

Binder

REMARKS OF GOVERNOR THOMAS H. KEAN

AT THE

PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN DROUGHT

RESTRICTIONS

STATE HOUSE

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

THURSDAY, JULY 11, 1985

GOOD AFTERNOON.

ON APRIL 17TH, AT A TIME WHEN NEW JERSEY WAS SUFFERING FROM ITS LOWEST LEVEL OF RAINFALL IN 55 YEARS, I DECLARED A DROUGHT EMERGENCY IN 93 TOWNS IN NORTHERN NEW JERSEY AND ANNOUNCED CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS ON THE NON-ESSENTIAL OUTDOOR USE OF WATER.

ON MAY 17TH, AS THE WATER LEVEL IN OUR RESERVOIRS CONTINUED TO FALL, I EXTENDED THE DROUGHT EMERGENCY TO THE ENTIRE STATE AND ORDERED WATER RATIONING IN THOSE 93 TOWNS.

SINCE THEN, WE HAVE BEEN CONSTANTLY RE-EVALUATING THE DROUGHT SITUATION, AND ADJUSTING OUR PLANS ACCORDINGLY. FOR EXAMPLE, AS YOU KNOW, WE RECENTLY REMOVED PEQUANNOCK FROM THE LIST OF TOWNS SUBJECT TO PHASE II WATER RATIONING.

I HAVE CALLED YOU TOGETHER TODAY TO BRING YOU UP TO DATE ON THE PROGRESS WE'VE MADE IN COMBATING THE DROUGHT, AND TO ANNOUNCE THE SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS WE HAD PREVIOUSLY IMPOSED.

AS OF TODAY, THE RESERVOIRS OF THE FOUR MAJOR WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE STATE ARE JUST UNDER 78 PERCENT FULL.

THIS COMPARES WITH 59% ON APRIL 17th, WHEN I FIRST DECLARED A DROUGHT EMERGENCY IN THIS AREA.

WE'VE MADE PROGRESS FOR SEVERAL REASONS:

FIRST, AND PROBABLY MOST IMPORTANT, IS THE FANTASTIC COOPERATION WE HAVE HAD FROM THE PUBLIC IN CONSERVING WATER.

NORMALLY, WATER USE RISES AS WE MOVE FROM THE SPRING TO THE HOTTER MONTHS OF SUMMER. THE NORMAL DAILY WATER DEMAND AT THIS TIME OF YEAR IS ABOUT 390 MILLION GALLONS PER DAY.

BUT THIS YEAR, IN RESPONSE TO THE CALL FOR CONSERVATION, WATER USE HAS ACTUALLY FALLEN SINCE THE SPRING. CURRENTLY, DAILY WATER DEMAND IS ABOUT 300 MILLION GALLONS A DAY.

THIS MEANS THAT NEW JERSEYANS ARE USING 25% LESS WATER THAN NORMAL. I APPLAUD THAT, AND ASK THAT THIS UNITED CONSERVATION EFFORT CONTINUE.

SECONDLY, WE HAVE HAD SOME UNUSUAL -- AND VERY FORTUNATE -- WEATHER PATTERNS DURING THE MONTHS OF MAY AND JUNE. RAINFALL DURING THOSE TWO MONTHS WAS ABOUT 4 INCHES ABOVE NORMAL.

OBVIOUSLY, WE CANNOT COUNT ON THIS LASTING FOREVER. IN FACT, SO FAR IN JULY, WE HAVE HAD ONLY ABOUT HALF THE NORMAL AMOUNT OF RAINFALL.

AND THIRDLY, THE INTERCONNECTIONS AND PUMPING STATIONS THAT WE HAVE BUILT SINCE THE DROUGHT OF 1980 AND 1981 HAVE ALLOWED US TO MANAGE OUR WATER IN SUCH A WAY AS TO KEEP OUR RESERVOIR LEVELS FROM DROPPING TOO FAR.

THE INTERCONNECTIONS HAVE ALLOWED US TO TRANSFER WATER TO WHERE IT IS NEEDED, AND TO "BANK" WATER IN THOSE RESERVOIR SYSTEMS. FOR EXAMPLE, BY DIRECTING AN ADDITIONAL 20 MILLION GALLONS PER DAY TO NEWARK FROM ELIZABETHTOWN, WE WERE ABLE TO INCREASE STORAGE IN THE NEWARK SYSTEM BY 20 MILLION GALLONS EACH DAY. AS A RESULT, NEWARK RESERVOIRS ARE NOW AT 70 % FULL.

THE PUMPING STATIONS WE HAVE IMPROVED ALONG THE RAMAPO AND SADDLE RIVERS HAVE GIVEN US THE ABILITY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE ADDED RAINFALL BY FILLING RESERVOIRS WITH THE EXCESS RUNOFF RATHER THAN LOSING THIS WATER.

THE RAMAPO PUMPING STATION, PART OF THE WANAQUE SOUTH PROJECT, CAN NOW HANDLE 150 MILLION GALLONS PER DAY. IT WAS A KEY FACTOR IN IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS IN BOTH THE WANAQUE AND THE ORADELL RESERVOIRS -- WHICH ARE THEMSELVES CONNECTED BY PIPELINE.

THE CHART TO MY RIGHT SHOWS HOW VITAL THE INTERCONNECTIONS, THE PUMPING STATIONS, AND THE MASSIVE CONSERVATION EFFORT HAVE BEEN TO EASING THE DROUGHT.

AS YOU CAN SEE, WITHOUT THESE MEASURES, THE MAJOR RESERVOIRS WOULD BE ONLY 59.7% FULL -- INSTEAD OF THE AT THE 78% LEVEL WHERE THE ACTUALLY ARE TODAY.

ONE THING IS CLEAR: WE ARE STILL FACING A DROUGHT. CONERSVATION AND THESE WATER MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES GOT US WHERE WE ARE TODAY, AND IF THEY DON'T CONTINUE, THE SITUTATION WILL WORSEN RAPIDLY.

WE ARE, HOWEVER, IN A MUCH BETTER SITUATION THAN WE WERE JUST TWO MONTHS AGO. AND I DO NOT FEEL THAT OUR CITIZENS AND BUSINESSES SHOULD FACE UNDUE HARDSHIP ANY LONGER THAN IS NECESSARY.

THEREFORE, TODAY I AM REVISING A NUMBER OF THE DROUGHT RESTRICTIONS CURRENTLY IN EFFECT:

- FIRST, I AM SUSPENDING THE WATER RATIONING IMPOSED ON THOSE 92 COMMUNITIES CURRENTLY UNDER PHASE II RESTRICTIONS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE -- AND PLACING THEM ON STANDBY RATIONING.

THIS MEANS THAT THAT PEOPLE LIVING IN THOSE TOWNS WILL NO LONGER BE SUBJECT TO THE 50 GALLONS PER PERSON PER DAY LIMIT. AND IT MEANS THAT NON-RESIDENTIAL USERS WILL NO LONGER BE CHARGED THE AUTOMATIC 33 PERCENT RATE INCREASE IMPOSED ON MAY 17TH.

I WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT SURCHARGES ALREADY APPLIED BY THE WATER PURVEYORS WILL NOT BE FORGIVEN. AND ANY CUSTOMER WHO IS FOUND TO HAVE GONE OVER THE LIMIT IN THE PERIOD SINCE MAY 17TH WILL STILL HAVE TO PAY THE SURCHARGE FOR EXCESS WATER USE.

- SECONDLY, I AM TODAY REMOVING MANDATORY PHASE I RESTRICTIONS FROM TWELVE TOWNS --- ALLENDALE, GLEN ROCK, HOHOKUS, MAHWAH, MIDLAND PARK, PARK RIDGE, RAMSEY, RIDGEWOOD, SADDLE RIVER, WALDWICK, WYCKOFF, AND HAWTHORNE --WHICH HAVE PRESENTED EVIDENCE TO OUR DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WHICH INDICATES THAT THESE MANDATORY RESTRICTIONS ARE NO LONGER NECESSARY. THE WELLS IN THESE MUNICIPALITIES ARE AT ADEQUATE LEVELS, AND THEY HAVE AGREED TO A NUMBER OF VOLUNTARY MEASURES TO CUT WATER USE, SO WE BELIEVE THAT RELIEF IS CALLED FOR.

- THIRDLY, THE PROHIBITION ON STREET SWEEPING THAT IS PART OF OUR PHASE I RESTRICTIONS IS REMOVED, PROVIDED THAT A NON-POTABLE WATER SOURCE IS USED.

PHASE I RESTRICTIONS -- WHICH INCLUDE NO WATERING OF LAWNS AND WASHING CARS -- WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT, AND WILL BE ENFORCED BY LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS.

THESE RESTRICTIONS ARE MANDATORY IN 218 TOWNS THROUGHOUT NEW JERSEY -- AND WE ARE ASKING ALL OTHER TOWNS IN THE STATE TO CONTINUE TO OBSERVE THEM VOLUNTARILY.

REMEMBER, THE ABOVE AVERAGE RAINFALL I MENTIONED EARLIER DID NOT OCCUR UNIFORMLY THROUGHOUT THE STATE. THERE ARE STILL PARTS OF NEW JERSEY WITH VERY STRESSED WATER SYSTEMS -- AND WITH THE POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS PROBLEMS LATER IN THE SUMMER.

WHILE NORTHERN SECTIONS OF OUR STATE HAD UNUSUALLY HEAVY RAIN FOR THESE PAST TWO MONTHS, SOUTH JERSEY STILL HAS A DEFICIT OF MORE THAN 13 INCHES.

IN THE DELAWARE RIVER BASIN, CONDITIONS ARE DEPENDENT ON LEVELS IN NEW YORK RESERVOIRS, WHICH ARE NOW ONLY SLIGHTLY ABOVE HALF FULL.

THE SALT FRONT IN THE LOWER DELAWARE IS MOVING UPSTREAM AT A RATE WHICH CAUSES GREAT CONCERN -- AND WE ARE WATCHING IT CLOSELY. AS YOU KNOW, COMMUNITIES ALONG THE DELAWARE ARE ALREADY UNDER MANDATORY PHASE I RESTRICTIONS, AND THEY WILL REMAIN SO.

I AM TAKING THESE STEPS TO EASE RESTRICTIONS AFTER AN IN-DEPTH TECHNICAL ANALYSIS OF PROJECTED WATER USE AND WORST CASE RAINFALL PROJECTIONS HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN BY OUR DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

USING DETAILED COMPUTER ANALYSIS PERFORMED BY THE NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, DEP CONCLUDED THAT IT IS VERY UNLIKELY -- ALTHOUGH NOT IMPOSSIBLE -- THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO REIMPOSE RATIONING LATER IN THE YEAR.

THIS CHART SHOWS THAT WITHOUT RATIONING, EVEN IF WE ONLY RECEIVE LESS THAN HALF NORMAL RAINFALL -- EQUIVALENT TO THE DROUGHT OF RECORD IN 1964 AND 1965 -- OUR RESERVOIRS WOULD STILL BE ABOUT 40% FULL ON THE FIRST OF NOVEMBER, WHEN THEY NORMALLY BEGIN TO REFILL AGAIN.

WITH NORMAL RAINFALL, AND WITHOUT RATIONING, NJIT PROJECTS THAT THESE RESERVOIRS WILL BE AT ABOUT 60% FULL ON NOVEMBER 1ST.

I CANNOT EMPHASIZE STRONGLY ENOUGH THE NEED FOR A CONTINUED -- AND EVEN REDOUBLED -- EFFORT TO SAVE WATER.

THEREFORE, TODAY WE ARE ALSO LAUNCHING A MAJOR CAMPAIGN TO ENCOURAGE WATER CONSERVATION THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

TO GET THE MESSAGE OUT, THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION HAS PREPARED A NEW BROCHURE WITH WATER CONSERVATION TIPS. WE HAVE APPROACHED THE NEW JERSEY FOOD COUNCIL, PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS, AND NEW JERSEY BELL TO HELP DISTRIBUTE THESE TIPS.

IN ADDITION, LOCAL SEVEN ELEVEN STORES AND McDONALDS HAVE AGREED TO HELP REINFORCE THE NEED FOR CONSERVATION BY GIVING OUT WATER SAVING TIPS AT THEIR LOCATIONS.

SOME OF THE MATERIALS WE WILL BE DISTRIBUTING --
INCLUDING THE NEW EMBLEM, "SAVE WATER: EVERY DROP COUNTS",
ARE AVAILABLE FOR YOU TODAY.

SO THE MESSAGE TODAY IS TWO-FOLD.

FIRST, WE ARE DOING BETTER -- THANKS IN LARGE PART TO
THE TREMENDOUS RESPONSE BY THE PEOPLE OF THIS STATE TO OUR
CALL TO SAVE WATER -- AND THAT ALLOWS US TO SUSPEND
RATIONING IN 92 TOWNS AND PLACE THEM ON STANDBY.

AND SECOND: PLEASE NEW JERSEY, KEEP SAVING WATER.
EVERY DROP COUNTS.

THANK YOU.

Binder



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR NEWS RELEASE

CN-001

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TRENTON -- Governor Thomas H. Kean today announced the suspension of water rationing restrictions previously placed on 92 New Jersey communities, but called upon New Jersey citizens to continue saving water in order to combat the continuing drought. To aid in that process, Kean also announced the kickoff of a major campaign to encourage water conservation throughout the state.

Kean emphasized that mandatory restrictions on the non-essential outdoor uses of water -- including watering lawns and washing cars -- will remain in effect in 218 municipalities, and that the statewide water emergency he declared on May 17th remains in effect.

Kean, in a briefing for the press in the State House, explained that the water levels in the four major reservoir systems serving the Northeastern part of the state had risen to 78% full, up from 59% in mid-April.

The Governor attributed the improvement to three factors: the tremendous effort by New Jersey citizens to save water; unusually heavy amounts of rainfall in the northern part of the state during the months of May and June; and an improved ability by the state to manage water flows through interconnections between reservoirs and pumping stations on major rivers that have been improved since the last drought in 1980 and 1981.

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Kean pointed out that the normal daily water demand at this time of year is about 390 million gallons per day, but that current daily water demand is only about 300 million gallons a day.

"This means that New Jerseyans are using about 25% less water than normal," Kean said. "I applaud that, and I ask that this united conservation effort continue."

Kean also stressed that the interconnections and pumping stations have enabled New Jersey to make the most of the increased rainfall of the last two months.

Without conservation and the use of these interconnections and pumping stations, Kean said, reservoirs in the northern part of the state would be only 59% full today, instead of their actual level of 78% full.

Kean said that he was able to suspend water rationing in the 92 communities after reviewing an in-depth technical analysis of projected water use and worst case rainfall projections conducted by the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), in cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Kean emphasized that surcharges for those who have violated the water use restrictions in effect since May 17th will not be forgiven.

The Governor pointed out that the increased rainfall received in May and June was not received uniformly throughout the state, and expressed concern about the movement upstream of the salt front in the lower Delaware River.

Kean stressed that "one thing is clear: we are still facing a drought."

He called upon New Jerseyans to redouble their efforts to save water.

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To encourage that effort, the Governor launched a major campaign to promote water conservation.

Kean said that the Department of Environmental Protection had approached a number of major corporations operating in New Jersey to enlist their help in spreading tips on how to save water to the public.

Kean said that McDonald's and Seven-Eleven stores had agreed to participate in this effort.

He also stated that the Department of Environmental Protection was preparing thousands of brochures and posters bearing the state's new conservation emblem, "Save Water: Every Drop Counts."

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