

BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD

Mayor John Birkner, Jr.



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August 24, 2011

Mr. Jim Glozzy
United Water
200 Old Hook Road
Harrington Park, New Jersey 07640

Re: Hurricane Irene

Dear Mr. Glozzy,

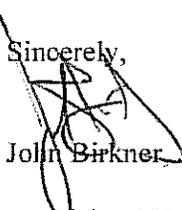
As you are most certainly aware, the National Weather Service and National Hurricane Center have issued advisories for a major storm event along the eastern United States for the next several days. Hurricane Irene is currently projecting a similar path to Hurricane Floyd in 1999. Irene has been predicted to have the potential of reaching Category 3 levels by the time it reaches New Jersey on Sunday morning.

Regardless of the severity of the Hurricane or Tropical Storm, sustained rainfall amounts of 3 – 11 inches are anticipated for our area. Historical data supports the fact that even at the least amount of rainfall predicted to move through our area, significant flooding can occur in and around Westwood.

The Borough of Westwood understands that the operation of the Woodcliff Lake and Oradell Reservoirs are not intended as flood control mechanisms; however, given the magnitude of the projected storm, the integrity of the earthen dam in Woodcliff Lake could be jeopardized should the maximum amounts of rain be realized in our region. It is for this reason that we request that United Water immediately begin emergency preparations by releasing water from the Woodcliff Lake Reservoir to a level of 89 feet. Coupled with the effective management of the levels at the Oradell Reservoir, such pre-emptive actions will help to minimize the threat to the property, health, and safety of our residents and those in flood prone areas throughout the Pascack Valley and Hackensack River Basin.

I will be meeting with our municipal OEM coordinator later this afternoon to discuss our emergency preparedness procedures for this major storm event. Please contact me at your earliest convenience to discuss actions the Borough may employ in anticipation and also with regard to the actions United Water intends to initiate to insure the safe operation of the water supply system.

Sincerely,


John Birkner, Jr. – Mayor

cc: Richard Henning – United Water
Darin Shaffer – NJDEP Bureau of Dam Safety
James Dunham – NJSP OEM
Dwane Razzetti – Bergen County OEM
Robert Schroeder – NJ Assembly
Kathleen Donovan – Bergen County Executive
Pascack Valley Mayors