



## State Water Plan Resubmitted to State Legislature "As Is"

On November 28, the Water Planning Council resubmitted the State Water Plan "as is" to the legislature's Energy, Environment, Planning & Development and Public Health Committees, as directed by Governor Malloy's Executive Order.

The resubmitted State Water Plan fails to address concerns raised by a broad range of stakeholders, including water companies, business groups, manufacturers, farmers, greenhouse growers, and municipalities, regarding the 11th hour insertion of language in the State Water Plan referencing water as a "public trust". Although CWNA recognizes that the plan references an existing statute, by linking this statute to the balancing of water uses, this language could be misinterpreted by the courts, state and local agencies, and the public to expand Connecticut's Public Trust legal doctrine in ways that could undermine the availability of public water supplies and/or impose additional, regulatory, administrative, and financial burdens on water suppliers and customers.

***To address these concerns, CWNA supports language negotiated with environmental stakeholders earlier this year that clarifies that the State Water Plan does not in any way expand the state's legal Public Trust Doctrine or curtail existing water rights.***

CWNA has retained legal counsel to prepare a memorandum outlining how an expanded public trust doctrine may impact the availability of public water supplies in Connecticut and the extent to which it may result in additional costs and burdens on public water suppliers and other water users. Stay tuned for updates on this important issue!

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## Initial Reporting for Dams on Classified Streams in the Connecticut River Basin

***Deadline: February 6, 2019***

Owners or operators of certain dams located in the Connecticut River Basin MAY BE required to submit an initial reporting form to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

(DEEP) under the Stream Flow Standards and Regulations (§26-141b-7(a) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies) by February 6, 2019. *For a complete list of towns in which dams are located, click [here](#).*

Only owners or operators of certain dams are required to submit the Stream Flow Reporting Form for Dams, as follows:

- Owners or operators of dams that will be required to make releases from the dam in accordance with the regulations (these are primarily large impoundments with consumptive withdrawals, like drinking water supply reservoirs); and
- Certain owners or operators for which submission of the form is a provision of exemption from making releases (primarily water utilities, golf courses and recreational lake dam owners).

DEEP strongly encourages all owners or operators of dams in the subject basin to review the [Stream Flow Reporting Form](#) for Dams. The form takes owners or operators of dams through the exemptions and what (if anything) is required for each. Accordingly, you should begin by reviewing Part III, starting on page 3 of the Stream Flow Reporting Form for Dams, to determine if you meet any of the exemptions and if submission of the form is required before filling out the Stream Flow Reporting Form for Dams in its entirety.

*Questions can be directed to DEEP at (860) 424-3020.*

## **Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program**

***Deadline: February 7, 2019***

DEEP is currently accepting grant applications for the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) Grant Program, which provides financial assistance to water companies to acquire land to be classified as Class I or Class II water supply property and to municipalities and nonprofit land conservation organizations to acquire land for open space. The deadline for applications is February 7, 2019.



*The Department awards grants to projects that offer the highest conservation and recreational value - and that leverage the greatest percentage of private and municipal funding.*

*More information is provided in the links below:*

[Grant Questionnaire and Application](#)

[Grant Program Overview & Selection](#)

[Answers to Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Additional Information and Assistance](#)

