

Testimony before the New Jersey Clean Water Council and New Jersey Water Supply Advisory Council

October 31, 2005

The single most important issue facing New Jersey's water resources in both the near and foreseeable future is infrastructural capacity. This includes the storage capacity of water supply reservoirs and the stream and river systems that support them and the capacity of other surface water bodies that are part of the stormwater infrastructure providing both retention and water quality basin functions.

The key reason why this issue is so important is the impact on capacity resulting from the convergence of rising demand for water supply created by both the volume and character of development and the long term incremental processes of erosion, channel-scouring and siltation that has diminished capacity. The result is inelastic systems that have increasing difficulty responding to the demands created by stressors such as droughts or major storm events.

The policies to address this issue will revolve around a comprehensive dredging and dredge spoils management program that includes everything from funding sources to dewatering technologies and spoils reuse and/or disposal.

Implementation of this proposal would benefit water supply, water quality and stormwater management. It would protect and/or restore fish and wildlife habitats and enhance the potential for beneficial land uses by reducing flood potential and improving water resources generally.

While this is an issue of statewide importance, the greatest potential for implementation will be found in the northern and central regions of New Jersey wherever drinking water reservoirs are located or ponds and lakes are part of stormwater management systems.

Testimony submitted on behalf of the **Monmouth County Water Resources Association.**