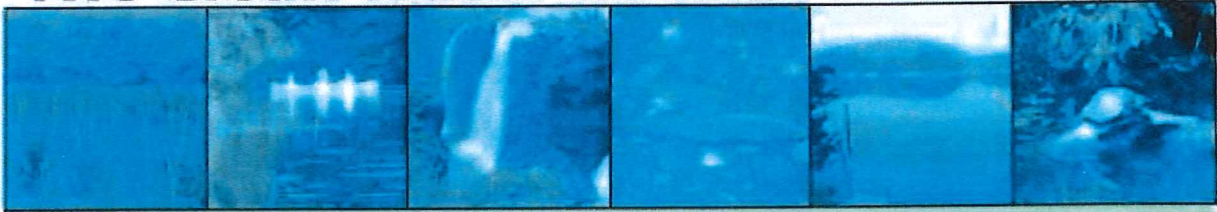


The Clean Water Council of New Jersey



Pamela S. Goodwin, Chair

Daniel J. Van Abs, Vice Chair
James F. Cosgrove, Jr., 2nd Vice Chair

July 26, 2013

Bob Martin, Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Mail Code 401-07
401 East State Street
PO Box 402
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

Re: New Jersey Clean Water Council 2012 Public Hearing Report

Dear Commissioner Martin:

The New Jersey Clean Water Council held a public hearing on April 9, 2013, "A Resilient New Jersey: Adapting Water Infrastructure to the 'New Normal'." This hearing was rescheduled from December 12, 2012 at the Department's request, and refocused to address water utility implications associated with Superstorm Sandy. Unfortunately, the storm could not have been a more perfect illustration of the vulnerability of New Jersey's water infrastructure, and it certainly validated the importance of sound asset management programs during times of storm events. This hearing was the third in a series of Clean Water Council public hearings focused on water infrastructure.

We thank you for serving as our keynote speaker and so eloquently illustrating the vulnerabilities exposed by Sandy and how resiliency of our infrastructure is key to surviving future storm events. Assistant Commissioner Michele Siekerka was able to effectively drive home the point that the key to resiliency is good asset management, a topic that was covered by last year's public hearing. Additionally, she shared valuable information on funding opportunities that could be tapped to rebuild our water infrastructure and initiate asset management programs. We also had the opportunity to receive testimony from seven members of the public on the array of issues associated with improving asset management of water infrastructure, resiliency, hazard risk evaluation, and greening infrastructure throughout New Jersey.

The testimony at the hearing, coupled with the illustration of the damage that occurred from Sandy, strongly supported ongoing efforts by the Department of Environmental Protection to incorporate resiliency and enhance the practice of water utility asset management in New Jersey. The Clean Water Council stands ready to support the Department in its efforts. We are aware of recent efforts by the Department working hand-in-hand with the wastewater and water supply utility industries to move this initiative forward, and look forward to the release of a regulatory guide to ensuring a sustainable future for our water infrastructure.

We stand ready to meet with you soon to discuss next steps regarding this initiative and future activities of the Clean Water Council.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Pamela S. Goodwin". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a prominent initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Pamela S. Goodwin
Chair