

**RESOLUTION 2015-346**

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT, COUNTY OF OCEAN,  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY, SUPPORTING CLEAN WATER SUPPLIES**

**WHEREAS**, water is a necessary and fundamental building block of life;

**WHEREAS**, clean drinking water is a fundamental right of New Jersey citizens;

**WHEREAS**, all drinking water in New Jersey is supplied by underground aquifers, rivers, and/or reservoirs replenished by rain, snow melt, or fed by rivers and streams;

**WHEREAS**, an ample supply of clean water is critical to agricultural production in the Garden State;

**WHEREAS**, an ample supply of clean water is necessary for a healthy economy and a robust business climate for key industries in New Jersey, such as hospitality, tourism, manufacturing, healthcare and others;

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey's ecosystems and wildlife rely on an adequate supply of clean water in creeks, streams, rivers, ponds, and wetlands;

**WHEREAS**, in 2015, 12 of the 21 counties in New Jersey entered into a state of drought watch and seven drought warnings, watches, and emergencies have been declared in New Jersey since the year 2000;

**WHEREAS**, in 1981, the New Jersey Legislature adopted Chapter 262, know as the Water Supply Management Act;

**WHEREAS**, the Water Supply Management Act requires the development of a Statewide Water Supply Plan;

**WHEREAS**, the Water Supply Management Act requires the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to update the Statewide Water Supply Plan at least every 5 years;

**WHEREAS**, the last completed and publicly available version on the Water Supply Plan occurred in 1996;

**WHEREAS**, for over a decade under an outdated Statewide Water Supply Plan, land use planning and development have been proceeding in New Jersey without publicly available updated scientific or policy guidance regarding the availability of adequate water supplies;

**WHEREAS**, municipalities depend on the Governor of New Jersey and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to adopt policies and regulations allocating a safe, sustainable supply of New Jersey's water resources in accordance with the Water Supply Plan;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Municipality of Barnegat Township respectfully requests that the Governor of New Jersey and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection release an update to the New Jersey Statewide Water Supply Plan immediately for public review and comment and, following such comment, finalize, adopt and implement the Plan.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Barnegat Township will send a letter to the Governor's office, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and to our New Jersey Assembly and Senate members alerting them to our concerns about the lack of a current Water Supply Plan in New Jersey;

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Michele Rivers, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Barnegat, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Township Committee at their regular meeting held in the Municipal Complex, 900 West Bay Avenue, Barnegat, on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of November 2015

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Michele A. Rivers, RMC  
Municipal Clerk