



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

November 18, 2016

To: All Municipal Chief Elected Officials

From: W. David LeVasseur, Acting Undersecretary,
Intergovernmental Policy Division

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to W. David LeVasseur.

On October 28, Governor Malloy announced the state's first-ever Drought Watch, which is now in effect for the entire state outside of New London and Windham counties. A Drought Advisory remains in effect for New London and Windham counties, where drought conditions have been less intense.

Unlike a storm watch that is issued whenever a serious storm is possible, a drought watch means that an area of the state is already experiencing moderate to extreme drought conditions. The CT Department of Public Health (DPH) maintains a list of public water systems that have requested conservation: http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/drinking_water/pdf/Conservation_Status.pdf.

The state's Interagency Drought Workgroup urges municipal governments in the area of the Drought Watch to take steps to reduce water consumption by at least 15%, in accordance with the Connecticut Drought Preparedness and Response Plan (http://www.ct.gov/waterstatus/lib/waterstatus/Drought_Preparedness_&_Response_Plan.pdf). Municipalities in New London and Windham Counties should continue taking steps to reduce water use by 10%.

As specified in the Connecticut Drought Preparedness and Response Plan, each municipality is requested to designate a single individual point of contact to serve as a municipal "drought coordinator." Please provide the contact information and a summary of assigned responsibilities for your designated drought coordinator to the Interagency Drought Workgroup by December 2, 2016, using this form: <https://goo.gl/forms/zpAAmbghuNKVtril2>.

By conserving water at the municipal level, municipalities can not only help conserve stressed water supplies; they also encourage residents and businesses to reduce their water use. Voluntarily conserving water now helps to avoid the need for more extreme measures in the future. Water conservation fact sheets are available through the Department of Public Health's website: <http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3139&q=387302>.

The state's Interagency Drought Work Group will continue to monitor conditions and will issue updates as necessary. Updates and drought indicator data are available to the public through the state's water website: www.ct.gov/water.