



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

January 24, 2024

Rebecca Jascot
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106
rebecca.jascot@ct.gov

RE: Integrated Water Planning Management V2

Dear Rebecca Jascot,

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) offers the following comments regarding the Integrated Water Planning Management V2.

The Council notes that the Integrated Water Planning Management (IWPM) V2 fact sheet indicates that DEEP “is recommending refining the topics that were outlined in IWPM phase 1 with a robust emphasis on Environmental Justice and Climate Change”. The Council supports increased emphasis on water quality issues that could impact Environmental Justice communities; however, it is unclear how this would be done and what “robust emphasis” means. The Council suggests that DEEP coordinate with Connecticut Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council (CEEJAC) and especially the CEEJAC Water Subcommittee. The Council also supports increased focus on improving water quality to allow for swimming in publicly accessible water bodies within or near Environmental Justice communities, such as Batterson Park Pond that could, with improved water quality, serve as a public cooling space, given the projected increase in temperatures associated with climate change. The Council also strongly supports inclusion and consideration of potential impacts to water quality associated with climate change. As discussed in the Council’s annual report, [Environmental Quality in Connecticut](#), “it is predicted that as the climate warms, severe weather events, such as drought conditions and extreme rainfall will become more frequent”.

Lastly, the Council notes that over two-thirds of the population served by community public water systems (PWS), which is estimated to be approximately 2.5 million residents, are supplied by surface water sources with groundwater sources supplying the remaining community PWS population and most private wells. Although DEEP is recommending refining the topics that were previously outlined in IWPM phase 1 and not introducing any new topics, the Council recommends that DEEP include 1) enhanced focus on the protection and improvement of water sources that provide for safe drinking water, and 2) more emphasis on land use controls (i.e. zoning, setbacks, low impact development) to help protect water supply watershed lands.

Thank you for your consideration of the Council’s comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Aresta, Executive Director

Keith Ainsworth
Acting Chair

Christopher Donnelly

David Kalafa

Matthew Reiser

Denise Rodosevich

Charles Vidich

William Warzecha

Paul Aresta
Executive Director