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

WHEREAS, the City of Elizabeth has combined sewer systems periodically discharging untreated wastewater and stormwater into the Peripheral Ditch, Great Ditch, Newark Bay, Arthur Kill and Elizabeth River 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 Elizabeth 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 extensive capital requirements and ongoing operating costs to address these issues can pose major financial challenges; and

WHEREAS, the City of Elizabeth can make additional investments in 21st-century water 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, J. CHRISTIAN BOLLWAGE, Mayor of the City of Elizabeth, do hereby proclaim that the City of Elizabeth 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.

Given under my hand this 23rd day of July, two thousand and fifteen

[Signature]

J. CHRISTIAN BOLLWAGE
MAYOR