**Mayoral Proclamation for 21st Century Water Infrastructure**

WHEREAS, water infrastructure is critical for the economic vitality, environmental health and quality of life within New Jersey cities; and

[WHEREAS, the CITY of CITY NAME has combined sewer systems periodically discharging untreated wastewater and stormwater into the NAME of WATERBODY during wet weather events; and]

WHEREAS inadequate sewer and stormwater systems generate stormwater runoff [and combined sewer overflows (CSOs)] that pollute streams, lakes rivers and bays, and cause localized flooding of streets and properties [and can cause sewage backups into neighborhood basements and streets threatening human health]; and

WHEREAS inadequate drinking water systems can rupture, interrupting service and causing flooding; and

[WHEREAS, the City of CITY NAME has received a new CSO permit from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection requiring it to adopt and implement a plan to upgrade its combined sewer system; and]

WHEREAS, aging and degraded drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure threaten to disrupt daily life, commerce and industry in communities; and

WHEREAS, budget constraints and expensive capital requirements and ongoing operating costs to address these issues can pose major financial challenges; and

WHEREAS**,** the City of CITY NAME can make additional investments in21st-centurywater infrastructure in order to:

* **Strengthen the city** by protecting public health and the environment and enhance its attractiveness and livability while making it more resilient to extreme weather events and natural disasters; and
* **Enable economic growth** by delivering, reliably and efficiently, safe and adequate drinking water, wastewater and stormwater management services that meet the needs of city residents and businesses today and into the future; and
* **Leverage modern practices** by employing state-of-the-art technologies and best management practices that generate multiple benefits – economic, including but not limited to cost savings, job creation, and new business creation; environmental, including but not limited to improved water quality;, and social, including but not limited to better quality of life; and
* **Reduce flooding and energy use**, including reduction of localized flooding from storms and water-main breaks [and sewer overflows], and enhancing energy efficiency in order to reduce water utility costs and air pollution; and
* **Draw on multiple funding sources and maintain affordability** by establishing adequate, sustainable funding streams to support improved water infrastructure and services while ensuring affordable rates over time for city residents and businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MAYOR'S NAME, Mayor of the City of CITY NAME, do hereby proclaim that the city of CITY NAME will endeavor to commit to the following actions in support of 21st century water infrastructure:

1. Urging state and federal leaders to support our efforts to upgrade our drinking, sewer and stormwater systems and to promote investments in water infrastructure nationwide through financial and technical assistance;
2. Upgrading our drinking sewer and stormwater systems in ways that will strengthen our city by employing best practices such as the “Best Practice Solutions for Water Infrastructure in Summary” below.
3. Sharing our solutions, success stories and annual progress with other municipalities and sewer utilities, through the Urban Water Solutions Initiative

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of CITY NAME, STATE, to be affixed this xx day of xxxx 2015. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ NAME MAYOR

**Best Practice Solutions for Water Infrastructure in Summary**

**Building Support to Reduce Flooding, Protect Public Health and Beautify Our City**

* + Educating residents and businesses about the ways that water infrastructure upgrades can strengthen our city, such as by reducing flooding, protecting public health, and beautifying areas.
  + Involving the public in planning for water infrastructure upgrades [including CSO solutions\*], through online tools and resources, public meetings and community partnerships.

**City Revitalization and Economic Growth**

* + Using a combination of gray- and green-infrastructure techniques that minimizes costs and maximizes community benefits, increasing property values, creating green jobs and building public support.
  + Developing a green-infrastructure master plan and integrating it with [the CSO Long Term Control Plan and], the city master plan, redevelopment plans and zoning and stormwater ordinances.
  + Installing green-infrastructure demonstration projects on city-owned land.
  + Creating a green jobs training program.

**Sustainability**

* + Adopting water conservation measures to reduce both water use and sewage generation.
  + Enhancing resiliency by integrating climate-change variables, such as for precipitation, extreme rain events, and sea-level rise, into water planning.
  + Using new technologies that increase energy efficiency and create renewable energy.

**Partnerships and Coordination**

* + Working with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (our sewer treatment utility) and the other municipalities it serves to improve the sewage collection system and build green infrastructure [and create a regional CSO Long Term Control Plan].
  + Building partnerships among community organizations and members, city government staff, regional and statewide nonprofits, universities, developers and property owners to upgrade water infrastructure, including installing green infrastructure.
  + [Designating a municipal CSO team, including staff from the sewer department or utility, business or finance office, the communications office, and the departments of public works, engineering, planning, transportation and parks, to develop the local parts of the CSO Long Term Control Plan.]

**Minimizing Costs and Maximizing Affordability**

* + Establishing adequate, sustainable funding streams to support improved water infrastructure and services while ensuring affordable rates over time for city residents and businesses.
  + Optimizing the existing [combined] sewer and stormwater collection system, through actions such as reducing extraneous flows into the system and cleaning pipes.
  + Employing asset-management techniques to prioritize maintenance and upgrades in a business-like fashion in order to reduce emergency repairs and lower long-term costs.

*Note: [Brackets] indicate CSO-specific language that should be removed if the city does not have CSOs.*