COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

STEVE LEVY
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

GILBERT ANDERSON, P.E.
COMMISSIONER

JAMES PETERMAN, P.E.
ACTING CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

MEMORANDUM

TO: Lawrence Swanson, Chairman, CEQ

FROM: John Donovan, P.E., Acting Chief Engineer

DATE: September 6, 2011

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Revised Final Scoping Document for the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) for the Suffolk County Sewer Capacity Study for Bellport, Sayville, Ronkonkoma Hub, Middle Island Corridor, Mastic/Shirley, Yaphank and Southampton (CP 8189)

Enclosed please find 25 copies of the Revised Final Scoping Document for the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) for the Suffolk County Sewer Capacity Study for Bellport, Sayville, Ronkonkoma Hub, Middle Island Corridor, Mastic/Shirley, Yaphank and Southampton (CP 8189). Funding for this capital project has been identified in Legislative Resolution No. 829-2009.

The Revised Final Scoping Document includes all relevant issues identified during the public scoping process, including public comments on the Draft Scoping Document that were received at the Public Scoping Meeting convened by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) (in coordination with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works, the Suffolk County Planning Department and the Suffolk County Legislature) on July 26, 2011 at Brookhaven Town Hall in Farmingville; comments received at the CEQ meeting on August 17, 2011 and all written comments received through August 23, 2011. SCDPW respectfully requests that this Revised Final Scoping Document be placed on the Agenda for the September 21, 2011 CEQ meeting.

JD/BR
Attachments
cc: Gil Anderson, P.E., Commissioner
Janice McGovern, P.E., Associate Civil Engineer
Ben Wright, P.E., Principal Civil Engineer
Boris Rukovets, P.E., Special Projects Supervisor
jd09-06-11 Final DGEIS Scoping Document CP8189 memo to LSwanson

Final Scope for Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement for the Suffolk County Sewer District Capacity Study for Bellport, Sayville, Ronkonkoma Hub, Middle Island Corridor, Mastic/Shirley, Yaphank and Southampton Suffolk County, New York

(Revised August 2011)

1.0 Introduction

This document presents an outline of the content and studies required to assess the potential environmental impacts that could result if sanitary sewering were to be implemented in one or more of the following seven areas: Bellport, Sayville, Ronkonkoma Hub, Middle Island Corridor, Mastic/Shirley, Yaphank and Southampton Village. This Scoping Document is essentially the work plan for the preparation of the Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS); it identifies the information that will be compiled and the evaluations that will be documented in the GEIS. The Scoping Document identifies the issues to be addressed within the GEIS, the data to be collected and the evaluations and analyses required to assess potential impacts.

After a State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Coordinated Review, Suffolk County, as SEQRA Lead Agency, has determined that a GEIS should be prepared to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with construction and operation of sanitary sewage collection and treatment systems with the County in Introductory Resolution No. 1683-2011. This scope has been promulgated by the Lead Agency in accordance with 6 NYCRR Part 617.8, and includes the following:

- Brief Description of the Proposed Action;
- Preliminary Outline of the GEIS, which will address potentially significant environmental impacts of the proposed action and include preliminary identification of mitigating measures, reasonable alternatives to the proposed action and growth inducing, secondary and cumulative impacts; and
- Public Comment that has been received on the Draft Scope.

Working together with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works (SCDPW), the Suffolk County Planning Department and the Suffolk County Legislature, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) convened a Public Scoping Hearing on July 26, 2011 at 6:30 PM at Brookhaven Town Hall in Farmingville to provide an opportunity for public comment on the Draft Scoping Document. In addition, the Draft Scoping Document was posted on both the Suffolk County Planning Department website and the Suffolk County Sewer District Capacity website http://suffolksewerstudy.cdmims.com, and written comments were accepted through August 5, 2011.

The Scope was revised for presentation to CEQ on August 17, 2011. However, additional written comments were received after the deadline, and members of CEQ offered additional comments at, and after, the August CEQ meeting.

The Final Scope presented in this document includes the relevant issues identified during the public scoping process, including all comments received through August 23, 2011, and also identifies those issues that were identified, but that are not relevant to this GEIS. This Final Scope will be the basis for the GEIS.

The GEIS will be prepared using existing available data; no field studies or field data collection are anticipated. Site-specific data collection may be required to complete a study-area specific draft/final EIS (D/FEIS) should sewering of any of the study areas proceed.

2.0 Brief Description of the Proposed Action

The Draft GEIS is being prepared concurrently with a study to evaluate the feasibility of providing sanitary sewage collection and treatment systems for seven areas where the potential need for sanitary sewering has been identified by the Suffolk County Sewer District/Wastewater Treatment Task Force. The objective of the concurrent Feasibility Studies is to identify the costs to provide sanitary sewers for each of the seven study areas that are consistent with the needs of each community: to potentially provide economic benefits, development and affordable housing, while preserving water quality. The Feasibility Studies will identify those areas where the benefits of sewering outweigh the project costs.

The proposed action being addressed by the GEIS will be implementation of a sanitary sewage collection and treatment system in the seven areas identified by the Task Force. The objective of the GEIS will be to identify the potential environmental impacts (both adverse and beneficial) of a sanitary sewering program for these areas, and the triggers for further area-specific evaluations that will be required if the sanitary sewering program is to move forward.

The project area consists of seven discrete areas, the boundaries of which were originally described by the Suffolk County Sewer District/Wastewater Treatment Task Force as follows:

Bellport Study Area: "The study area incorporates the Village of Bellport along with North Bellport along CR 80. The Village of Bellport study area will include the areas zoned as Business E and Professional Business which is in the vicinity of South Country Road and Station Road. The area includes the Bellport Village Golf Course along with the various parcels that extend north on Station Road to Kreamer Street and east and west of South Country Road between New Jersey Avenue and Academy Lane. The North Bellport Study area would encompass an area on CR 80 from Bourdois Avenue on the west to Bellport Avenue on the east and extend south on Station Road to incorporate the Transit Oriented Development to Association Road."

Lake Ronkonkoma Hub Study Area: "The service area proposed is consistent with the Town of Brookhaven's Transit Oriented Land Use Implementation Plan Study and will encompass approximately 330 acres that is generally defined by the Long Island MacArthur Airport to the south, the LIE Express Drive South to the north, Bay Avenue to the west, and Babcock Avenue to the east."

Mastic/Shirley Study Area: "This area has been evaluated in the past and would run from west of William Floyd Parkway (Smith Road) to the Forge River along CR 80 – Montauk Highway including the business district to surrounding the Mastic Long Island Railroad Station."

Middle Island NY 25 Corridor Study Area: "The area in question is along Middle County Road Route 25 from the easterly portion of SD #11 and incorporates the area which is under consideration by the Town of Brookhaven. The area under consideration is four proposed hamlet centers at Centereach, Selden, Coram and Middle Island. It is possible that the area would not be a continuous line from Centereach to Middle Island and would be determined by the consultant's work. Areas adjacent to the service area would include the Spring Lake Golf Course, Cathedral Pines County Park, Artist Lake, and the Noose New York State Conservation area to the north."

Sayville Study Area: "The service area that would be proposed would be from Hiddink Street going west along Montauk Highway until Sunset Drive. The service area would also proceed north 0.3 miles on Railroad Avenue."

Southampton Village Study Area: " ... the main street area in Southampton ... which is approximately ½ mile ..."

Yaphank County Center Study Area: "... County Center property ..."

The figures included in Attachment A depict revised Study Area boundaries. SCDPW has met with the local municipalities to review and confirm the boundaries of each study area. Based on discussions with the Villages of Bellport and Southampton, the Towns of Brookhaven and Islip, and the Suffolk County Planning Department, the Bellport, Middle Island Route 25 Corridor, Sayville, Southampton Village and Yaphank Study Area boundaries shown have been refined to better meet the objectives of the local municipalities. It is likely that further refinements to one or more study area boundaries may occur as coordination with area stakeholders continues. These minor refinements of the Study Area boundaries will not require a change in the scope of the GEIS.

3.0 Generic Environmental Impact Statement Outline

The following outline of the Draft GEIS for the proposed action includes a brief description of the contents and studies that will be included in each GEIS section. The GEIS and its findings will establish specific conditions or criteria for future actions if sanitary sewering is approved or undertaken. This includes the requirements for subsequent State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) compliance such as thresholds and criteria for supplemental EISs that will address those site-specific impacts that cannot be completely addressed in the GEIS. The elements of the document are specified in 6 NYCRR Part 617.10 and are summarized below.

Executive Summary – A concise summary of the key project details and impact findings, mitigation recommendations, and areas and topics requiring further area-specific study and assessment prior to moving forward with implementation of sewering.

Description of the Proposed Action, Purpose and Need – A description of the proposed project and the underlying goals of, and need for, the proposed action(s). The 'Action' includes the construction of sanitary sewers in seven distinct areas in the County and the treatment of the sanitary wastewater at either an existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) or a newly designed/constructed WWTP. The description of the Proposed Action will also include the level of treatment (including the expected range of nitrogen effluent concentrations) to be provided by the proposed or existing WWTPs. The 'Action' also includes the creation of new sewer districts, or the expansion of existing districts to accept the

added flow from a particular study area. The cost of these improvements to those who connect to the sewer system will be developed as part of the Feasibility Study; the cost/benefit for each study area will be assessed in the Draft GEIS. The Need for the Proposed Action will include a general description of the regional groundwater quality impacts resulting from reliance on on-site septic systems.

Existing Environmental Setting – This section of the GEIS will include location maps, and definition of each of the seven study areas included in the evaluation. The description of the baseline environmental setting will identify known environmental resources as well as existing and planned land uses in the study areas. For purposes of this GEIS, the study areas will be limited to a radius extending 500 feet from the sewer area boundaries as defined above. Nevertheless, the regional water quality impacts of on-site septic systems will be included in the existing groundwater quality discussion, and the impacts on downgradient ground and surface water resources that extend beyond 500 feet will also be considered wherever appropriate. The Feasibility Studies will identify upgrades/expansion required at existing WWTPs or the need for a new WWTP. The specifics associated with these potential sites will be the subject of a site- specific Supplemental EIS or DEIS. The parameters used to describe the environmental setting will be consistent with those examined in the impact section, as summarized below. Data sources include:

- U. S. Census Data and Suffolk County Planning Department reports
- Town and Village Land Use maps and Zoning maps
- Village/Town/County comprehensive plans and planning documents
- Natural Resource Conservation Service Web Soil Survey
- USGS Maps and available topographic surveys
- Suffolk County Groundwater Model mappings as appropriate
- NYSDEC Natural Heritage Program consultation
- NYSDEC Wetland Maps & National Wetland Inventory Maps (online)
- NYSDEC 303(d) list and related Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) documentation
- FEMA floodplain mapping (online)
- State and National Registers of Historic Places (online)
- NYS OPRHP database (online)
- Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) databases
- Aerial imagery

The draft GEIS will present the minimum land requirements for a new WWTP and siting requirements/restrictions as described in the Feasibility Studies. The discussion concerning siting requirements will be included in the Alternatives section of the document.

Potential Environmental Impacts: Based on a preliminary review of the proposed action, the potential for impact to the following environmental parameters has been identified. As required under SEQRA, both the potential for impacts associated with the construction (short-term impacts) and the operation (long-term impacts) of the proposed sewer system will be evaluated in the GEIS where sufficient project-specific or area-specific information is available. This section will identify the potential significant impacts and/or the thresholds that will trigger the need for additional area-specific evaluations.

- Land Use, Zoning, and Public Policy: This section will include a description of land use within the study areas. Existing plans for development or changes in zoning will be noted. Consistency with Town/County planning documents and policies, including Article 6 of the

Suffolk County Sanitary Code will be evaluated. The potential for use of Transfer of Development Rights, Pine Barrens and/or Sewer Credits will be considered. Zoning changes required for project implementation will be noted. Conformance with the relevant County's Smart Growth policies and New York State's Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Act will be assessed. The need for consistency with area-specific plans such as the Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP), the Carmans River Watershed Protection and Management Plan, the Forge River Watershed Management Plan, the Lake Agawam Management Plan and the draft Southampton Village Center Master Plan, etc., will also be identified.

- Demographics and Economics: This discussion will address the potential impact to those who connect to a new sanitary sewer system. The cost to create a new sewer district or to expand an existing sewer district, and maintenance of the infrastructure and operation of the treatment system will be included in the cost to those within the study areas.

- Air quality: No significant long-term impacts to air quality are expected within the individual study areas. Potential odors from changes in operation at WWTPs will be addressed generically. Construction-related impacts as they relate to air quality, such as fugitive dust and construction vehicle exhaust emissions, will be assessed.

- Visual/Aesthetic Character: As the sewer mains will be below ground, the greatest potential for long-term visual impact will result from the construction of new WWTPs or expansion of existing treatment works.

- Groundwater and Surface Water Quality and Quantity: This section will evaluate the potential for sewering impacts on the current use of groundwater resources to supply drinking water to Suffolk County residents, and will include potential impacts to groundwater quantity and quality, along with potential impacts to surface water features fed by groundwater. Potential groundwater impacts will be assessed based on existing data and published maps and reports. The potential benefits resulting from sanitary sewering, such as reduced nitrate loading, will also be presented (including the regional impacts if sewering was to advance in any or all of the seven study areas). While the evaluation will focus upon nitrogen removal, the potential presence/removal of other wastewater constituents such as pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) will also be acknowledged.

  Potential impacts to surface water resources within the project study areas will be documented based on New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) classifications and water quality data available from the SCDHS. Surface water impacts will include potential impacts from direct discharge of treated effluent, and will also consider impacts from changes to groundwater baseflow and nitrogen loading. Potential construction-related impacts will be analyzed, including stream bank erosion (if piping crosses a stream or other surface water body), sedimentation/runoff, and the potential for petroleum product spills/leaks. Finally, the potential for sewering to induce growth, and the associated increased demand for potable supply will be discussed.

The discussion will also identify the need to consider the impact of projected increases in sea level elevation with respect to any new infrastructure.

- Traffic and Transportation: Construction-related impacts within the proposed sewer corridors will be short-term. Industry standards or measures to reduce the potential disruption to local streets and emergency vehicles/school buses from detours along the route will be discussed. As businesses and residents may rely on these affected roads daily, it may be important to include project staging within the project to reduce potential impacts on local traffic. Potential construction-related impacts associated with the construction of a new WWTP or WWTP expansion will be identified should that sewering option be advanced. The potential for sewering to induce growth (please see below), and the associated impacts on traffic and transportation requirements will be discussed.

- Historic, Architectural, and Archaeological (Cultural) Resources: The GEIS will contain a desktop assessment of potential impacts on historic and archaeological resources. Potential for impact will be assessed based on known resources. The GEIS will include the results of an online search for documented historic use of the sites under consideration. Specific assessments of WWTP sites conducted by a professional archaeologist in accordance with the procedures of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) will be required as part of a site-specific DEIS or Supplemental EIS if the sewering project were to advance.

- Natural environment:

    - Threatened and endangered species – The potential impact to threatened and endangered species will be based on the results of an official request to the NYSDEC Natural Heritage Program and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of recorded sitings of rare, threatened and endangered species within the study areas and at the potential new WWTP locations that are identified. Known sitings of special concern species and natural communities, and/or significant wildlife habitats within the study areas will also be requested and evaluated for potential impact as a result of project implementation. Impact to habitats and vegetation within each study area will be assessed based on published data documenting existing conditions.

    - Wetlands – Potential impacts to freshwater and tidal wetlands will be assessed within the study areas using available online mapping to document existing site conditions. The potential for construction-related and operational impacts will be assessed.

    - Streams/Rivers – Stream/river crossings are not currently anticipated within the study areas. The construction of the infrastructure required to convey the flow to a WWTP may require stream crossings. Industry standard construction measures to avoid potential impacts will be listed. (Other surface water quantity and quality impacts resulting from sanitary sewering will be described under Ground and Surface Water Quantity and Quality, above.)

- Ponds and Lakes – Construction within or adjacent to ponds or lakes is not anticipated. Industry standard construction measures to avoid potential impacts from stormwater runoff will be listed. (Other surface water quantity and quality impacts resulting from sanitary sewering will be described under Ground and Surface Water Quantity and Quality, above.)

- Floodplains – Based on available floodplain mapping, the potential for construction and operational impacts will be assessed. Specific construction-related techniques or measures will be developed to reduce the potential for impact in floodplains. Reported results of the Sea, Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) model from the National Hurricane Center may also be consulted to assess the potential for operational impacts during hurricanes.

- Noise: Noise impacts will result primarily from construction-related activities. Town noise codes will be compared to standard construction equipment noise levels. Industry standard noise-reduction measures typically included in projects of this type will be noted and assumed in the assessment of potential impacts. Increased noise from WWTP operation will be identified.

- Geology and Soils: The potential impact to geology and soils will be determined based on the use of existing USGS reports and Natural Resources Conservation Service information for Suffolk County. The potential for impact during construction will be determined by evaluating the major soil types within each study area.

- Utilities and Community Services: In areas where the potential for additional development/economic growth is identified, an increased need for electric and gas supply, and potable water supply may result. Available utility data will be used to assess the potential for impact on these services. The need for additional WWTP capacity will be noted.

- Construction Impacts: Construction-related impacts will be analyzed within each of the seven study areas. Typically, the assessment of construction impacts for a linear project focuses on traffic, noise, air quality (stationary sources), erosion potential and effects to the natural environment. This section will assume that industry standard measures to reduce potential impacts from projects of this type are included.

- Hazardous Materials: The potential impacts associated with the use of petroleum products during construction will be evaluated in addition to the use and delivery of chemicals that may be required at the WWTP. The potential for sewer main construction to occur within areas of known hazardous contamination will be assessed.

Mitigation Measures – Where significant project related impacts are identified based on the analysis conducted in the draft GEIS, measures to mitigate these potential impacts to the extent practicable will be identified. This will include potential short-term construction as well as long-term operational impacts. For example, measures to reduce the potential for soil erosion during construction and traffic control measures (signage, flag persons, etc.) to avoid impacts on motorists and emergency vehicles will be identified. Potential operational mitigation measures will include WWTP design that incorporates

good engineering practices such as emergency power back-up, or redundancy of key equipment to avoid discharge of untreated wastewater.

Site specific mitigation measures will be the subject of a site-specific DEIS or supplemental EIS. Potential wastewater reuse alternatives to reduce recharge requirements will be generically discussed, as well as the potential impacts of water conservation on treatment requirements. Impacts that cannot be mitigated will be described as unavoidable adverse impacts.

Description and Evaluation of Alternatives – This section of the document will include a description and evaluation of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, considering the goals and objectives of the County. Reasonable alternatives will be focused on those alternative treatment systems that have been approved by NYSDEC and SCDHS. The following alternatives will be evaluated in the Draft GEIS:

- No Action Alternative: Continued use of septic systems and existing sanitary sewage collection and treatment systems within each of the seven study areas.
- Treatment Options:
    - (this is the proposed action, so am eliminating it here)
    - Connection to an existing WWTP (expand existing sewer district boundaries).
    - Alternative treatment processes that provide higher or lower levels of nitrogen removal as compared to the proposed action
    - Decentralized cluster systems

Growth Inducing Aspects, Secondary and Cumulative Impacts of the Proposed Project – The potential growth within the seven study areas that are being evaluated is determined by the current zoning and the policies and plans of the Towns and Villages in which the areas are located. To the extent that Town and Village plans include specific time horizons; these will be identified. The potential for growth will be addressed in this DGEIS in a general manner. A study area-specific supplemental D/FEIS will be required to address this parameter in greater detail.

Other Draft GEIS chapters will include the following:

- Environmental Justice Assessment – U.S. Census data will be used to determine the economic and demographic make-up of the proposed study areas. The need for this assessment will be discussed as it relates to the population within each study area.
- Green House Gas Impact – This assessment will estimate the potential green house gas impact based on the additional energy needs to treat the added flow from each of the study areas.
- Unavoidable Adverse Effects - This section will summarize those impacts that will be unavoidable as a result of implementing the proposed sewering projects.

- Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments and Resources – This section will discuss those nonrenewable natural resources that will be used in the implementation of the proposed sewering projects.

- List of References

- Technical Appendices:

  - SEQRA documentation including Positive Declaration and Final Scoping Document

  - Engineering Feasibility Studies, including area-specific economic impacts on property values

  - Correspondence with Regulatory Agencies

  - Economic Analysis

  - GIS Figures

4.0 Issues Identified during Scoping that Have Not Been Incorporated into the Final Scope

Not all of the comments that were received on the draft scoping document can be fully addressed within the scope of this GEIS, either because they identify issues that are not within the control of the project sponsor (e.g., future growth and development), because they are not relevant to the proposed action (e.g., no CSOs exist within the seven study areas), or because they will more appropriately be considered by a supplemental D/FEIS for a specific study area. In addition, if one comment recommended removal of a topic from the GEIS and another comment recommended expansion of the topic, the issue will be retained within the scope of the document.

Several comments called for comprehensive regional assessments of important issues. While the GEIS will address the cumulative impacts of potential sewering of the seven discrete study areas and will identify issues of broad concern (such as the impacts of projected sea level rise) it will not provide the comprehensive regional evaluations that are recommended.

Issues that will not be addressed, or that will not be comprehensively addressed as requested are identified below; the bold italicized text identifies the individual comments. ***Consider build-out of the Southampton Village study area*** – The future build-out potential of any specific area is governed by the local municipality. Therefore this analysis would be more appropriately considered as part of a site-specific D/FEIS should sewering of the Southampton Village study area be implemented.

Examine existing conditions and future land use density and intensity under the build-out ***conditions in the Study Areas, specifically in the unsewered hamlets identified in the Draft Scope that are located in the Central Pine Barrens*** – As noted in the response to the preceding comment, the future build-out potential of any of the study areas will be regulated by the local municipality (and for those sites located within the Central Pine Barrens, the CULP). A future build-out analysis should be considered as part of a study area-specific D/FEIS should sewering of a particular area be implemented.

Re: demographics and economics, please include an evaluation as to cost/salary per capita or lot by census district – The costs of sewering are assigned to the area comprising the sewer district, and may not be the same area defined by census tracts.

Impervious cover > 25% and > 10% in environmentally sensitive areas should be avoided or mitigated – Specific requirements such as the one identified in this comment may be explored in the GEIS, depending upon the proposed WWTP locations identified in the Feasibility Studies – it has not been determined that such construction may occur in environmentally sensitive areas. Site-specific requirements may be more appropriately considered as part of a study-area specific D/FEIS.

At a minimum, windshield surveys should be performed to characterize each Study Area's existing conditions, developed and undeveloped areas, land use and ecological communities such as terrestrial and wetland habitats present in each Area. Existing, available information from NYSDEC, SCDHS, the Towns and Villages will be used to characterize existing conditions. While existing information may be confirmed in some study areas if necessary via windshield survey, no fieldwork will be conducted to collect and analyze new data as part of this GEIS.

Please delete the "Floodplains" bullet in the list on page 5. This comment conflicts with comments received from other reviewers; in the interest of completeness, the floodplains assessment will be retained in the scope.

Such an analysis also needs to address existing storm water flows and related impairments on stream and wetland hydrology, and any existing CSOs in the affected areas. The proposed action is development of sanitary, rather than storm sewers. There are no combined sewer overflows (CSOs) in the study areas.

The analysis of alternatives may include ... alternative funding mechanisms or grants available that would financially assist in efforts to upgrade failing or outdated systems with new and more efficient individual septic denitrification systems that reduce nitrogen concentrations in groundwater discharge .... and The financial capacity of Suffolk County and local governments to pay for future relocation of infrastructure and development, or for defensive armoring of the shoreline with its associated ecological costs, needs to be adequately assessed. These comments speak to broad County-wide issues that would be more effectively considered within the context of a comprehensive County-wide wastewater management plan and the County's Comprehensive Plan, respectively.

5.0 Comments Received

Comments that were received by August 23, 2011 are included in this document as Attachment B. Comments were received from the following interested parties:

Nelson, Pope & Voorhees, on behalf of Southampton Village, July 26, 2011

Peconic Green Growth, August 1, 2011

Central Pine Barrens Commission, August 8, 2011

Town of Islip, August 9, 2011

Suffolk County Department of Health Services, August 9, 2011

CEQ Members Tom Gulbransen, August 18, 2011 and Gloria Russo, August 23, 2011

New York State Department of State, August 23, 2011

ATTACHMENT A

S.C. PLANNING DEPT.
2011 JUL 27 AM 8:59

July 26, 2011

The following are comments on the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement for the Suffolk County Sewer District Capacity Study for Bellport, Sayville, Ronkonkoma Hub, Middle Island Corridor, Mastic/Shirley, Yaphank and Southampton Suffolk County, New York

1. Please consider decentralized cluster systems as alternative treatment options.

2. Please consider adding groundwater contribution areas to surface water bodies (existing data) and SLOSH data to maps.

3 Re: demographics and economics, please include an evaluation as to cost/salary per capita or lot by census district. Also consider loss of value to existing properties near plant.

4. Visual/Aesthetic character needs to consider the treatment plant itself and odor.

5. Transportation: Please include mass transit needs and impacts.

6. Groundwater and surface water quality and quantity should include groundwater nutrient contribution to surface water. Also, increased densities or % of impervious surfaces have an impact on run-off, including nutrients. Impervious cover >25% and >10% in environmentally sensitive areas should be avoided or mitigated.

7. I would like to see new categories that analyze:
- impacts of water conservation on plant design and cost
- opportunities for wastewater reuse

Sincerely,

Glynis M. Berry

PECONIC GREEN GROWTH

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Riverhead NY 11901

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TOWN OF ISLIP
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Phil Nolan, Supervisor
Dave Genaway, A.I.C.P., Commissioner

RECEIVED
AUG 09 2011
DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS
DIVISION OF SANITATION

August 2, 2011

Boris Rukovets, P.E.
Special Projects Supervisor
Suffolk County Department of Public Works
335 Yaphank Avenue
Yaphank, NY 11980

Re: Suffolk County Sewer Capacity Study for Bellport, Sayville, Ronkonkoma Hub, Middle Island Corridor, Mastic/Shirley, Yaphank, and Southampton (CP 8189)
Determination of Lead Agency, Coordinated Review and Project Scoping

Dear Mr. Rukovets,

Thank you for your letter of July 11, 2011 wherein you indicated that the County is seeking to establish Lead Agency and initiated a Coordinated Review in connection with the above referenced project.

The Town of Islip looks forward to being a partner in this worthy project. We do not challenge your Lead Agency status. However we offer the following comments on the Draft Scope for the Generic Environmental Impact Statement:

1) For the 'Sayville Study Area' description, we recommend that the geographic boundaries be expanded somewhat. In order to coincide with a general zoning pattern that may be amenable to additional commercial/mixed-use development, the physical description of this area should be:
"The service area that would be proposed would be from the Railroad overpass going west along Montauk Highway, including properties on Middle Road to Foster Avenue, until Sunset Drive. The service area would also proceed north on Railroad Avenue to the LIRR tracks (approximately .35 miles)

2) For the section related to Potential Environmental Impacts – Land Use, Zoning, and Public Policy, we recommend that further analysis be performed which compares the current barriers to development stemming from local zoning versus the County's current Article 6 requirements. In some instances, local zoning may not be the primary determinant of development yield relative to the more stringent County rules.

Lastly, we are aware that certain computer databases and GIS coverages would be critical to the successful completion of this study. We are currently updating our zoning GIS coverage and will send it to Cameron Engineering as soon as possible.

Congratulations on embarking on this important project and if you have any questions, please call me anytime.

Sincerely,

Dave Genaway

Dave Genaway, A.I.C.P.

Commissioner

DCG:

cc: Phil Nolan, Supervisor

Dave Janover, Town Engineer

Jeanmarie Buffett, Deputy Commissioner

Robert Svadlenka, Cameron Engineering

CENTRAL
PINE
BARRENS
JOINT
PLANNING
&
POLICY
COMMISSION

Peter A. Scully
Chair

Mark Lesko
Member

Steve A. Levy
Member

Anna E. Throne-Holst
Member

Sean M. Walter
Member

August 5, 2011

Suffolk County Planning Department
Attn: Mr. Michael Mulé, Environmental Projects Coordinator
100 Veterans Memorial Highway
P.O. Box 6100
Hauppauge, New York 11788

Re: Comments on the Draft Scoping Document for the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement for the Suffolk County Sewer Capacity Study

Dear Mr. Mulé:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Scoping Document for the Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) for the Suffolk County Sewer Capacity Study.

According to the Notice of SEQRA Public Scoping Hearing, a DGEIS will be prepared for a feasibility Study to evaluate sewage infrastructure needs, costs, and benefits associated with the construction of sanitary sewage collection and treatment systems for the seven currently unsewered areas of Bellport, Sayville, Ronkonkoma Hub, Middle Island Corridor, Mastic/Shirley, Yaphank, and Southampton. Comments will be accepted on the draft scoping document until the close of business on August 5, 2011.

The staff of the Central Pine Barrens Commission has reviewed and prepared comments on the Draft Scope related to SEQRA, the goals and objectives of the Long Island Pine Barrens Protection Act of 1993 (New York State Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) Article 57), and consistency with the Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP).

SEQRA

Where site specific or community sewage treatment plants (STPs) are proposed, the DGEIS should address potential site-specific, community, and region-wide adverse impacts on groundwater and ecological resources using the most relevant and recent data available (e.g., land use and zoning build out data).

Section 617.10(a) of the SEQRA regulations states that GEISs may include "*...an assessment of specific impacts if such details are available.*" The County has identified specific Study Areas for the analysis, which allows the

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www.pb.state.ny.us

County to compile and assess all existing and relevant environmental resource data for the Study Areas. A substantial body of environmental resource data is readily available such as water quality data and ecological information. For example, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's web site provides a significant amount of information on existing plants, animals, and ecological communities. At a minimum, windshield surveys should be performed to characterize each Study Area's existing conditions, developed and undeveloped areas, land use, and ecological communities such as terrestrial and wetland habitats present in each Area.

Section 617.10(a) of the SEQRA regulations also notes that a GEIS may be used to "*...assess the environmental impacts of... a number of separate actions in a given geographic area*" as well as "*...separate actions having generic or common impacts.*" Section 617.10(3) states:

> "*in connection with projects that are to be developed in phases or stages, agencies should address not only the site specific impacts of the individual project under consideration but also, in more general or conceptual terms, the cumulative impacts of a large project or series of projects that may be developed in the future. In these cases, this part of the generic EIS must discuss the important elements and constraints present in the natural and cultural environment that may bear on the conditions of an agency decision on the immediate project.*"

Central Pine Barrens

The proposed Study Area identified in the Draft Scoping Document as "*NY 25 Corridor Study Area*" is at least partially located within the geographic boundaries of the Central Pine Barrens region; however, the Document did not contain an official map or boundary description for the Study Area. For example, portions of the hamlets of Coram and Middle Island in the Town of Brookhaven are situated in the Central Pine Barrens.

Projects in the CGA that constitute development, as per the definitions in NYS ECL § 57-0107 (13), must conform to the CLUP Chapter 5, Standards and Guidelines for Land Use. If the development activity does not comply with these provisions or, if such compliance is not proposed, then the applicant must submit a CGA Hardship Waiver application to the Commission, subject to review and approval, prior to commencement of construction or related development activities on a project site.

<u>CLUP Standard 5.3.3.1.2 Sewage treatment plant discharge</u>

According to the standard, "*Where deemed practical by the County or State, sewage treatment plant discharge shall be outside and downgradient of the Central Pine Barrens. Denitrification systems that are approved by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation or the Suffolk County Department of Health Services may be used in lieu of a sewage treatment plant.*"

From: Floria, Patricia
Sent: Tuesday, August 09, 2011 12:20 PM
To: DeSalvo, Christine
Cc: Dawydiak, Walter; Negri, Kathy
Subject: DGEIS for SC Sewer Study -- Comments

PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL - INTEROFFICE/INTRA-AGENCY COMMUNICATION - NOT SUBJECT TO FOIL DISCLOSURE - NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION

Good afternoon Christine,

Thanks for speaking with me this morning, and allowing the Division of Environmental Quality to submit these comments on the scoping for the DGEIS for the Suffolk County Sewer Capacity Study:

1. Several of the study areas are vague, particularly the NY 25 Corridor, Southampton Village, and Yaphank County Center areas. The referenced Attachment A did not seem to be included in the document.

2. The STP siting issue is confusing. On Page 3, there is a reference that discussion of STP siting will be in the "Alternatives" section of the document. The DGEIS "alternatives" section on Page 6 seems to indicate that potential sites for new STPs will be taken from existing sources, primarily the "Feasibility Study" - is that study done already, or part of this study?

DEQ would also like to let you know that the "Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan" is available in draft form and the tools therein may be helpful in finalizing the scope and conducting the EIS, since it includes contributing areas to surface waters and public water supply wells, which will be considered by DEQ's Office of Water Resources in STP siting reviews. The link is:
http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/departments/healthservices/environmentalquality/CWRMPSC.aspx

If you have any questions regarding the above comments, please feel free to contact me.

Pat

Patricia A. Floria, P.E.

Associate Public Health Engineer

Suffolk County Department of Health Services

360 Yaphank Avenue, Suite 2B

Yaphank, NY 11980

(631) 852-5803

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STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

CESAR A. PERALES
SECRETARY OF STATE

PLANNING DEPT.
'11 AUG 23 AM 10:23

August 18, 2011

Michael Mulé, Environmental Project Coordinator
Suffolk County Planning Department
100 Veterans Memorial Highway
P.O. Box 6100
Hauppauge, NY 11788

Re: Draft Scope for Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement for the Suffolk County Sewer District Capacity Study for Bellport, Sayville, Ronkonkoma Hub, Middle Island Corridor, Mastic/Shirley, Yapank and Southampton in Suffolk County, New York

Dear Mr. Mulé:

The Department of State apologizes for providing these comments on the above referenced draft scope after the August 5 deadline. We intended to provide them earlier, but were unable to. If still acceptable, we hope they will be of value to you.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the draft scope. The proposed action to be addressed by the DGEIS includes the potential construction of sanitary sewers in seven study areas in Suffolk County and the creation of new sewer districts or the expansion of existing districts to accept the added flow from each study area.

It is essential that the section of the DGEIS addressing the existing environmental setting discuss regional water quality issues related to existing waste water collection and treatment, including water quality and the broad ecosystem impairments associated with excess contributions from onsite systems. Such an analysis also needs to address existing storm water flows and related impairments on stream and wetland hydrology, and any existing CSOs in the affected areas.

The Department is also concerned that the DGEIS comprehensively address the potential long-term impacts of the proposed action. Significant portions of several of the study areas are low lying sites that will be affected by accelerated sea level rise, increased storm frequency and intensity, and associated shoreline erosion. New public infrastructure in these vulnerable areas would require adaptation to the consequences of climate change. The financial capacity of Suffolk County and local governments to pay for future relocation of infrastructure and development, or for defensive armoring of the shoreline with its associated ecological costs, needs to be adequately assessed. As storm surge zones extend well inland of areas classified as hazardous by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), it would be insufficient to limit the DGEIS to the review of NFIP areas. All potentially vulnerable storm surge locations associated with the study areas should be included in an evaluation that considers maximum projected increase in sea level over the life of the infrastructure.

Additional concerns relate to the potential impacts of the proposed action on groundwater, specifically, anticipated reductions in groundwater levels, resulting from diminished groundwater recharge, and related impacts from reduced groundwater discharge to sustain the base flow of tributaries, and maintain wetlands hydrology, in and near the seven study areas. Long Island has seen such impacts play out as a result of sewering in southwestern Nassau County, where portions of streams have dried up except during periods of intense rainfall, during which they serve only as storm water conveyance infrastructure, with marginal ecosystem values and functions. It is critical that analysis of potential groundwater impacts be assessed using not only existing and historic data, but also anticipated future conditions as groundwater resources will be affected by climate change. The proposed infrastructure, and resulting development patterns, should not contribute to increasing vulnerability to climate change impacts over its expected life span.

Finally, the proposed infrastructure and associated development should be reviewed for compliance with the intent and criteria of New York's Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Act. The DGEIS should also consider the effects of the proposed action on coastal uses and resources, as such information would be required for involved federal and state agencies to make their consistency determinations and findings for permit or funding actions in the event the County implements sewering.

The Department recommends that the content of the DGEIS address the above stated issues with adequate depth to assure the long term ecological and fiscal viability of Suffolk County and local government lands and infrastructure within the county.

Sincerely,

Fred J. Anders
Chief, Natural Resource Management Bureau
Division of Coastal Resources

From: Gulbransen, Tom [mailto:gulbran@battelle.org]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2011 5:15 PM
To: DeSalvo, Christine
Subject: RE: Final Scoping Document SC Sewer Capacity Study

Thanks for the reminder. Let's see if I can remember my notes which are now in the recycle bin.

In no particular order:

1. Consider whether the STP construction will impact active or upcoming mitigation banks, eg TDRs, nutrient reduction credits...
2. Add explicit bullet for data source "NYSDEC 303(d) list and related USEPA TMDL documents"
3. Study area should extend beyond 500m buffer in order to accommodate for Great South Bay receiving waters.
4. The 10mg/L N criteria for groundwater is not protective of the downstream waterbodies' eutrophication concerns.
5. STP construction scenarios should describe levels of treatment anticipated, ie secondary, LOT..., and N budget change.
6. If towns' "needs" are specified, the percent growth should be stated with a clear time horizon, ie 10 years or 30years

Thanks
Tom

From: gloria russo [mailto:ggrusso@optonline.net]
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2011 7:57 PM
To: DeSalvo, Christine
Subject: Re: Final Scoping Document SC Sewer Capacity Study

Hi Christine and Mike,

I tried to take notes on some of the comments from the group about the sewer capacity study:

1.How will the study affect/address TransferDevelopment rights?

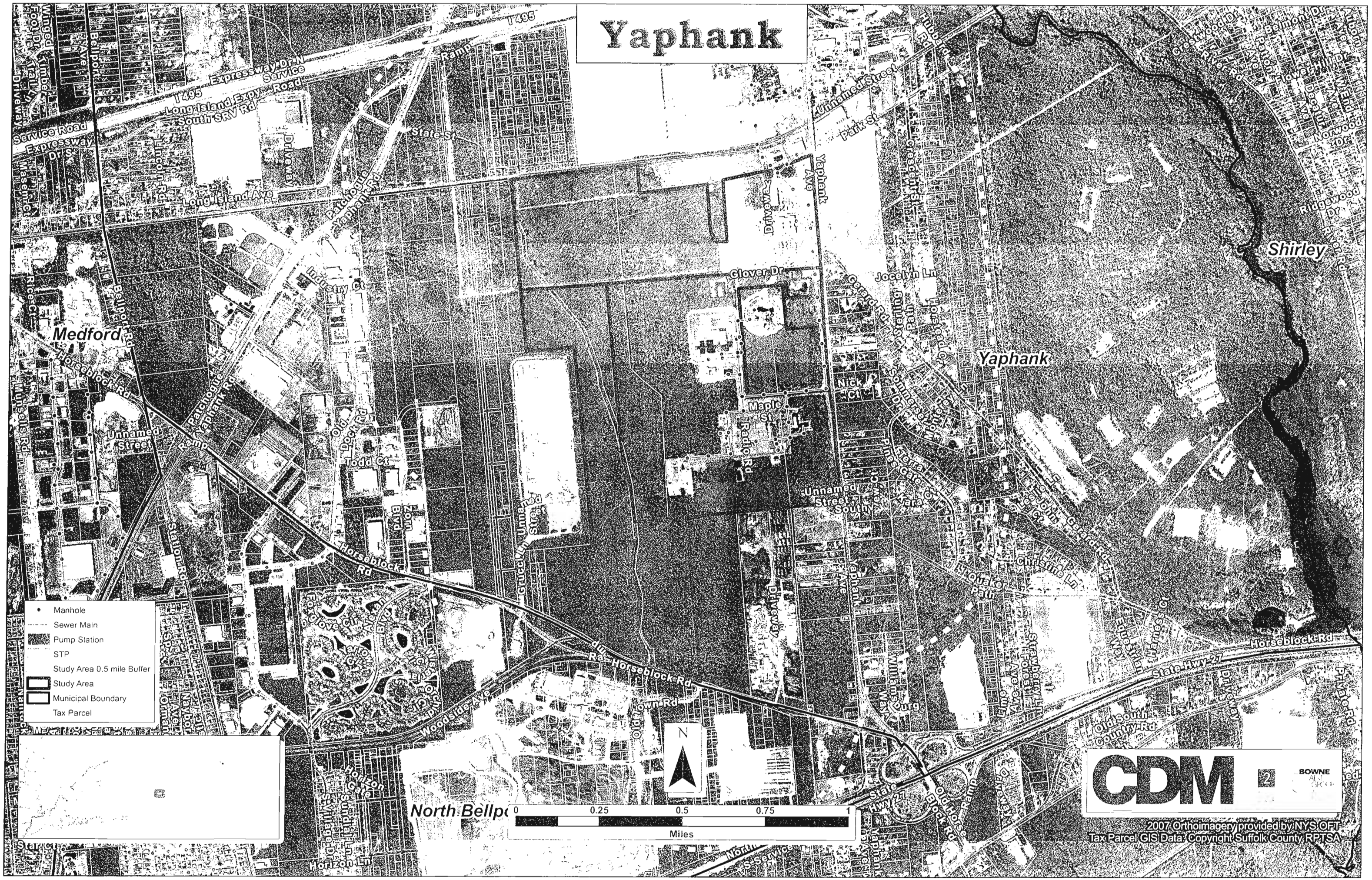
2. Will other seweage constituents besides nitrogen be addressed i.e., PPCPs (pharmaceuticals and personal care products)?

3. Please include the 303(d) waters list to the data source bullets on page 4.

4. Please delete the "Floodplains" bullet in the list on page 5.

Thanks.

Gloria


Yaphank
Medford
Shirley
Yaphank
North Bellpo
Manhole
Sewer Main
Pump Station
STP
Study Area 0.5 mile Buffer
Study Area
Municipal Boundary
Tax Parcel
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Southampton

Manhole
Sewer Main
Pump Station
STP
Study Area 0.5 mile Buffer
Study Area
Municipal Boundary
Tax Parcel

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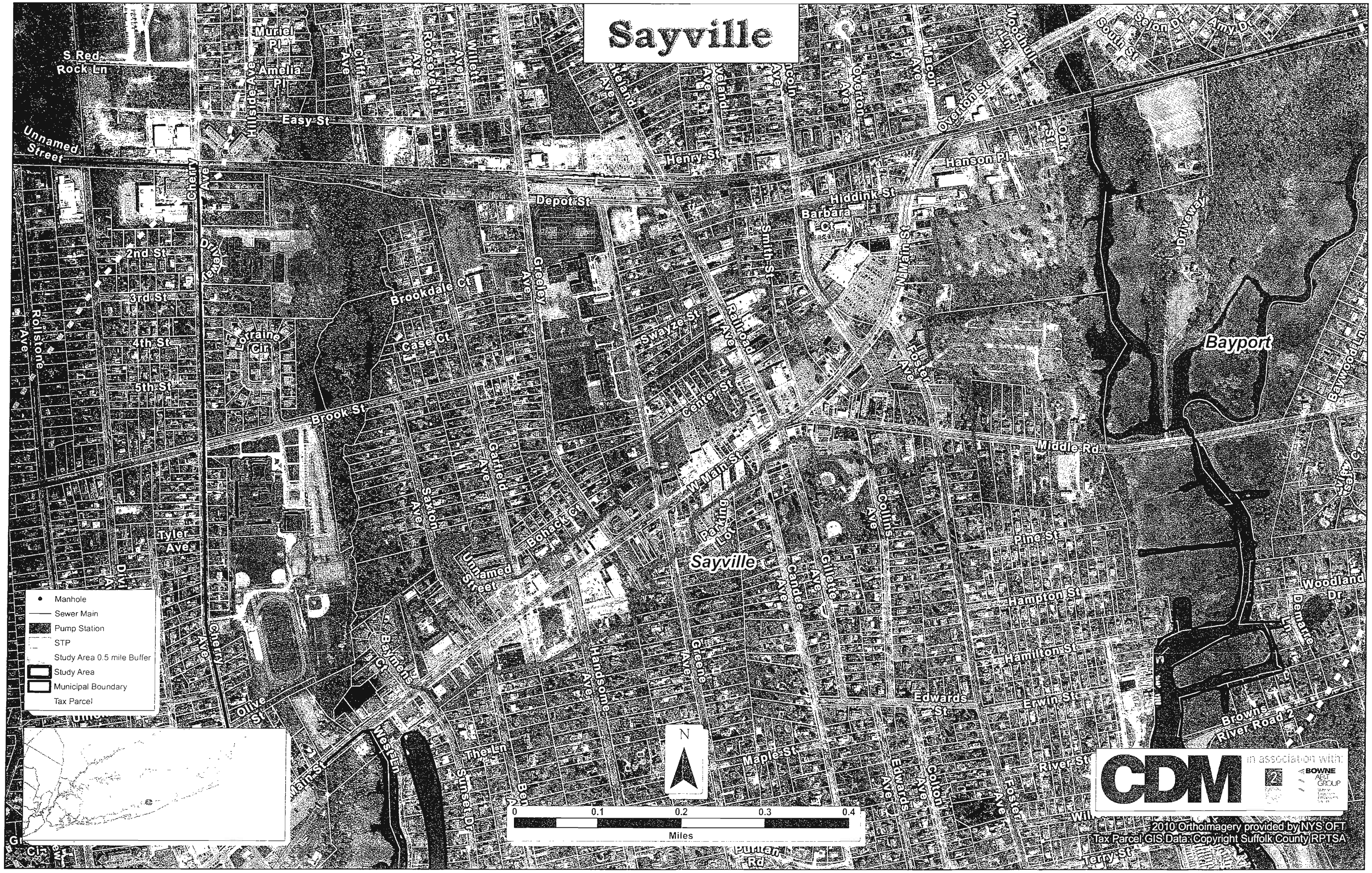
Sayville
Manhole
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Pump Station
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Study Area 0.5 mile Buffer
Study Area
Municipal Boundary
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in association with:
BOWNE AELT GROUP
2010 Orthoimagery provided by NYS OFT
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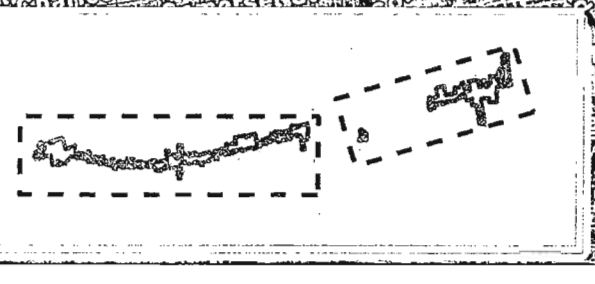
Bayport
Sayville
Depot St
Brook St
Middle Rd
Hiddink St
Henry St
Easy St
Unnamed Street
Cherry Ave
Rollstone Ave
Tyler Ave
Olive St
Main St
West Ln
Sunset Dr
Maple St
Edwards St
Erwin St
Hamilton St
Hampton St
Pine St
Woodland Dr
Browns River Road 2
River St
Terry St
Puritan Rd
Hanson Pl
Barbara Ct
Smith St
N Main St
Railroad Ave
Swayze St
Center St
Brookdale Ct
Case Ct
Greeley Ave
Garfield Ave
Saxton Ave
Bohack Ct
Parking Lot
Candee Ave
Gillette Ave
Collins Ave
Foster Ave
Edwards Ave
Colton Ave
Greene Ave
Handsome Ave
Baymens Ct
Lorraine Cir
Driveway
Baywood Ln
Oak St
Overton St
Macon Ave
Woodhull Ln
South St
Sejon Dr
Amy Dr
Muriel Pl
Amelia Pl
Hillside Ave
Cliff Ave
Roosevelt Ave
Willett Ave
Lakeland Ave
Lincoln Ave
Overton Ave
Dry Creek
Demarre Ln
S Red Rock Ln
2nd St
3rd St
4th St
5th St

Western NY 25



Eastern NY 25

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Manhole
Sewer Main
Pump Station
STP
Study Area 0.5 mile Buffer
Study Area
Municipal Boundary
Tax Parcel

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Mastic / Shirley

Shirley

Mastic

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Manhole
Sewer Main
Pump Station
STP
Study Area 0.5 mile Buffer
Study Area
Municipal Boundary
Tax Parcel

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Miles

CDM BOWNE

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Lake Ronkonkoma Hub

Manhole
Sewer Main
Pump Station
STP
Study Area 0.5 mile Buffer
Study Area
Municipal Boundary
Tax Parcel

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0 0.125 0.25 0.375 0.5
Miles

CDM
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North Bellport

Bellport

Bellport North

Bellport

Manhole
Sewer Main
Pump Station
STP
Study Area 0.5 mile Buffer
Study Area
Municipal Boundary
Tax Parcel

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4
Miles

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Miles

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