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**John W. Betkowski,
Chairman – Connecticut Water Planning Council
Vice Chairman – Public Utilities Regulatory Authority**

**W. David LeVasseur
Vice Chairman – Connecticut water Planning Council
Acting Undersecretary – Connecticut Office of Policy and Management**

**Lori Mathieu
Member – Connecticut Water Planning Council
Public Health Section Chief – Connecticut Department of Public Health**

**Betsy Wingfield
Member – Connecticut Water Planning Council
Bureau Chief – Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection**

**Connecticut Water Planning Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, Connecticut 06051**

**Re: Connecticut Irrigation Contractors Association (CICA)
Comments for the State Water Plan Draft Report**

Dear Water Planning Council Members,

We appreciate your acceptance of Curtis Anderson from Anderson Turf Irrigation as a member of the WPC Advisory Group Committee so he could represent the CICA as a CT Water Plan Stakeholder during this Draft process. We know that Mr. Anderson was able to provide details regarding our organization and our desire to be influential. Items that should be shared in this Water Plan and throughout the legislative development include:

- It should be noted in the water plan that irrigation is a licensed trade within the State of Connecticut. CT is one of the few states to license this trade. Irrigation is licensed under

the State Plumbing Code as J3 and J4 licenses. To receive a license one must complete an apprenticeship program that includes on the job and class training. A State test must be taken and passed to receive a J4 Journeyman's license. After 2 years in the field, another test is required to become a J3 Contractor License holder. Continuing Education Units (CEU's) are required to retain the irrigation license.

- The Connecticut Irrigation Contractors Association (CICA), is a membership organization for irrigation contractors, designers, suppliers and manufacturers. Founded in 1988, the CICA promotes excellence in the field of landscape irrigation service and installation. The CICA is dedicated to the achievement of standardization within its area of expertise, through relevant licensing, involvement in educational seminars, trade shows and open communications within and outside our membership. Our website is www.cicaweb.org.
- The CICA was instrumental in the development of the CT Irrigation license details and implementation.
- The CICA developed the proper classes to satisfy the state CEU requirements. These CEU classes train our members on the latest conservation tools, smart watering technologies and current industry standards.
- Through our lobbying efforts and involvement from our members we were instrumental in helping pass the existing CT Rain Sensor Legislation to help promote responsible water use in the State of Connecticut.
- The CICA is an affiliate member of the national Irrigation Association (IA) www.irrigation.org. The IA mission is to promote efficient irrigation through advocacy and professional development.
- There is a science and study behind the concept and practice of irrigation that goes well beyond the visible use of agriculture and landscape irrigation. We have spent decades researching our profession, the landscape, soils and environment as well as the supply, movement and management of water for irrigation purposes. Both organizations (The CICA and IA) would like to offer our professional assistance and knowledge to this Water Planning Council and the Connecticut State Legislature during this draft proposal and beyond.
- The IA has developed multiple certifications for irrigation professionals interested in improving their knowledge and understanding of irrigation principles. The IA offers many certifications that are recognized in other states as license requirements and the [EPA WaterSense](#) program has recognized certain certifications in their programs. Current certifications include:

- [Certified Irrigation Technician \(CIT\)](#)
 - [Certified Landscape irrigation Auditor \(CLIA\)](#)
 - [Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditor – Drip \(CLIA- - Drip\)](#)
 - [Certified Golf Irrigation Auditor \(CGIA\)](#)
 - [Certified Irrigation Contractor \(CIC\)](#)
 - [Certified Irrigation Designer \(CID\)](#)
 - [Certified Landscape Water Manager \(CLWM\)](#)
 - [Certified Agricultural Irrigation Specialist \(CAIS\)](#)
 - [Certified irrigation Designer – Agriculture \(CID\)](#)
- As part of the mission to promote efficient irrigation, the IA partners with experts and stakeholders from industry, academia and the public sector to define best practices in efficient water management, establish benchmarks and guidelines for products and application and advocate for water policies based on sound science. Following are some items that might be helpful to the Water Council:

[Landscape Irrigation Best Management Practices](#) (BMP)
[Principles of Efficient Agricultural Irrigation](#)
[Smart Water Application Technology](#) (SWAT) Initiative
[Multiple Position Papers](#) including [Alternative Water Sources](#)
[2015 Drought Summit](#), [2016 Drought Summit](#) and [2017 Drought Summit](#)

The CT Water Plan Draft states, *“The Plan in and of itself is not the solution to Connecticut’s water issues, but it is a collection of scientific information, policy recommendations, and forward-looking steps that should help frame the future water management laws, regulations, and resolution of specific local issues.”* Within this Draft, Conservation is considered one of the five most important points. The CICA realizes that water conservation includes the irrigation industry and our customers. We would like the Plan to identify the irrigation industry as part of the conservation opportunity; while recognizing irrigation’s impact as an industry to the health of Connecticut, irrigations value as a business and the employment of CT residents, Our association’s (CICA and IA) knowledge of the efficient science and standards in irrigation, and the CICA’s and IA’s commitment to licensing and education. As CT residents with families and friends throughout the state, we know we can be stewards of CT water in partnership with this Water Council and the CT Legislature.

Please continue to consider us as a partner in the State.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Geckeler CLIA, CIC
 CT Irrigation License #PLM.028654-J4
 President
 Connecticut Irrigation Contractors Association (CICA)

