

South Central Connecticut Regional Water District

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NOTICE OF DECISION

At its May 25, 2023 meeting, the Representative Policy Board (“RPB”) of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (“Authority”) approved the Authority’s Application for a Non-substantial Land Use Plan Amendment to the Land Use Plan for the relocation of the New England Trail in Guilford, Connecticut (“Application”).

The Connecticut Forest and Park Association (CFPA) made a request to move a section of the New England Trail. The relocation will avoid using a road through the woods that has overgrown brush and some wet spots. The new route is under the canopy of the forest, which means that overgrowth will be less of a problem. Additionally, the new route offers more interesting views than the current route. The total length of the relocated trail is 1.01 miles. The relocation will enhance the experience of hikers along the trail. The 0.92 miles of trail that exists between Goat Lot Road and Bangs Road will be kept as part of the Genesee trails system.

The Land Use Plan amendment was proposed as non-substantial (not requiring a public hearing by the RPB) for the following reasons: (1) the site contains a forest that will not be affected by the trail relocation, (2) proper placement and construction of the trail will avoid negative impact to the public water supply, (3) most of the trail is located on Class III land, (4) there will be no financial impact on the Authority since the CFPA is covering the entire financial burden of the trail, including applications and maintenance, (4) there will be no impact on the Authority’s forestry program, and (5) there is no impact to the Authority’s liability since landowners are protected by state statute for allowing recreation on their property for no fee.

The Application and accompanying documents for the New England Trail relocation can be found by visiting the RWA website at <https://tinyurl.com/mu6vxn53>. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the board office at (203) 401-2515.

Mario Ricozzi
Chairperson