

## WATER QUALITY AND WATERSHED PROTECTION

Comments Regarding the Draft Filtration Avoidance Determination for the Catskill/Delaware Watershed In June 2002, the City Council submitted extensive comments to the United States Environmental Protection Agency on strengthening the Agency's 2002 Draft Filtration Avoidance Determination for the City's Catskill/Delaware Watershed in areas such as land acquisition, the DEP's involvement in the environmental review process for watershed projects, wetlands protection and riparian buffer zones.

### Res. No. 575 of 2002

In December 2002, the City Council adopted Res. No. 575, calling upon the State Legislature to establish more effective penalties and injunctive relief for the City's Watershed Rules & Regulations. At present, the maximum penalty is only \$200 per violation and the City may only seek injunctive relief and assess a penalty after the alleged violator receives notice of a violation and fails to comply within five days.

### Local Law 27 of 2003

In March 2003, the City Council passed Int. No. 123-A [Local Law 27 of 2003], which increased civil penalties for water pollution, drainage, and sewer control violations. This legislation also gave the DEP greater flexibility in determining fines for those who are polluting the City's water supply and impairing the quality of water bodies surrounding the City.

### Res. No. 652-A of 2003

In March 2003, the City Council adopted Res. No. 652-A, calling upon the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to issue a heightened stormwater permit program for the East-of-Hudson area of the New York City Watershed. The Council subsequently submitted extensive comments on this issue to the NYSDEC in May 2003.

### Comments Regarding Belleayre Resort

In April 2004, the City Council submitted comments to the NYSDEC regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft State Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits for the proposed Belleayre Resort at Catskill Park – the largest project ever proposed to be built within the New York City watershed.

### Local Law 5 of 2008

In February 2008, the City Council passed Intro No. 630-A [Local Law 5 of 2008], requiring the City to develop and implement a sustainable stormwater management plan designed to reduce stormwater runoff and combined sewer overflows that they cause during periods of heavy rainfall or snowmelt. By mitigating combined sewage overflows the City is reducing the discharge of untreated, contaminated sewage, industrial and stormwater into surrounding waterbodies, thereby improving water quality and ecological conditions and protecting public health.

### Resolution No. 1850-A of 2009

In November 2009, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 1850-A, calling for the protection of New York City's Drinking water from dangers posed by unconventional natural gas drilling in New York State and the New York City watershed. The resolution calls on the United States Congress to pass H.R. 2776 of 2009, removing the exemption for hydraulic fracturing from the Safe Drinking Water Act; on the United States Environmental Protection Agency to reassess its 2004 study of hydraulic fracturing with respect to its risks to unfiltered drinking water systems and to apply stringent regulations to protect drinking water supplies from any risk due to

hydraulic fracturing; on the New York State Department of Health to study the public health and regulatory risks of hydraulic fracturing to the New York City water supply system and to propose any necessary actions to protect public health; on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the New York State Legislature, and New York State Governor David Paterson to prohibit drilling for natural gas within the boundaries of the watershed.