**ANNOUNCING DROUGHT WARNING TO RESIDENTS:**

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has placed 14 counties in North, Central and Northern Coastal New Jersey under a drought warning due to ongoing precipitation deficits and deteriorating water-supply conditions, particularly storage levels in reservoirs.

DEP Commissioner Bob Martin signed an Administrative Order on October 21, 2016 designating the drought warning for Morris, Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren Counties.

This designation enables DEP to more closely manage reservoir systems by directing water transfers among systems, controlling releases from reservoirs, and modifying the rate of flow in streams and rivers in order to balance ecological protection and needs of water suppliers.

The goal of the drought warning is to preserve and balance available water supplies in an effort to avert more serious water shortages in the future. The warning also reinforces the need for residents and businesses in impacted counties to conserve water.

"The situation in our reservoir systems is becoming more critical, with some systems dropping to half their capacity or less," Commissioner Martin said. "Without knowing how much precipitation we are going to get over the fall and winter to replenish our water sources, it is vital that every resident and business step up efforts to voluntarily reduce water use in the hopes of averting a water emergency and mandatory restrictions."

East Amwell strongly encourages all residents to eliminate unnecessary water use and is offering a limited supply of toilet leak detection tablets at the East Amwell municipal building to help residents do their part to conserve. A leaking toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water per day, and a quick and easy fix can save you money and our community's vital water supplies. Here are a few additional tips to save water:

- Don't let the faucet run while brushing, shaving or washing the dishes.
- Run your washing machines and dishwashers only when full.
- Install water-saving showerheads and faucet aerators.
- Fix leaky faucets.
- Don't wash your car at home – a car wash uses less water and recycles it, too.
- With the end of the growing season, be sure to turn off automatic lawn and garden sprinkler systems.

For more state water supply status information and to view the Administrative Order, visit: www.njdrought.org.

For more information on ways to conserve water, visit www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/conserve.htm.

State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
P.O. BOX 402
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CHRIS CHRISTIE
*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO
*Lt. Governor*

BOB MARTIN
*Commissioner*

# ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2016-10

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has experienced particularly dry weather conditions over the past several months; and

WHEREAS, during the past six-month period, measured precipitation across northern and central portions of the State ranges from 25 to 50 percent below normal; and

WHEREAS, sources of water supply, both surface and ground, are significantly depleted in these areas; and

WHEREAS, watercourses throughout the northern portions of the State have sustained stream flows as low as ten percent of the long term mean flow; and

WHEREAS, combined reservoir storage in the State's northeastern, central and coastal north regions is below normal (i.e., between 13 – 25 percent below normal), and certain regional reservoirs continue to be depleted more rapidly than others; and

WHEREAS, under the Water Supply Management Act, N.J.S.A. 58:1A-1 *et seq.*, and the Water Supply Allocation Permits rules at N.J.A.C. 7:19, adopted pursuant thereto, the Department is responsible for managing the water resources of the State as public assets held in trust for all citizens and is authorized to manage the water supply and to plan for and respond to water supply emergencies; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with its authority under the Water Supply Management Act and implementing regulations, due to degraded water supply conditions, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) issued a drought watch for the counties of Bergen, Essex, Hunterdon, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren on July 25, 2016; and

WHEREAS, on October 5, 2016, the drought watch was expanded to include the counties of Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Monmouth, Ocean, and Salem; and

WHEREAS, the Department has determined that a threat to water supplies and the potential of a developing water shortage exists in portions of the State, and

WHEREAS, without appropriate action and intervention to reduce the possibility of a water emergency, a worsening of the current situation could jeopardize the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the State; and

WHEREAS, the full cooperation of every person throughout the State, including every resident, visitor, business, institution, State agency, and political subdivision, is urged in order to avoid a water emergency and the need for more restrictive measures on water usage; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:19-13.1(d), the Department may call for action to be taken under its authority to reduce the possibility or lessen the impact of an impending water shortage; and

WHEREAS, due to the foregoing conditions, and in preparation for the possible designation of a Drought Warning condition in affected areas and after public notice, the Department held a public hearing on October 20, 2016 at the Millburn Free Public Library in the Township of Millburn, Essex County, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:19-13.1(d).

NOW, THEREFORE, I HEREBY DECLARE, AUTHORIZE, DESIGNATE and DIRECT the following actions to be taken, in accordance with the Water Supply Allocation Permit rules, N.J.A.C. 7:19, and in coordination with affected parties:

1. Drought Warning Designation: The following counties within the State of New Jersey are designated to be in a "Drought Warning" condition: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren. All residents, businesses, and institutions in the counties covered by the drought warning are urged to use water sparingly. (More information on the Drought Warning and affected areas is available at *www.njdrought.org*).

2. Modifications of regulated stream passing flow requirements and reservoir releases*

   Modified passing flow requirements and reservoir releases are designed to increase and preserve storage in affected reservoir systems. These steps are deemed necessary to extend the water supply sources of the State in order to meet existing and future demands for potable water, and to reduce the possibility of a water supply emergency in the future. Modified passing flow requirements and reservoir releases are as follows:

   *Regulated Reservoir Releases – Reducing required reservoir releases has the effect of preserving water stored in reservoirs*

| Location | Current Permitted Passing Flow (MGD/CFS) | Modified (MGD/CFS) | Water Allocation Permit Reference |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wanaque River @ Wanaque | 10/15.5 | 7.8/12 | #5329 |
| Boonton (@ Rockaway R.)† | 7.9/12.2 | 5.2/8 | #5268 |
| Oradell (Hackensack R @ New Milford) | 8.3/12.9 | 3.3/5.1 | #5082X |
| Spruce Run Reservoir | 5/7.7 | 1.7/2.6 | #4007PS |

   *Regulated Stream/River Passing Flows/Pumped-Storage Reservoirs – Reduced passing flows allow more water to be withdrawn from streams for reservoir storage and drinking water purposes*

| Location | Current Permitted Passing Flow (MGD/CFS) | Modified (MGD/CFS) | Water Allocation Permit Reference |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ramapo River @ Pompton Lakes | 40/61.9 | 10/15.5 | # 5274 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pompton River @ Pompton Plains | 88/126 | 68/105 | #5099X |
| Passaic River @ Chatham† | 75/116 | 55/85.1 | #5008X |
| Passaic River @ Two Bridges | 92.6/143.3 | 80/124 | #5094X |
| Passaic River @ Little Falls | 17.6/27.2 | 13.6/21.1 | #5099X |
| Saddle River @ Upper Saddle River | 1.5/2.32 | 0.8/1.2 | 5082X |
| Saddle River @ Ho-Ho-Kus Brook | 9/13.9 | 6.5/10 | #5082X |
| Rahway River @ Rahway | 5.1/7.9 | 2.6/4 | #5339 |
| Raritan River @ Stanton | 40/62 | 21.5/33.3 | #4007PS #4008PS |
| Raritan River @ Manville | 70/108.3 | 50/77.5 | |
| Raritan River @ Bound Brook | 90/139.5 | 70/108.3 | |
| Manasquan River @ WSA Intake | 7.8/12.1 | 6/9.3 | #4034PSX |
| Shark River @ Neptune City | 1.2/1.9 | 0.8/1.2 | #5018X |
| Jumping Brook @ Neptune City | 0.8/1.2 | 0.5/0.8 | |
| NB Metedeconk River near Lakewood | 9/14 | 7/10.8 | #5172 |

MGD = million gallons per day CFS = cubic feet per second

*These reductions to reservoir releases and passing flows and any further modification thereto are subject to evaluation of downstream conditions, and maintenance of associated passing flows and water quality.

†Noted passing flow modifications shall be coordinated with both the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission and Passaic Valley Water Commission, and shall, based upon the threat of downstream water volume or quality impairments caused thereby, immediately be discontinued upon notification by either of the aforementioned agencies.

3. Water System Transfers and Service Substitutions:

The following actions are intended to ameliorate existing depletion in reservoirs owned and operated by the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (NJDWSC) and SUEZ-New Jersey Water. Accordingly, water purveyors in the affected counties shall utilize, to the fullest extent practicable, alternate sources of supply (including their own), to the extent not in conflict with applicable permit conditions and/or as modified by this or any future drought-related order or directive:

(a) The following water transfers and service substitutions, if not already underway, shall be commenced as soon as practicable and upon the completion of the assessment noted at (c) below:

| Sending Water System | Receiving Water System | Volume (MGD) | Source Preserved |
|---|---|---|---|
| New Jersey American-Central | City of Newark | 10-15 | North Jersey District Reservoirs |
| City of Newark | Bloomfield | 7.5 | North Jersey District Reservoirs |
| Passaic Valley Water Commission | SUEZ Water-New Jersey | 10 | North Jersey District and |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Suez Water Reservoirs |
| Jersey City MUA/SUEZ-JC | City of Bayonne | 10 | North Jersey District Reservoirs |
| Jersey City MUA/SUEZ-JC | Kearney | 4-5 | North Jersey District Reservoirs |

(b) Suez-NJ Water's draft from the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission shall not exceed 42 MGD in any 24-hour period.

(c) The City of Newark's provision of service to Bloomfield shall result in a net reduction of Newark's average daily draft from NJDWSC by 7.5 MGD.

(d) Prior to the commencement of any ordered water transfers or service transfers, including those listed at (a) above, the Director of the Division of Water Supply & Geoscience (Director) shall coordinate with relevant Department programs, other State, county, and local agencies, and affected water purveyors, as appropriate, to assess the potential for water quality issues associated with any transfers of water ordered hereby.

I HEREBY AUTHORIZE the Assistant Commissioner for Water Resources Management to take such actions as are necessary, in accordance with the Water Supply Allocation Permit rules (N.J.A.C. 7:19-1), to have water purveyors implement their leak detection and repair programs to the fullest extent possible.

I HEREBY DESIGNATE the Assistant Commissioner for Water Resources Management to act on my behalf in the implementation and modification of drought warning requirements, as provided under N.J.A.C. 7:19, during the pendency of the drought warning in the designated areas.

I ALSO DIRECT water purveyors in the affected counties to immediately identify, exercise and, if necessary, repair critical water supply interconnections to ensure their proper functioning in order to facilitate ordered water transfers.

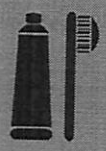
This order shall take effect immediately.

10/21/2016
Date

Bob Martin, Commissioner

# 6 SIMPLE STEPS TO SAVE WATER...BECAUSE REMEMBER, EVERY DROP COUNTS

**Due to much lower than normal rainfall, New Jersey's water supply is dwindling. You can do your part to help avoid a drought emergency by taking these six simple steps to save water.**



Don't let faucets run when brushing your teeth, shaving, or washing the dishes. Just turning off the water while you brush can save 200 gallons a month. **1**

Run washing machines and dishwashers only when they are full, or select the properly sized wash cycle for the current laundry load. **2**

Install water-saving showerheads and faucet aerators in the bathroom and kitchen (available at most home improvement stores and some supermarkets.) **3**

Fix any leaking faucets –one drop every 2 seconds from a leaky faucet wastes 2 gallons of water every day – that's water – and money – down the drain. **4**

Don't wash your car at home – a car wash uses much less water and recycles it, too. **5**

With the end of the growing season, be sure to turn off automatic lawn and garden sprinkler systems. **6**

EVERY DROP COUNTS

**For more detailed information on how you can conserve water in and outside your home, visit njdrought.org.**

**Remember...every drop counts.**