RESOLUTION SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE

Water Resources Plan for the Delaware River Basin "A Common Vision for a Common Resource"

Whereas, the five Commissioners of the Delaware River Basin Commission are the Governors of the four Basin states — Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania — and a United States representative appointed by the President, who votes on behalf of all federal agencies. Since 1997, the United States representative has been the Commander of the North Atlantic Division of the United States Army Corps of Engineers; and

Whereas, by resolution dated September 29, 1999 (1999 Resolution), the Governors of the Basin states, supported by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the National Park Service (NPS), challenged the community of the Delaware River Basin to develop a unifying vision for the Basin; and

Whereas, in their 1999 Resolution the Governors also affirmed that as trustees of the Basin's natural resources, they have a duty to protect, conserve and manage the waters and ecosystem of the Delaware River Basin; and

Whereas, as stewards of the Basin's natural resources, the Delaware River Basin Commission (Commission) and all members of the Basin community share in this duty; and

Whereas, the 1999 Resolution specifically directed the Commission to develop a new comprehensive water resources plan for the Basin, to periodically compile an environmental goals and indicators report, and to establish a watershed advisory council; and

Whereas, in response to the challenge and directives of the 1999 Resolution, in the spring of 2001 the Commission convened its Watershed Advisory Council, comprised of representatives of the Delaware Estuary Program, the USACE, the EPA, the NPS, the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), non-profit organizations, state, local and county governments, and businesses representing a broad spectrum of Basin interests; and

Whereas, the Watershed Advisory Council, in consultation with existing Commission advisory committees, ad hoc committees, and focus groups, has worked diligently over a period of three years to respond to the challenge of the 1999 Resolution with a unifying vision for the Basin; and

Whereas, this vision is set forth in a document known as the Water Resources Plan for the Delaware River Basin: A Common Vision for a Common Resource (Basin Plan), which lays out policy direction for the use, protection and enhancement of the Basin's water resources through the year 2030; and

Whereas, the Basin Plan contains principles, goals and objectives to guide and direct actions that influence the quality and quantity of water resources in the Basin; now therefore,

Be It Resolved that the Delaware River Basin Commissioners support the principles, goals, and objectives embodied in the Basin Plan and direct the Commission staff, in developing the Commission's new comprehensive water resources plan, to be guided by the Basin Plan; and

Be it Further Resolved that the Delaware River Basin Commissioners, the EPA, the NPS, the USGS, and the USFWS will support and help to implement the goals and objectives of the Basin Plan; and

Be it Further Resolved that in accordance with the 1999 Resolution, the Commissioners direct the staff, in coordination with state and federal agencies, to compile an environmental goals and indicators report every five years, with the first report to be issued in 2006, to define the state of the Basin and describe progress towards achieving the desired results of the Basin Plan; and

Be it Further Resolved that the Commissioners thank the many individuals who devoted their time and creativity to the complex task of developing the Basin Plan.

And Be it Finally Resolved that with appreciation for all that the many contributors to the Basin Plan have accomplished, the Delaware River Basin Commissioners now present the Commission staff and the Basin community as a whole with the even greater challenge of developing strategies and undertaking activities to realize the goals of the Basin Plan, with assurance of the Commissioners' continued support for these endeavors.

Ruth Ann Minner
Governor, State of Delaware

James E. McGreevey
Governor, State of New Jersey

George E. Pataki
Governor, State of New York

Edward G. Rendell
Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Brigadier General Merdith W.B. Temple
Commander, North Atlantic Division
United States Army Corps of Engineers

The United States Environmental Protection Agency, as an official member of the Delaware Estuary Program, the National Park Service, as a major federal land and water manager within the Delaware River Basin, the United States Geological Survey, in its capacity as a leading contributor to the examination and assessment of the Basin's natural resources, and the United States Fish & Wildlife Service, consistent with its mission to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people, hereby affirm their support of the Commission's actions taken this day, by signing this Resolution Supporting Implementation of the Water Resources Plan for the Delaware River Basin.

Effective this thirteenth day of September in the year 2004:

Jane M. Kenny
Regional Administrator, Region II
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Donald S. Welsh
Regional Administrator, Region III
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Marie Rust
Regional Director, Northeast Region
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Catherine L. Hill
Regional Executive for Water, Northeast Region
U.S. Geological Survey
U.S. Department of the Interior

Marvin E. Moriarty
Regional Director, Region V
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Anthony J. Kramer
State Conservationist, NJ
Designated Regional Representative
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

water resources PLAN FOR THE DELAWARE RIVER BASIN