

BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD

Mayor John Birkner, Jr.



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July 18, 2013

State of New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection
401 East State Street
Box 402
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402

Attn.: Bob Martin - Commissioner

Re.: Pascack Valley Waterway Report

Dear Commissioner Martin,

Since December 2011, I have sent several letters to you and your staff at the NJDEP seeking assistance with the chronic threat of flooding along the Pascack Brook in Westwood and Hillsdale. To date, absolutely no answer has been given to our request to maintain the levels at the Woodcliff Lake Reservoir at 91 feet of elevation all year. Our residents feel that the State of New Jersey is ignoring our concerns.

I have sent you our engineering study that recommends the bascule gates at the Woodcliff Lake reservoir dam operated by United Water be maintained at 91 feet elevation. The operational changes proposed serve to both respect the sensitive water supply, and also protect our residents living in low laying areas of the Pascack Valley from the frequent flooding that has plagued this region for decades.

We repeat our request that United Water New Jersey be required to operate the bascule gates accordingly in effort to mitigate much of the flooding that impacts the area during heavy storm events.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should have any questions or require additional information. I look forward to your response and for the opportunity of further discussion considering the importance of our request.

Sincerely,

Borough of Westwood


John Birkner, Jr. - Mayor
(201) 664-7100 x 106

cc. Borough of Westwood Council
Cindy Randazzo, NJDEP
Hon. Max Arnowitz, Borough of Hillsdale Mayor
Assemblywoman Holly Schepisi – District 39