Kittery Water District

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Statement from the Kittery Water District

Date: November 6, 2026

From: Matthew Berube, Superintendent

Subject: Water Conservation, Available Supplies, and Future Capacity

Due to the water conservation initiatives under the Kitter Water District (KWD) Terms and Conditions, approved in 2026, the District instituted a process to review & restrict new connections to the distribution system in an effort to maintain reliable service for our existing customers. The State of Maine is experiencing drought conditions at varying levels throughout the state. Several years of repeated drought, with insufficient recharge to the source water ponds has left source water supplies critically low. The continued drought has also elevated the fire danger for communities as well, which is a high priority for the District to maintain proper fire protection for the distribution system.

To clarify, the KWD has **not** imposed a building moratorium, as the District is an independent water utility and does not fall under the Town of Kittery's jurisdiction. As of August 17th, 2026, KWD has instituted a conservation program which restricts excessive water use by limiting outside watering, in an effort to maintain limited source water supply. As part of the conservation program, the KWD has temporarily halted new service connections to reduce demands on a finite resource. This does not prevent someone from developing a property and utilizing groundwater (a well) to serve the property as its water source.

KWD plans to conduct a source water supply investigation to evaluate potential options for expanding future supply sources for the District. Recognizing that there might not be any option for more water supply availability, this study will support the District's long-term planning efforts to meet future demands.

Water supply, conservation, community health, infrastructure reliability and improvements, and the overall well-being of the community the District serves will remain our central focus for future investments. Through coordinated planning efforts, the District will be able to make informed decisions that protect the community and preserve the precious water resources for both current and future generations.