

Resolution in support of Clean Water Supplies

Whereas water is a necessary and fundamental building block of all life;

Whereas clean drinking water is a fundamental right of New Jersey citizens;

Whereas all drinking water in New Jersey is supplied by underground aquifers, rivers, and/or reservoirs replenished by rain, snow melt, or fed by rivers and streams;

Whereas an ample supply of clean water is critical to agricultural production in the Garden State;

Whereas an ample supply of clean water is necessary for a healthy economy and a robust business climate for key industries in New Jersey, such as hospitality, tourism, manufacturing, healthcare and others;

Whereas New Jersey's ecosystems and wildlife rely on an adequate supply of clean water in creeks, streams, rivers, and ponds, and wetlands

Whereas in 2015, 12 of the 21 counties in New Jersey entered into a state of drought watch and seven drought warnings, watches, and emergencies have been declared in New Jersey since the year 2000;

Whereas in 1981, the New Jersey Legislature adopted Chapter 262, known as the Water Supply Management Act;

Whereas the Water Supply Management Act requires the development of a Statewide Water Supply Plan;

Whereas the Water Supply Management Act requires the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to update the Water Supply Master Plan at least every 5 years;

Whereas the last completed and publicly available version of the Water Supply Plan occurred in 1996;

Whereas, for over a decade under an outdated State Water Supply Plan, land use planning and development have been proceeding in New Jersey without publicly available updated scientific or policy guidance regarding the availability of adequate water supplies;

Whereas municipalities depend on the Governor of New Jersey and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to adopt policies and regulations allocating a safe, sustainable supply of New Jersey's water resources in accordance with the Water Supply Plan;

Therefore be it resolved that the municipality of (name of town) respectfully requests that the Governor of New Jersey and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection release an

update to the New Jersey Water Supply Master Plan immediately for public review and comment and, following such comment, finalize, adopt and implement the Plan.

And be it further resolved that (name of town) will send a letter to the Governor's office, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and to our New Jersey Assembly and Senate members alerting them to our concerns about the lack of a current Water Supply Plan in New Jersey;

PASSED, APPROVED, AND EFFECTIVE on this ____ day of ____, 2015.

ATTEST:

Mayor

Council President

PLEASE SEND A COPY OF THIS SIGNED RESOLUTION TO:

1. [town's state representatives]
2. [town's congressional representative]
3. Governor Chris Christie, PO Box 001, Trenton, NJ 08625
4. ANJEC, PO Box 157, Mendham NJ 07840