



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Intergovernmental Policy and Planning Division

August 17, 2022

John Betkoski, Chairman  
Connecticut Water Planning Council  
10 Franklin Square  
New Britain CT 06051

Dear Chairman Betkoski and Members of the Water Planning Council:

In summer of 2019, the Water Planning Council (WPC) tasked the State Water Plan Implementation Workgroup (IWG) with studying the State's response to the 2016-2017 drought and reporting on its findings and recommendations. A topical sub-workgroup was formed to carry out this task under the direction of the IWG. The IWG submitted such report to the WPC on July 27, 2021.

The WPC subsequently directed the Interagency Drought Workgroup to review the recommendations in the IWG's report and revise the *Connecticut Drought Preparedness and Response Plan* (Drought Plan) accordingly. All relative state agencies participated in the process of reviewing and prioritizing each recommendation.

The Interagency Drought Workgroup submits for the Water Planning Council's consideration a revised Drought Plan that incorporates the first priority level recommendations. Additional revisions were included at the recommendation of staff on the Interagency Drought Workgroup. A summary of the revisions is included as an attachment.

While the Interagency Drought Workgroup has addressed many of the most pressing recommendations included in the final report, there are additional, more complex recommendations that should be considered in future updates to the Drought Plan, which will also be guided by experiences with the recent drought events in 2020 and 2022.

The Interagency Drought Workgroup would like to note that, despite the improvements gained in the revised Drought Plan, implementation of the Drought Plan is hindered by a lack of staffing. Agency resources must be committed to accomplish short- and long-term drought preparedness strategies, as well as to drought response needs when applicable. The WPC may want to consider the most

appropriate manner with which to achieve the Drought Plan's preparedness and response goals.

On behalf of the Interagency Drought Workgroup, thank you for your consideration of the revised Drought Plan.

Respectfully,



Martin L. Heft, Undersecretary  
Office of Policy and Management

Cc: Graham Stevens, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection  
Lori Mathieu, Department of Public Health

Attachments:

- Draft State Drought Plan (IDW Proposed Revision) - August 4, 2022
- Draft State Drought Plan Change Log - August 4, 2022
- Drought Sub Workgroup Report Summary of Recommendations - June 4, 2021