

**Representative Policy Board  
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District**

**Application for Approval of a Project to Construct Route 80 Control Valve Improvements in New Haven, Connecticut** : : **February 26, 2026**

**Final Decision, Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law  
of the Representative Policy Board**

A. The Applicant’s Request

On November 21, 2025, the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (“RWA” or the “Applicant”), through its Authority board, submitted an application to the Representative Policy Board (“RPB) for approval of a Project to Construct Route 80 Control Valve Improvements, located in New Haven, Connecticut (“Application” or “Project”).

The existing Route 80 Control Valve, also known as the Route 80 Throttling Valve (“Route 80 TV”), is located within Foxon Boulevard, in proximity to the intersection of Quinnipiac Avenue. The Route 80 TV is a direct buried 36-inch gate valve, installed on a reduced diameter section of the 48-inch prestressed concrete cylinder pipe transmission main. The Route 80 TV works in parallel with the Essex Street Pressure Reducing Valve, providing a reduced hydraulic grade line for a portion of the New Haven Service Area, while sustaining the upstream grade line. The vault that houses the gate valve operator is located beneath one of the westbound lanes of Route 80, which requires traffic control for access and appropriate equipment to safely enter the confined space. Additionally, there is a 6-inch bypass pipe with an inline gate valve that provides for limited flow around the TV but does not allow for isolation of the TV for replacement or maintenance.

Furthermore, the existing TV is a gate valve, which is not ideal for controlling water flow and pressure. Gate valves can be challenging for throttling and pressure control applications, and this type of use can affect the proper operation of the valve. The existing valve is over 60 years old, and the risk of failure will continue to increase over time. For this reason, it is recommended that the Route 80 TV be replaced with a new control valve within a vault, in a safer and more accessible location outside of the Route 80 travel way.

The project will include a new valve vault with control valve and associated utilities, paved access driveway, 36-inch ductile iron interconnecting piping and valving, relocation/replacement of an existing cast iron 12-in distribution main, as well as other site improvements necessary for the construction of the valve vault. The new valve will be located on the Woodward School site, with an easement obtained by the RWA, and will remain live throughout construction. At the end of construction, the existing Route 80 valve will be utilized as an isolation valve to re-route flow into the new 36-inch main on Barnes Avenue.

The proposed Project cost is approximately \$9.9 million and includes a 10% construction contingency.

The Application for approval of the Project was filed pursuant to the statutory authority set forth in Section 19 of Special Act No. 77-98, as amended.

B. Participants

In addition to the Representative Policy Board (“RPB”) and the RWA, the Office of Consumer Affairs (“OCA”) participated in this proceeding. The OCA is authorized by Section 15 of Special Act No. 77-98, as amended, to act as the advocate for consumer interests in all matters that may affect water customers in the RWA’s District (“District”).

C. Statutory Standard

Pursuant to the legislation cited in paragraph A above, the RWA is required to obtain approval from the RPB prior to commencing any Project costing more than \$3.5 million dollars to repair, improve, construct, reconstruct, enlarge, or extend any of its properties or systems.

D. Notice and Procedures

Effective July 1, 2021, Senate Bill 1202, Section 163, permitted the RPB to hold the public hearing on the Application using electronic equipment or technology that facilitates real-time public access to meetings, including, but not limited to, telephonic, video, or other conferencing platforms. Other procedural requirements were also met. On December 18, 2025, the RPB voted unanimously to accept the Application as complete and called a public hearing on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., at the office of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, and via remote access. The RPB designated Charles Havrda (Guilford) to serve as Presiding Member at the public hearing.

As required by Section 10 of Special Act. No. 77-98, as amended by Public Act No. 02-85, the RPB published in the *Connecticut Post* and the *New Haven Register* the date, time, and place of the public hearing to be held by the RPB to consider the Application for approval. The date of publication was December 22, 2025. A copy of this notice was filed with the Office of the Clerk of each city and town within the district. The notice was posted on the RWA's website, including information about electronic participation for the meeting.

The Application also contained confidential information subject to protection under C.G.S. Section 1-200(6)(E), for matters covered by Section 1-210(b)(19)(i)(ii), pertaining to safety risk.

E. Public Hearing

At the public hearing on January 22, 2026, the Applicant provided sworn testimony from Victor Benni, the RWA's Director of Engineering, and Orville Kelly, the RWA's Manager of

Design and Construction. Messrs. Benni and Kelly provided a presentation that addressed the project background, location, approach, scope, need, alternatives analysis, project schedule, and costs.

The OCA provided a summary of his analysis of the Application as noted in his memorandum to the RPB dated January 15, 2026. Attorney Donofrio stated that after a review of the Application and confidential appendices, the alternative chosen was the best alternative, as the Business Case Evaluation illustrates that the cost is lowest for the chosen alternative. Increasing reliability with the new throttling valve is the best interest of the RWA's customers, as well as the risk reduction and safety of its employees. The project will provide operators with the ability to increase flows. For these reasons and the reasons stated in his memorandum to the RPB, the OCA approves the application.

Members of the RPB asked questions of the Applicant regarding location, disruption, easements, valve occurrence and pressure control, maintenance, useful life, and cost comparisons.

F. Analysis

After considering all the evidence presented, the RPB believes that the Application is necessary and advances the policies and goals of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, is included in the five-year plan of capital improvements, and is in the best interest of the RWA and its customers. The presentation at the public hearing reinforced the need for and importance of the Project.

G. Conclusion

We therefore conclude that the Application should be approved. Separately stated findings of fact and conclusions of law are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

**Exhibit A**  
**Representative Policy Board**  
**South Central Connecticut Regional Water District**

**Application for Approval of a Project to** :  
**Construct Route 80 Control Valve** : **February 26, 2026**  
**Improvements in New Haven, Connecticut** :

**Findings of Fact**

1. The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (“RWA”), through its Authority board submitted an Application to the RPB for the Project to Construct Route 80 Control Valve Improvements (“Application” or “Project”) on November 21, 2025.
2. The Project is included in the FY 2027 Capital Improvement Project budget. The Project is located in New Haven, Connecticut, and will commence in FY 2027, with completion planned in FY 2028, at a total Project cost of approximately \$9.9 million.
3. The Project provides operational flexibility, reliability, and capacity to accurately control the flow and pressure to the New Haven Service Area.
4. The proposed project mitigates a serious risk to RWA personnel and the public by eliminating access to critical infrastructure within a busy, traffic-filled state road.
5. The project also provides a significantly safer and more efficient means of operating and maintaining the Route 80 control valve, by eliminating the confined space.
6. The proposed Project is consistent with and advances the policies and goals of the RWA and is in the public interest.
7. The OCA recommended approval of the Application.

### **Conclusions of Law**

1. The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority's ("RWA") application for approval of the Project to Construct Route 80 Control Valve Improvements ("Application") on November 21, 2025, was filed pursuant to the statutory authority set forth in Section 19 of Special Act No. 77-98, as amended.
2. Notice of the public hearing to consider the Application and to allow interested persons, including water users and property owners, within the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority District, to be heard was properly made on December 22, 2025, pursuant to Section 10 of Special Act No. 77-98, as amended.
3. Pursuant to Sections 10 and 19 of Special Act 77-98, as amended, the public hearing was held on January 22, 2026.
4. Based upon the above Findings of Fact, the Representative Policy Board concludes that the RWA's Application meets all requirements for approval.