



Connecticut Fund
for the Environment

Save the Sound®

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CFE applauds Gov. Malloy’s order to implement State Water Plan

NEW HAVEN, CONN. – This afternoon Governor Malloy issued an [executive order](#) instructing the Water Planning Council to begin implementing the State Water Plan.

The [State Water Plan](#) is Connecticut’s first long-range, statewide guidance for protecting drinking water, ensuring adequate flow for rivers and lakes, guiding industrial uses, and guarding recreational uses like fishing, swimming, and kayaking, among other types and uses of the state’s waters. It was developed over two years through an extensive stakeholder process.

Four committees of the legislature held a hearing on the Plan, but final approval was scuttled when, in the last days of session, private interests objected to referring to the state’s waters as a “public trust.” Malloy also ordered the Water Planning Council to continue working with its advisory groups, and to resubmit the Plan to the General Assembly by the end of this year, for legislative approval.

Karen Burnaska, water advocate for Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound, said,

“Connecticut has some of the strongest water laws in the nation. The detailed process that produced our first State Water Plan, and Governor Malloy’s bold action today to enact it, are a powerful illustration of that commitment. Our waters are a public trust for every one of Connecticut’s people, and one of the state’s most important and valuable resources. We look forward to continuing to work closely with the Water Planning Council, the Departments of Public Health and of Energy and Environmental Protection, legislators, municipalities, and environmental allies to implement this vision for cleaner water, a sustainable economy, and vibrant wildlife.”

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