

BOROUGH OF HILLSDALE
RESOLUTION 15420

**MAINTAINING 4.25 FEET OF FREEBOARD YEAR ROUND IN THE
WOODCLIFF LAKE RESERVOIR BY UTILIZING A
BASE LAKE ELEVATION OF 91.0 FEET**

WHEREAS, flooding of the various brooks, streams and tributaries within the Pascack Valley Drainage Basin has been, and continues to be, a serious threat to the life, safety, welfare, quality of life, property values, and water quality within the municipalities, collectively occupying the Pascack Valley Drainage Basin; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the Borough of Westwood have suffered devastating damage and significant loss of property due a repetitive history of costly and dangerous floods; and

WHEREAS, the long-term solution for minimizing the risk of flooding requires the commitment of Local, County, and State level government officials and agencies, corporate stakeholders, residents whose properties border streams and tributaries, and not-for-profit environmental advocacy organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Westwood believes that through cooperative flood control and waterway management activities on a regionalized basis, significant savings may be realized for the tax payers within and beyond the borders of the flood affected communities; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Westwood has always considered the NJDEP to be instrumental partners in assisting our municipality in reaching our goals of maintaining the highest standards in environmental health, safety, and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Westwood has been committed to protecting the environmental integrity and health of our water resources through such actions as the purchase of properties in flood prone neighborhoods for their return to natural watershed buffer and open space, encouraging property developments to include rain gardens and storm water retention basins, the stabilization of stream banks, and the replacement of antiquated sewer lines in environmentally sensitive areas and throughout the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Westwood recognizes that United Water has endeavored to maintain a productive relationship with the residents and with the municipalities that constitute the ratepayers in the Pascack Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Westwood has supported and endorsed United Water's efforts to stabilize the Woodcliff Lake Dam; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Westwood clearly recognizes the concerns for water allocation and distribution during periods of potential drought; and

WHEREAS, the Woodcliff Lake Dam Rehabilitation Improvements are expected to be completed by December, 2015, resulting in the Woodcliff Lake Reservoir water level being filled to a maximum elevation of 95.25 feet, greatly increasing the risk of flooding downstream neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Woodcliff Lake Reservoir is configured in a manner which has the potential for substantial mitigation of flood damage through the maintenance of a detention capability by keeping the base elevation at 91 feet; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Westwood believes it should be mandated that the 91 foot base elevation be utilized year round , thus leaving 4.25 feet of freeboard to provide potential mitigation of storm damage; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Westwood believes that an appropriate balance of the Public Interest mandates memorializing policy to adequately protect the health, safety, and property of the residents in flood prone neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Westwood commissioned an engineering review of the operations for the Woodcliff Lake Reservoir Dam and the results of this study recommend that the bascule gates at the dam be operated to maintain a 91 foot base water elevation in the Woodcliff Lake Reservoir twelve (12) months of the year in order to buffer the effects of, and reduce the susceptibility of flooding caused by frequent and intense precipitation events while maintaining sufficient water inventory; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough of Westwood hereby urges our County officials to support the Boroughs interest in requesting the legislature to enact, and the Governor to endorse the normal operational water level of the Woodcliff Lake Reservoir to be maintained at 91 feet elevation twelve months a year; and shall transmit a duly authenticated copy of this resolution to Governor Christie, Senate President Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto, Senator Bob Smith, Chairman of the State Environmental & Energy Committee, Assemblywoman Grace L. Spencer, Chairman of the Assembly Environmental & Solid Waste Committee, all members of the NJ Senate and Assembly representing Bergen County, Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bob Martin, Bergen County Executive James Tedesco, the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and all municipalities within the Pascack Valley region.

Council member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain	Recuse
DeGise, Jason							
DeRosa, Anthony							
Looes, Chrisoula							
Meyerson, Lawrence							
Pizzella, Frank							
Ruocco, John							
Arnowitz, Max							

Adopted: November 10, 2015

Attest: _____
 Susan Witkowski
 Municipal Clerk

 Max Arnowitz
 Mayor