STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Comprehensive Planning and Intergovernmental Policy Division

April 26, 2018

Members of the Continuing Legislative Committee on
State Planning and Development:

The Honorable Steve Cassano
The Honorable George Logan
The Honorable Roland Lemar
The Honorable Catherine Osten
The Honorable Cristin McCarthy-Vahey
The Honorable Jason Rojas
The Honorable Chris Soto

Re: Public Comments Submitted on Behalf of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association (CCAPA) Concerning Implementation of the State Plan of Conservation and Development

Dear Senators and Representatives:

The Continuing Legislative Committee on State Planning and Development (Continuing Committee) held a public hearing on the revised Draft *Conservation and Development Policies: The Plan for Connecticut, 2018-2023* (Draft C&D Plan) on April 23, 2018.

The Continuing Committee received several public comments and specifically requested that the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) address CCAPA's comment regarding potential improvements to the manner in which the State C&D Plan is implemented.

OPM is obligated under CGS Section 16a-32(c) to report annually to the Continuing Committee on progress made in implementing the State C&D Plan. OPM's most recent report was submitted on April 6, 2018, and it summarizes the challenges faced by OPM in trying to make the report more informative and meaningful to members of the General Assembly and the public.

OPM's report to the Continuing Committee cites Section 24 of Senate Bill No. 6 as a potential remedy for improving the annual reporting process, and also identifies some other related issues for future legislative consideration. The language contained in Senate Bill No. 6 would ensure that state agencies receive an advisory statement from OPM concerning the consistency of a proposed action

with the State C&D Plan prior to initiating the formal Public Scoping process associated with the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA).

Such advisory statements would provide multiple opportunities throughout any given year for the public to be aware of, and to comment on, how the State C&D Plan is being implemented. OPM believes this would not only satisfy CCAPA's general concern, but also effectively address the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) earlier public comment concerning inconsistent implementation of the State C&D Plan among state agencies.

In summary, OPM does not believe that CCAPA's comment warrants any further revision to the text of the draft 2018-2023 State C&D Plan, since implementation issues can be addressed either legislatively (e.g., Sec. 24 of SB 6) or administratively through executive powers. If the Continuing Committee would like to direct OPM to further collaborate with CCAPA or anyone else on this matter, we would be happy to be part of a process that can help us to prepare a more informative and meaningful annual report.

Please contact Dan Morley at (860) 418-6343 or Daniel.Morley@ct.gov, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

David A. Kalafa
Undersecretary

Attachment: Report prepared by OPM, pursuant to CGS Sec. 16a-32(c), dated April 6, 2018