

**STATEMENT BY BRENNAN TARRIER
RFAC CHAIR
AT THE REGULATED FLOW ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
ON FEBRUARY 16, 2017 REGARDING
THE STATUS OF THE FLEXIBLE FLOW MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

During their discussions the Decree Parties principals have recognized that FFMP must remain flexible to accommodate changing conditions. The FFMP agreement is not intended to establish a permanent, unchanging program. Rather, as the Decree Parties continue to negotiate an equitable agreement, numerous provisions of the FFMP contemplate future changes to diversions, releases and reservoir operations to address various and often competing objectives. Those objectives include: drought management, water supply diversions, salinity repulsion, habitat protection, flood mitigation and water quality. During the initial FFMP implementation and subsequent extensions, the Decree Parties have made adjustments to the FFMP based on consultations with fisheries experts at NY DEC and PAFBC, comments from the public, completion of NYC's Operational Support Tool, and a better understanding of how the FFMP is performing.

During the Fall of 2016 and early in 2017, the Parties expended significant time and effort, cooperating to manage the drought conditions experienced in the Basin and their respective jurisdictions. Through the FFMP Agreement, enhanced conservation releases were maintained at Table 4g or 4f rates through mid-October and the augmented rates of Tables 4e to 4a through November 23, 2016, when Drought Watch Operations were initiated. These releases were possible while still minimizing the risks to the water supplies of Philadelphia, Central New Jersey, New York City, as well as those of other purveyors in the Basin.

The Parties are still negotiating the terms of the upcoming FFMP and continue to consider comments received from the public at various RFAC meetings and via other communications. Recently, the Principals received written comments from the Delaware Watershed Conservation Coalition (DWCC) titled "Fair Share 2017." They also received the "Fair Share 2016" requests from DWCC in March of 2016. The technical matters from both papers, as well as others, are being considered in the deliberations regarding the next FFMP. As input from the public is accepted and considered on a regular basis, no formal comment period will be offered.