

**POLICIES AND GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING OR AMENDING THE  
REGIONAL COMPONENTS AND THE STATE WATER PLAN  
State Water Plan Content -- Mandated by Section 3112 of Act 220**

- An inventory of the surface water resources of each region of the Commonwealth, including:
  - An identification of the boundaries of significant watersheds and an estimate of the safe yield of such sources for withdrawal and nonwithdrawal uses during periods of normal conditions and drought.
  - (“Safe Yield” is defined as the amount of water that can be withdrawn from a water resource over a period of time without impairing the long-term utility of a water resource such as dewatering of an aquifer; impairing the long-term water quality of a water resource, including a health threat; or causing irreparable or unmitigated impact upon reasonable and beneficial uses of the water resource. Safe yield of a particular water resource is primarily to be determined based upon the predictable rate of natural and artificial replenishment of the water resource over a reasonable period of time.)
- An assessment of the groundwater resources of each region of the Commonwealth, including:
  - An identification aquifers and groundwater basins and an assessment of their safe yield, prime recharge areas, recharge capacity, withdrawal limits and relationship to stream base flow.
- An assessment and projection of existing and future nonwithdrawal use needs and the values of watercourses included within this Commonwealth or federal wild and scenic river systems.
- An assessment and projection of existing and future withdrawal use demands.
- An identification of potential problems with water availability or conflicts among water uses and users.
- An identification of critical water planning areas comprising any significant hydrologic unit where existing or future demands exceed or threaten to exceed the safe yield of available water resources.
- An assessment of the current and future capabilities of public water supply agencies to provide an adequate quantity and quality of water to their service area.
- An assessment of flood plain and stormwater management problems.
- An assessment of navigation needs and the means for restoration, development and improvement of transportation by water.
- An assessment of the water resources required to serve areas with important or unique natural, scenic, environmental or recreational values of national, regional, local or statewide significance, including:
  - National and state parks;
  - Designated wild, scenic and recreational rivers;

- National and state wildlife refuges;
  - The habitats of federal and state endangered or threatened species.
- A process for identifying projects and practices that are being or have been implemented by water users that:
  - Reduce the amount of water withdrawal or consumptive use,
  - Improve efficiency in water use,
  - Provide for reuse and recycling of water,
  - Increase the supply or storage of water or preserve or increase groundwater recharge and a recommended process for providing appropriate positive recognition of such projects or practices in actions, programs, policies, projects or management activities recommended under mandated guideline xx “proposed methods of implementing various recommended actions, programs, policies, projects or management activities.”
- An identification of practical alternatives for an adequate supply of water to satisfy existing and future reasonable and beneficial uses including:
  - Improved storage
  - Groundwater recharge
  - Surface/groundwater conjunctive management programs.
- An assessment of both structural and nonstructural alternatives to address:
  - Identified water availability problems,
  - Adverse impacts on water uses or conflicts between water users, including potential actions to develop additional alternative supplies, conservation measures and management techniques.
- A review and evaluation of statutes, regulations, policies and institutional arrangements for the development, conservation, distribution and emergency management of water resources.
- Proposed methods of implementing various recommended actions, programs, policies, projects or management activities.

## **State and Regional Water Plan Considerations -- Mandated by Section 3112 of Act 220**

- The interconnections and relationships between groundwater and surface water as components of a single hydrologic resource.
- Regional water resource needs, objectives and priorities as identified and evaluated by the regional committee.
- Federal, state and interstate water resources policies, plans, objectives and priorities, including those identified in statutes, regulations, compacts, interstate agreements or comprehensive plans adopted by federal and state agencies and compact basin commissions.
- The needs and priorities reflected in county, municipal, and multi-municipal comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances.
- The water quantity and quality necessary to support reasonable and beneficial uses.
- A balancing and encouragement of multiple uses of water resources, recognizing that all water resources of the Commonwealth are capable of serving multiple uses and human needs, including multiple uses of water resources for reasonable and beneficial uses.
- The distinction between short-term and long-term conditions, impacts, needs and solutions to ensure appropriate and cost-effective responses to water resources issues.
- The benefits and costs and social and environmental impacts of alternative policies, programs, projects and actions.
- Application of the principle of equal and uniform treatment of all water users that are similarly situated and all users of related facilities, without regard to established political boundaries.

## **Balancing Considerations -- Mandated by Section 3112 of Act 220**

- In approving, recommending and adopting the state water plan, the statewide committee and Secretary shall:
  - Provide for serious and deliberative consideration to regional priorities, objectives and recommendations expressed by regional committees,
  - Reconcile differences or conflicts among regional plans and assure that the regional plans and water plan adequately consider and reflect federal, state, and compact basin commission policies, plans, objectives, and priorities of national, statewide or interstate importance

**Guidelines, definitions and criteria – To be considered by the Statewide Committee**

- Normal conditions are defined as -----
- Drought conditions are defined as -----
- Reasonable period of time is defined as -----
- Predictable rate of replenishment is defined as-----
- Ground water withdrawal limits will be determined by -----
- The planning horizon(s) for determining future water use needs is(are)-----
- Values of watercourses will be determined by -----
- The quantity of water necessary to support reasonable and beneficial uses will be determined using the following criteria:
  - For domestic water supply-----
  - For municipal water supply-----
  - For public water supply-----
  - For commercial water supply-----
  - For industrial water supply
  - For energy development and production-----
  - For agricultural water supply-----
  - For navigation-----
  - For instream hydropower production-----
  - For recreation-----
  - For fish and wildlife habitat and the aquatic environment-----
- The quality of water necessary to support reasonable and beneficial uses will be determined using the following criteria:
  - For domestic water supply-----
  - For municipal water supply-----
  - For public water supply-----
  - For commercial water supply-----
  - For industrial water supply
  - For energy development and production-----
  - For agricultural water supply-----
  - For navigation-----
  - For instream hydropower production-----
  - For recreation-----
  - For fish and wildlife habitat and the aquatic environment-----
- Social impacts shall be defined as -----