



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

July 23, 2025

Brian Foley
Town Manager, Town of Tolland
Tolland Town Offices
21 Tolland Green
Tolland, CT 06084
bfoley@tollandct.gov

Re: South River Road #2 Bridge, Tolland

Dear Brian Foley,

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) received a press release regarding the proposed bridge replacement project for the South River Road #2 Bridge over the Willimantic River in the Town of Tolland. The Council notes that the South River Road Bridge over the Willimantic River is located within a Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB) buffer area. Additionally, the Willimantic River, in that area, is also identified as a “Trout Stocking Stream” by DEEP’s Fisheries Division. The Council recommends that the bridge designer(s)/construction company consult with DEEP’s NDDDB and Fisheries Division for guidance to minimize and mitigate any potential adverse impacts on state-listed species and trout stocking activities. The Council also notes that the project site is located near an Aquifer Protection Area of the Tolland Water Department and recommends that the construction company review and incorporate the protective measures identified in the Department of Public Health’s “General Construction Best Management Practices for Sites within a Public Drinking Water Supply Area” guidance document¹. Further, the Council recommends that the Tolland Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission carefully review the proposed project, at the appropriate time, for consistency with the Town’s Wetland Regulations.

Sincerely,

Paul Aresta
Executive Director

C: Scott Lappen, Tolland, Director of Public Works
Marc Byrnes, DOT, Transportation Supervising Engineer
James Barrows, DOT, Transportation Engineer 3
Michelle M. Rame, DOT, Transportation Engineer 3
Jenny Dickson, DEEP, Director of Wildlife Division
Peter Aarrestad, DEEP, Director of Fisheries

¹ https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/departments-and-agencies/dph/dph/drinking_water/pdf/bmpfactsheetpdf.pdf

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