



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 28, 2009

Governor advised of groundbreaking study, which identifies Sebago Lake and Saco River as key state assets to regional water delivery and economic development, 1/28/09

Maine – On Tuesday, February 3, the Southern Maine Regional Water Council (SMRWC) will present to Governor Baldacci a recently-completed study that identifies key state resources and outlines benefits of regional delivery of public water.

The SMRWC commissioned the study to gain a better understanding of the region's water supply and to determine if regionalization of public water is beneficial and feasible.

The study projected future water needs and confirmed that Saco River and Sebago Lake are the only fresh water sources with sufficient capacity to serve the long term population and economic needs of the region. While programs are in place to protect these supplies, the study identified additional measures to further protect these critical public resources. The study, which was funded by a grant from the Maine Municipal Bond Bank, also evaluated and recommended regional governance models, interconnection and transmission routes, and additional collaborations to streamline costs.

Governor Baldacci applauded the efforts of the Southern Maine Regional Water Council members to come together for the purpose of protecting valuable state water resources. "By developing a regional approach to the protection and delivery of critical public water supplies, the Council has made important strides to improve the quality of water service and reduce costs over the long haul," stated the Governor. "I look forward to reviewing the recommendations of the regional water study and working with the Regional Water Council as it works to implement the recommendations."

"The SMRWC strongly supports a regional approach to assuring the long term sustainability of its public water supplies, and we are committed to working with the Governor's Office and other stakeholders to ensure the preservation and protection of our key water supply sources," commented SMRWC President Gary Lorfano, who also serves as President of the Portland Water District's Board of Trustees.

The SMRWC was formed in 2005 with a goal to share knowledge, enhance cooperation, and improve service to the region's public water customers. SMRWC members include: Biddeford & Saco Water Company; Kennebunk, Kennebunkport & Wells Water District; Kittery Water District; Portland Water District; Sanford Water District; South Berwick Water District; and York Water District. Since its formation, SMRWC members have implemented a number of initiatives that have resulted in measurable cost savings to their customer base.

MEDIA ADVISORY & PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

What: Press Conference When: Tuesday, February 3, 2009 1:30 p.m.

Where: Governor's Cabinet Room, State House, Augusta ME

Who: Governor Baldacci will comment on plan presented by Gary Lorfano, president of the Southern Maine Regional Water Council

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