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Michael E. Handler, Chairman  
SWPCA Board of Directors  
Stamford Water Pollution Control Authority  
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April 28, 2014

Randall M. Skigen  
President and Deputy Mayor  
Board of Representatives  
Stamford Government Center  
888 Washington Boulevard, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Stamford, CT 06901

Dear President Skigen:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Stamford Water Pollution Control Authority, I ask that you reverse the \$310,000 in cuts recommended by the Board of Finance at its April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting and approve the 2014/15 budget of \$26,122,992 as unanimously approved by our Board of Directors on February 26, 2014.

On September 10, 2012, the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection issued Notice of Violation #12-007. Central to the State's NOV was their concern that the SWPCA was unable to access adequate funding in a timely manner to operate the plant in accordance with its permits. As a result, the SPWCA Board worked diligently to ensure that the operating budget and user-rate were set adequately to allow for safe and efficient operation; the money loaned to the SWPCA was repaid to the City in a timely manner; and lastly, that an adequate operating reserve was funded expeditiously. Each of these action items was designed to address the State's issue that the SWPCA did not have sufficient autonomy from local elected officials to effectively manage its operations.

In addition, it is most likely that the cuts recommended by the Board of Finance to the salary, seasonal and contingency lines will not be taken by the SWPCA to those specific operating lines. Rather, as we saw during the 2013/14 budget process, the cuts were instead made to the amount the SWPCA agreed by MOU to repay the City annually. My concern is that the actions of the Board of Finance to recommend cutting \$310,000 from the operating budget of the SWPCA brings us directly back to where we stood in 2012. The SWPCA Board and staff have worked diligently and responsibly in formulating this budget and it would be most unfortunate if the actions of our elected boards were to lead the DEEP to issue another NOV.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael E. Handler', is written over the typed name.

Michael E. Handler  
Chairman  
WPCA Board of Directors

cc: J. Fountain, Chair, Fiscal Committee

**Stamford WPCA, 111 Harbor View Ave., Stamford, CT 06902**