



New Jersey Statewide Water Supply Plan Offers Strategies for a Sustainable Water Supply

The much anticipated New Jersey Statewide Water Supply Plan (NJSWP), due to be completed by the end of the year, will provide tools to help guide the management, conservation and development of the State's water resources in communities throughout New Jersey.

The primary focus of the NJSWP is to ensure that sustainable water supplies are available to meet current and projected water supply demands while protecting existing users, the ecological health of the water system and water dependent species through 2020.

The Plan accounts for population growth patterns, emergent development trends, knowledge gained during recent droughts, and the recognition that water quality and ecological resource protection require integration with water supply, wastewater and land use planning.

The following are key objectives of the 2008 NJSWP:

- Define current water use trends and quantify the volumes of water used, within each of the State's 151, 11-digit Hydrogeologic Unit Code (HUC) watersheds;
- Calculate current depletive and consumptive water loss values for each HUC 11;
- Develop water budgets for the watershed and confined aquifer planning areas to determine which areas have exceeded or are in danger of exceeding the planning thresholds identified in this Plan;
- Determine whether existing approved (allocated) resources exceed sustainable thresholds;
- Identify and quantify the location of potential supplemental sources of sustainable supply;
- Define overarching water supply policies to support State objectives, including the preservation of existing water supply resources, the restoration of "stressed" areas, and to support economic growth and future development within sustainable limits; and
- Identify statutory, policy and regulatory actions that are necessary to ensure an adequate statewide water supply to meet anticipated demand.

A complimentary product of the plan is the Action Program. This highlights key policy measures and capital infrastructure projects deemed as essential to facilitate the conservation, augmentation, and reuse of water as a means of extending supplies into the future. For more information on the New Jersey Statewide Water Supply Plan, visit www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/index.html