

Statewide Drought Warning Issued for New Jersey

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has issued a Statewide drought warning in New Jersey due to ongoing precipitation deficits and deteriorating water-supply conditions, particularly storage levels in reservoirs.

This designation enables DEP to more closely manage reservoir systems by directing water transfers among systems, controlling releases from reservoirs, and modifying the rate of flow in streams and rivers to balance ecological protection and needs of water suppliers.

The goal of the drought warning is to preserve and balance available water supplies in an effort to avert more serious water shortages in the future. The warning also reinforces the need for residents and businesses to conserve water.

“Climate change is driving our record low precipitation and above-average temperature recorded statewide in September and October,” Commissioner LaTourette said. “This combination of events has resulted in decreased streamflow and groundwater levels, which harms our available water supplies. Taking these measures now and encouraging reduced water use will help provide some measure of protection from the weather uncertainty we face entering winter.”

Matawan is strongly encouraging all residents to eliminate unnecessary water use.

Here are a few additional tips to save water:

- Don't let the faucet run while brushing, shaving or washing the dishes.
- Run your washing machines and dishwashers only when full.
- Install water-saving showerheads and faucet aerators.
- Fix leaky faucets.
- Don't wash your car at home – a car wash uses less water and recycles it, too.
- With the end of the growing season, be sure to turn off automatic lawn and garden sprinkler systems.

For more state water supply status information and to view the Administrative Order, visit:

www.njdrought.org.

For more information on ways to conserve water, visit www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/conserves.htm.