**Emily Lloyd**
*Commissioner*

**Paul V. Rush, P.E.**
Deputy Commissioner
Bureau of Water Supply
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September 29, 2015

Pamela Young, Ph.D.
New York State Department of Health
Bureau of Public Water Supply Protection
Empire State Plaza – Corning Tower 11th Floor
Albany, NY 12237

Phil Sweeney
United States Environmental Protection Agency - Region II
290 Broadway - 24th Floor
New York, NY 10007-1866

Dear Dr. Young and Mr. Sweeney:

Section 4.2 of the Revised 2007 Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD) requires the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to consult with your agencies on the sufficiency of funding available for the Land Acquisition Program (LAP). Since 1997, DEP has allocated a total of $606 million to fund acquisition of eligible lands in the Catskill/Delaware watershed. To date, LAP has spent or otherwise committed a total of $555.8 million, as shown below:

| $ in millions | | Spent or Committed |
|---|---|---|
| $ | 408.7 | DEP purchase ("hard") costs to date |
| $ | 76.0 | WAC Farm & Forest Easement Programs – total commitment |
| $ | 5.0 | Riparian Buffer Acquisition Program commitment |
| $ | 15.0 | NYC-Funded Flood Buyout Program commitment |
| $ | 37.0 | Soft costs expended |
| $ | 14.1 | Soft cost funds allocated to support future acquisitions |
| $ | 555.8 | Total spent or committed |

Thus, LAP has $50.2 million available for the 'hard' costs of acquisitions (i.e., purchase costs at appraised fair market value). Based on the pace of acquisitions in the last three years (in the range of $10-$12 million annually), DEP believes that sufficient funds exist to support the Land Acquisition Program through at least 2017, and it is our recommendation that no new funds be allocated at this time.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. If you have additional questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Susan A. McCormack
as per
DSW

David S. Warne
Assistant Commissioner

c: K. Kosinski, DEC