

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 11-K

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ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF  
1934 FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_

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COMMISSION FILE NUMBER: 0-8084

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SAVINGS PLAN OF THE CONNECTICUT WATER COMPANY

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Connecticut Water Service, Inc.  
93 West Main Street  
Clinton, Connecticut 06413  
(860) 669-8636

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# **Savings Plan of the Connecticut Water Company**

**Financial Statements  
(With Supplementary Information)  
and Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

**Years Ended December 31, 2017 and 2016**

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**Savings Plan of the  
Connecticut Water Company  
Years Ended December 31, 2017 and 2016**

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Other supplemental schedules required by Section 2520.103-10 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act ("ERISA") of 1974 have been omitted because they are not applicable.

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Plan Administrator and Participants  
of Savings Plan of the Connecticut Water Company

*Opinion on the Financial Statements*

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of Savings Plan of the Connecticut Water Company (the "Plan") as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements. In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

*Basis for Opinion*

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Plan's financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) ("PCAOB") and are required to be independent with respect to the Plan in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud.

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

*Supplemental Information*

The schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2017 has been subjected to audit procedures performed in conjunction with the audit of the Plan's 2017 financial statements. The supplemental information is the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our audit procedures included determining whether the supplemental information reconciles to the financial statements or the underlying accounting and other records, as applicable, and performing procedures to test the completeness and accuracy of the information presented in the supplemental information. In forming our opinion on the supplemental information, we evaluated whether the supplemental information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. In our opinion, the supplemental information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

We have served as the Plan's auditor since 2008.

/s/ CohnReznick LLP  
Hartford, Connecticut  
June 27, 2018

**Savings Plan of the Connecticut Water Company**  
**Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits**  
**December 31, 2017 and 2016**

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Investments, at fair value:		
Mutual funds	\$ 30,108,515	\$ 24,854,251
Connecticut Water Service, Inc. common stock fund	3,178,323	2,879,334
Collective investment trust	1,476,288	1,627,090
Total investments	<u>34,763,126</u>	<u>29,360,675</u>
Receivables:		
Notes receivable from participants	739,000	685,758
Net assets available for benefits	<u>\$ 35,502,126</u>	<u>\$ 30,046,433</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**Savings Plan of the Connecticut Water Company**  
**Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits**  
**Years Ended December 31, 2017 and 2016**

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<b>Additions to net assets attributable to:</b>		
Investment income:		
Dividends	\$ 503,080	\$ 435,875
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	4,366,423	2,468,019
	<u>4,869,503</u>	<u>2,903,894</u>
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	31,361	32,643
Other income	2,388	2,585
Contributions:		
Employee contributions (including rollovers)	2,297,743	1,276,522
Employer contributions	719,988	661,145
	<u>3,017,731</u>	<u>1,937,667</u>
Total additions	<u>7,920,983</u>	<u>4,876,789</u>
<b>Deductions from net assets attributable to:</b>		
Benefits paid to participants	2,377,880	1,237,802
Administrative expenses (see Note 2)	87,410	78,989
Total deductions	<u>2,465,290</u>	<u>1,316,791</u>
Net increase	5,455,693	3,559,998
Net assets available for benefits, beginning of year	30,046,433	26,486,435
Net assets available for benefits, end of year	<u>\$ 35,502,126</u>	<u>\$ 30,046,433</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# Savings Plan of the Connecticut Water Company

## Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2017 and 2016

### 1. Description of the Plan

The following description of Savings Plan of the Connecticut Water Company (the "Plan") provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions. The Connecticut Water Company (the "Company") is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Connecticut Water Service, Inc. The Plan was established by the Board of Directors of the Company in 1985 and has been amended and restated since that date. The Plan is a trustee, defined contribution plan covering all eligible employees of the Company and, effective January 1, 2012, The Maine Water Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Connecticut Water Service, Inc.

The Company amended the Plan effective January 1, 2016 in order to bring all previous amendments under one, updated plan document. Additionally, the Plan was amended on February 27, 2017 and July 1, 2017, to allow eligible employees of The Heritage Village Water Company ("HVWC") and The Avon Water Company ("Avon Water"), respectively. The eligible employees from HVWC and Avon Water contributed \$962,222 in rollover contributions upon joining the Plan. As under the purchase agreement with Avon Water, the Company made a discretionary contribution for certain eligible employees of Avon Water totaling 10% of their eligible compensation for the year ending December 31, 2017.

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. serves both as the Plan's Trustee and record-keeper.

The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"). The Company's Corporate Finance and Investments Committee determines the Plan's valuation policies utilizing information provided by Fiduciary Investment Advisors.

Effective January 1, 2009, the Company changed the Plan to meet the requirements of a special Internal Revenue Code ("IRC") safe harbor. Under the provisions of this safe harbor plan, as amended and restated effective January 1, 2012, the Company makes an automatic contribution of 3% of eligible compensation for all eligible employees, even if the employee does not elect to make their own contributions. Employees hired on or after January 1, 2009 are ineligible to participate in the Company's pension plan; therefore, the Company contributes an additional 1.5% of eligible compensation to the employee's account. Additionally, the Plan contains the following provisions as described below:

- (a) Participant salary deferral contributions are made on a pre-tax basis of between 1% and 50% of eligible compensation, or a flat dollar amount up to an annual maximum set by the IRC, for all employees. Participants who have attained age 50 before the end of the Plan year are eligible to make catch-up contributions. Participants may also contribute via rollover amounts representing distributions from other qualified defined benefit or defined contribution plans.
- (b) New employees are eligible to enroll in the Plan after six months of employment with the Company. Enrollment will take place on the first day of the next plan year quarter following the date on which such eligibility requirements are satisfied.
- (c) Participants are eligible to receive Company contributions upon Plan enrollment.

Once eligible, employees can elect to enter into a written salary deferral agreement. Participant loans and hardship withdrawals are permitted. Changes in contributions are allowed quarterly.

Participants may borrow up to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of the vested amount of their accounts at the rate of interest of prime rate plus 1%. The minimum loan amount is \$1,000. Notes receivable from participants must be repaid within five years, or before attaining age 65, whichever is shorter. Notes receivable from participants to purchase a principal residence may be repaid within fifteen years. Principal and interest are paid ratably through payroll deductions over the life of the loan. Delinquent notes receivable from participants are treated as a benefit payment based upon the terms of the Plan document.

A participant is fully vested at all times in the accrued balance of his or her entire account.

On a daily basis, the Trustee determines the total net earnings of each investment option and allocates this amount to the accounts of the participants on the basis of the percentage each participant has invested in each investment option.

Employer contributions are deposited into participants' accounts based on the participant elected allocations.

Payments of benefits upon retirement at age 55 or later, or termination of employment, are, at the election of the participant, either made in a lump-sum payment, paid over a period of time not to exceed the participant's life expectancy, or paid out commencing

# Savings Plan of the Connecticut Water Company

## Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2017 and 2016

### 1. Description of the Plan (Continued)

at age 70-1/2. Payment of benefits in the event of death is made to the beneficiaries designated by the participant and initiated by the beneficiary. A retired or terminated participant who elects distributions commencing at age 70-1/2 may elect to receive periodic distributions at any time prior to taking a lump-sum payout. Benefits are recorded when paid.

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions, the Company's contributions and account earnings. Participant's accounts are charged with an allocation of certain administrative expenses to the extent those expenses are not paid by the Company. Participants are permitted to invest in one or more of the investment options offered pursuant to the provisions of the Plan.

Prior to age 59-1/2, a participant may withdraw roll-over balances for any reason, subject to tax penalties, if applicable. Additionally, participants under the age of 59-1/2 are able to withdraw balances attributable to employee contributions for hardship purposes. Company contributions are not available for in-service distributions due to hardship or following the attainment of age 59-1/2. Participants may withdraw all or any part of their contributed balance upon having attained age 59-1/2. Company contributions can be withdrawn at age 70-1/2.

Effective May 1, 2018, the Plan was amended to include a Roth deferral option, an automatic enrollment feature, and an automatic escalation of deferral. The Roth deferral option will allow participants to make after-tax contributions to the Plan. The automatic enrollment feature will require employees to definitively state that they do not wish to be enrolled in the Plan, otherwise they will automatically contribute 3% of their eligible compensation. The automatic escalation feature will increase participants' withholdings by 1% each year, unless they actively opt out of this feature up to 7% of their eligible compensation. The amendment also changed the definition of eligibility from 'first day of the quarter following six months of service' to 'first of the month following 30 days of service'. Please note the eligibility change does not affect the Plan's current Non-Elective Safe Harbor Contribution of 3.0% or the 1.5% Discretionary Contribution.

### 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management of the Plan to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of additions and deductions during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### Expenses

Administrative expenses and fees of the Plan are ordinarily paid by the Company unless the Plan administrator directs the Trustee to pay these expenses utilizing Plan assets. Fees related to the administration of notes receivable from participants are charged directly to the participant's account and are included in administrative expenses. Investment related expenses are included in the net appreciation in fair value of investments. During 2017 and 2016, administrative expenses of \$87,410 and \$78,989, respectively, were paid to the Trustee out of Plan assets.

#### Valuation of Investments and Income Recognition

The investments in the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits are stated at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. See Note 3 for more information related to the fair value of investments.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

#### Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Related fees are recorded as administrative expenses and are expensed when they are incurred. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of December 31, 2017 or 2016.



**Savings Plan of the Connecticut Water Company**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2017 and 2016**

**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

**Risks and Uncertainties**

The Plan provides for various investment options in mutual funds, a collective investment trust, and a common stock fund. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedule.

**3. Fair Value Measurements**

The Plan values its financial instruments based on the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. In order to increase consistency and comparability in fair value measurements, a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes observable and unobservable inputs is used to measure fair value into three broad levels, which are described below:

- Level 1: Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets that are accessible at the measurement date for identical assets or liabilities. The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to Level 1 inputs.
- Level 2: Observable inputs other than Level 1 prices such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices in inactive markets; or model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs are observable or can be derived principally from or corroborated with observable market data.
- Level 3: Unobservable inputs are used when little or no market data is available. The fair value hierarchy gives the lowest priority to Level 3 inputs.

In determining fair value, the Plan utilizes valuation techniques that maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs to the extent possible as well as considers counterparty credit risk in its assessment of fair value. The asset or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

Financial assets carried at fair value at December 31, 2017 are classified in the table below in one of the three categories described above:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual Funds	\$ 30,108,515	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 30,108,515
Common Stock Fund	—	3,178,323	—	3,178,323
	30,108,515	3,178,323	—	33,286,838
Investments Measured at NAV - Collective Investment Trust	—	—	—	1,476,288
<b>Total Investments, at Fair Value</b>	<b>\$ 30,108,515</b>	<b>\$ 3,178,323</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ 34,763,126</b>

Financial assets carried at fair value at December 31, 2016 are classified in the table below in one of the three categories described above:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual Funds	\$ 24,854,251	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 24,854,251
Common Stock Fund	—	2,879,334	—	2,879,334
	24,854,251	2,879,334	—	27,733,585
Investments Measured at NAV - Collective Investment Trust	—	—	—	1,627,090
<b>Total Investments, at Fair Value</b>	<b>24,854,251</b>	<b>2,879,334</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>29,360,675</b>

There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2017 and 2016 .

## Savings Plan of the Connecticut Water Company

### Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2017 and 2016

#### 3. Fair Value Measurements (Continued)

In accordance with Subtopic 820-10, certain investments that were measured at net asset value per share (or its equivalent) have not been classified in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value amounts presented in this table are intended to permit reconciliation of the fair value hierarchy to the line items presented in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

Investments in mutual funds are valued at the net asset value (“NAV”) of shares held by the Plan at year end using quoted market prices on active markets (Level 1). Level 1 instrument valuations are obtained from real-time quotes for transactions in active exchange markets involving identical assets.

Investments in the common stock fund are valued at the NAV of the units held by the Plan using the closing price reported on the active market on which the individual securities are traded, plus any uninvested cash position (Level 2).

The Plan’s interest in the collective investment trust is valued at the NAV of units of a bank collective trust. The NAV, as provided by the trustee, is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. The NAV is based on the fair value of the underlying investments held by the fund less its liabilities. This practical expedient is not used when it is determined to be probable that the fund will sell the investment for an amount different than the reported NAV. Participant transactions (purchases and sales) may occur daily. Were the Plan to initiate a full redemption of the collective trust, the investment adviser reserves the right to temporarily delay withdrawal from the trust in order to ensure that securities liquidations will be carried out in an orderly business manner.

#### Fair value of investments in entities that use NAV

The following table summarizes investments measured at fair value based on NAV per share as of December 31, 2017 and 2016 :

2017	Fair Value	Unfunded Commitment	Redemption Frequency (If Currently Eligible)	Redemption Notice Period
Wells Fargo Stable Return Fund	\$ 1,476,288	—	Daily	1 Day

  

2016	Fair Value	Unfunded Commitment	Redemption Frequency (If Currently Eligible)	Redemption Notice Period
Wells Fargo Stable Return Fund	\$ 1,627,090	—	Daily	1 Day

#### 4. Tax Status

The Plan obtained its latest determination letter on September 15, 2010, in which the Internal Revenue Service (the “IRS”) stated that the Plan, as then designed, was in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC. Although the Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter, the Plan administrator believes that the Plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC and that, therefore, the Plan qualifies under Section 401(a) and the related trust is tax exempt as of December 31, 2017 and 2016 . Therefore, no provision for income taxes has been included in the Plan’s financial statements.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require Plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the IRS. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions and, in April 2016, the Company was notified by the IRS that the Plan would undergo an examination for the 2014 plan year. The Plan is currently awaiting the results of the IRS examination.

#### 5. Related-Party Transactions and Party-in-Interest Transactions

Section 3(14) of ERISA defines a party-in-interest to include among others, fiduciaries or employees of the Plan, any person who provides services to the Plan or an employer whose employees are covered by the Plan. Accordingly, notes receivable from participants and investments in Connecticut Water Service, Inc. Common Stock Fund are considered party-in-interest transactions. The Plan held 67,864 and 64,573 units of the Company’s Common Stock Fund as of December 31, 2017 and 2016 , respectively. The fair value of the investment in the Company’s Common Stock Fund was \$3,178,323 and \$2,879,334 as of December 31, 2017 and 2016 , respectively. Net appreciation in the Plan’s investment in Connecticut Water Service, Inc. Common Stock Fund was \$153,570

## **Savings Plan of the Connecticut Water Company**

### **Notes to Financial Statements**

**December 31, 2017 and 2016**

#### **5. Related-Party Transactions and Party-in-Interest Transactions (Continued)**

and \$956,632 for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 , respectively. Dividends are reinvested in the Plan when paid. Total dividends paid during the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 were approximately \$59,000 and \$55,000 , respectively.

The Plan's investment in the Wells Fargo Stable Return Fund managed by the Trustee is considered an exempt party-in-interest transaction. Fees incurred by the Plan for investment management services are included in net appreciation in fair value of the investment, as they are paid through revenue sharing, rather than a direct payment. As described in Note 2, the Plan made direct payments to the Trustee of \$87,410 and \$78,989 for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 , respectively, which were not covered by revenue sharing. The Plan sponsor pays directly any other fees related to the Plan's operations.

#### **6. Plan Termination**

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan document to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan, subject to the provisions of ERISA.

**Savings Plan of the Connecticut Water Company**  
**EIN: 06-0713930**  
**Plan Number: 003**  
**Schedule H - Line 4(i) - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)**  
**December 31, 2017**

Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor or Similar Party	Description of Investment including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par, or Maturity Value	Cost	Current Value
American EuroPacific Growth Fund	Mutual Fund	** \$	1,939,247
American Balanced Fund	Mutual Fund	**	2,228,720
Vanguard Target Retirement Fund	Mutual Fund	**	275,860
Vanguard Target Retirement Fund 2015	Mutual Fund	**	127,444
Vanguard Target Retirement Fund 2020	Mutual Fund	**	2,840,896
Vanguard Target Retirement Fund 2025	Mutual Fund	**	583,502
Vanguard Target Retirement Fund 2030	Mutual Fund	**	4,000,815
Vanguard Target Retirement Fund 2035	Mutual Fund	**	654,094
Vanguard Target Retirement Fund 2040	Mutual Fund	**	1,846,822
Vanguard Target Retirement Fund 2045	Mutual Fund	**	429,380
Vanguard Target Retirement Fund 2050	Mutual Fund	**	334,641
Vanguard Target Retirement Fund 2055	Mutual Fund	**	98,706
Vanguard Target Retirement Fund 2060	Mutual Fund	**	3,484
Vanguard Growth Index Fund	Mutual Fund	**	3,272,713
Vanguard 500 Index Fund	Mutual Fund	**	2,285,839
Vanguard Mid Cap Index Fund	Mutual Fund	**	1,493,689
Vanguard Small Cap Growth Index Fund	Mutual Fund	**	1,979,325
Vanguard Small Cap Index Fund	Mutual Fund	**	884,300
Vanguard Value Index Fund	Mutual Fund	**	723,851
MFS Value Fund	Mutual Fund	**	2,512,927
MetWest Total Return Bond Fund	Mutual Fund	**	1,592,260
Total Mutual Funds			30,108,515
* Connecticut Water Service, Inc.	Common Stock Fund	**	3,178,323
* Wells Fargo Stable Return Fund	Collective Investment Trust	**	1,476,288
* Participant loans	Interest rates ranging from 4.25% to 9.25%, maturing between 2018 and 2022, secured by participant account balance	**	739,000
Total			\$ 35,502,126

\* Indicates a party-in-interest

\*\* Cost information was omitted since all investments are participant directed.

See Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.

## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Plan administrator has duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

SAVINGS PLAN OF THE CONNECTICUT WATER  
COMPANY

By: /s/ Robert J. Doffek

Name: Robert J. Doffek  
Title: Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Controller of The  
Connecticut Water Company, the Plan Administrator

Date: June 27, 2018

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Description
23.1	<a href="#">Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</a>

**CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED  
PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the registration statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-51702) of Connecticut Water Service, Inc. of our report dated June 27, 2018 on our audits of the financial statements of Savings Plan of the Connecticut Water Company as of December 31, 2017 and 2016 , and for the years then ended, which report is included in this 2017 Annual Report on Form 11-K.

/s/ CohnReznick LLP

Hartford, Connecticut  
June 27, 2018