the consum

commitment is the public wining to make?"

I'VE BEEN peripherally involved in this for about four years," said Commissioner Marilyan Gosling, R-Bloomfield Hills. "When we first talked about this at SEMCOG, I heard the figure \$50 million and was staggered."

The study released Wednesday by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments placed a \$900 million

mills.
• Troy — \$326,000 or 0.18 mills.

pricetag on construction work, but also said the cost could rise to \$1.8 billion if financed by bond issues. If there were no federal or state aid, and the work were financed state aid, and the work were financed solely by property taxes, the tabs were been properly taxes, the tabs were been problem missed to properly taxes, the tabs were been problem missed to properly taxes, the tabs were been problem missed to properly taxes, the tabs were been problem missed to properly taxes, and the properly taxes, the tabs were financed to properly taxes, and the properly taxes, the tabs were financed to properly taxes, and the properly taxes are the problem missing the properly taxes and the properly taxes are the problem missing the properly taxes and the properly taxes are the problem missing taxes. The properly taxes are the problem missing the properly taxes are the problem missing taxes are the problem missing the properly taxes are the problem missing taxes are the problem missing the properly taxes are the problem missing \$29,000 or 0.84 mills.
"It places a disproportionate burden on some of the people," said Gostling, "It's going to be difficult to said to people who don't little near the river and don't see the problem."
"Dig a new river," said Commissioner R. William Caddell, R.-Walled Lake, chairman of the county board's finance committee, "It's a high price. We're swimming upstream."

SEMOOG ISN'T tallant to the finance of the county of the coun

stream."
SEMCOG ISN'T telling the 48 affected communities how the finance the work, though the seven-county regional planning agency is willing to help seek federal aid.
"We wanted to tell communities what needed to be done and leave it to them to find a cost-effective way of doing it," said Chuck Hersey, SEMCOG environmental planning consultant.

age district including all communi-ties in the Rouge watershed.

The district, Hersey said, could finance local projects through spe-cial assessments, tax increases or in-creased water bills.

SEMCOG reports local charges could be massive without state and

could be massive with federal grant money.

SEMCOG EXPECTS a \$133 mil-lion construction grant from the fed-eral government, though Congress is considering eliminating the program under which the money us spremised. If the grant money is ob-tained, as SEMCOG officiats expect, it would be used for the Detroit Pump Station, North Huron-Rouge Valley Interceptor, Evergreen-Farmington district improvements and the Hamilton relief outer. SEMCOG officials also said they

would be campaigning for a new state revolving loan fund, seeded by a final, 335 federal grant and 375 million in matching state money. While the new program wouldn't ex-clusively be used for the Rouge, it would provide major assistance to Rouge communities, SEMCOG offi-cials said. SEMCOG also advocates increas-ing state assistance for local prot-

EMEMOG also adventes increasing state assistance for local projects from its current 20 percent level.

In addition, SEMCOG recommends a coordinated effort among local municipalities in pursuing low-interest construction loans from grant program sources.

Costs for cleaning up combined sower overflows would be assigned to communities responsible for the overflows, though at least \$350 million in state and federal grants would also be sought.

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