

**RESOLUTION**

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

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

**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 and;**

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

**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 and;**

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

**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 and;**

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

**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 Water Supply Master Plan at least every 5 years and;**

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

**WHEREAS, for over a decade under an outdated State Water Supply Plan, land use planning and development have been proceeding in New Jersey without publicly available updated scientific or policy guidance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 and;**

**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 Borough of Wharton respectfully requests that the Governor of New Jersey and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection release an update to the New Jersey Water Supply Master Plan immediately for public review and comment and, following such comment, finalize, adopt and implement the Plan.**

**Adopted: June 13, 2016**

**BOROUGH OF WHARTON**

**ATTEST:**

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**WILLIAM J. CHEGWIDDEN,  
MAYOR**

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**Gabrielle Evangelista,  
Borough Clerk**