

Forge River Watershed Sewer Project NEPA / SEQRA Environmental Review

Public Scoping Meeting

January 26, 2016



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Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Scoping Meeting**
 - **Why Are We Here?**
 - **What Are We Planning to Do?**
 - **How Do We Get It Done?**
- **Information Gathering**



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Scoping Meeting Overview

- Project Background
- Project Schedule
- Environmental Review Process
- Purpose and Need
- Proposed Action and Alternatives
- Environmental Review Schedule & Analysis
- How to Access the Draft Scope
- How to Submit Comments



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Project Background

Up to 74% of Suffolk County households have onsite wastewater treatment disposal systems



Area is subject to heavy rainfall events such as Hurricane Sandy and Hurricane Irene

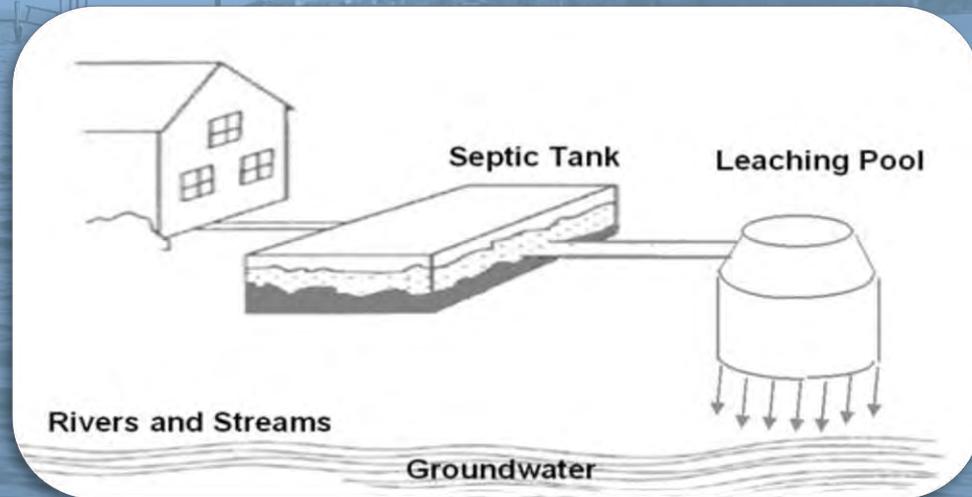


Septic systems can fail due to flooding and/or groundwater elevation from these storm events



Septic system failure leads to sewage backups and groundwater pollution

Typical onsite wastewater treatment disposal system layout



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Project Background

Suffolk County has applied to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for funding of the Suffolk County Coastal Resiliency Initiative to mitigate impacts associated with septic system failures in 5 project areas:

- *Southwest Sewer District No. 3 (SSD #3)*
- *Carlls River Watershed*
- *Connetquot River Watershed*
- *Patchogue River Watershed*
- *Forge River Watershed*



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How did we get here?

Numerous heavy rainfall events such as Hurricane Sandy and Hurricane Irene led to sewage backups and groundwater pollution as a result of septic system failure



Suffolk County worked with local community representatives on the Suffolk County Sewer District/Wastewater Treatment Task Force.



In 2013, a feasibility study was prepared for the Forge River Watershed to document the sewage collection and treatment/effluent discharge requirements, associated capital and operation costs, and environmental and economic benefits.



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How did we get here?

In 2014, the feasibility study was followed by the Forge River Nitrogen Reduction Report (amended in 2015) which evaluated engineering alternatives for sewerage of the proposed County sewer district.

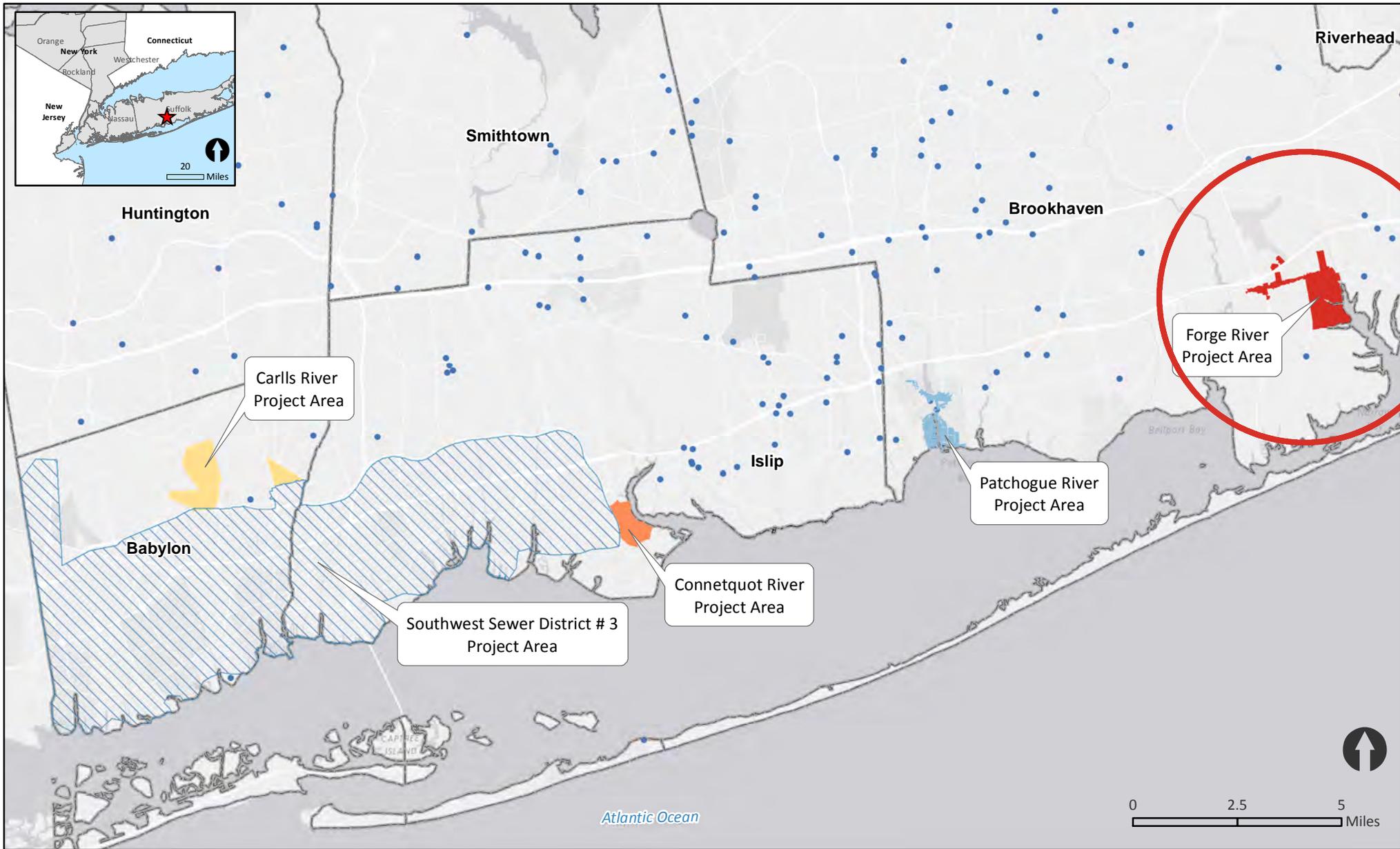
The Task Force and *2015 Suffolk County Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan* identified the connection of parcels in the Forge River watersheds as a key measure to address several water quality and environmental quality issues.



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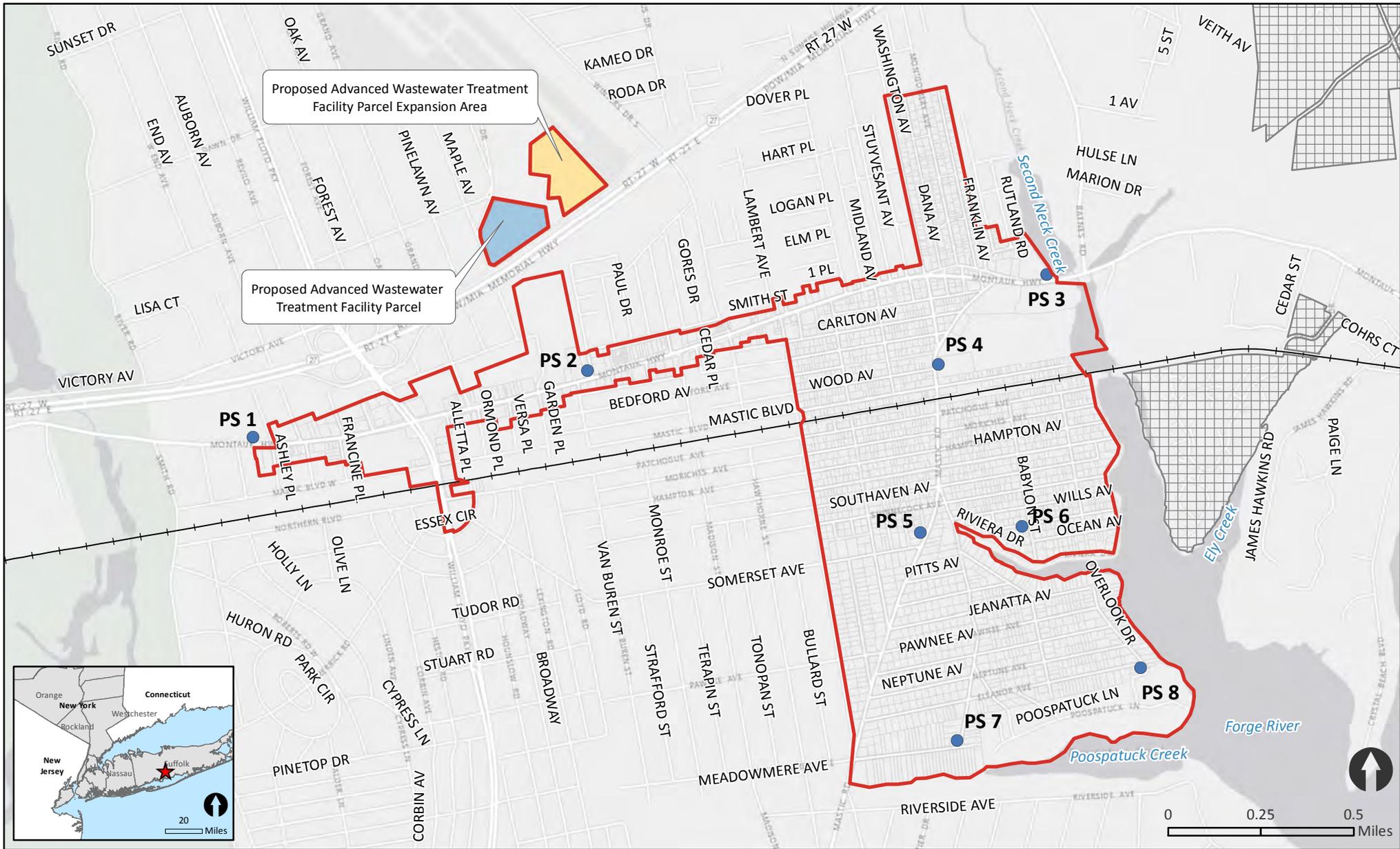


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- Suffolk County Towns
- Existing Sewer Districts
- Existing Sewage Treatment Plants
- Carlls River Project Area
- Connetquot River Project Area
- Forge River Project Area
- Patchogue River Project Area
- Southwest Sewer District # 3 Project Area

Suffolk County Coastal Resiliency Initiative

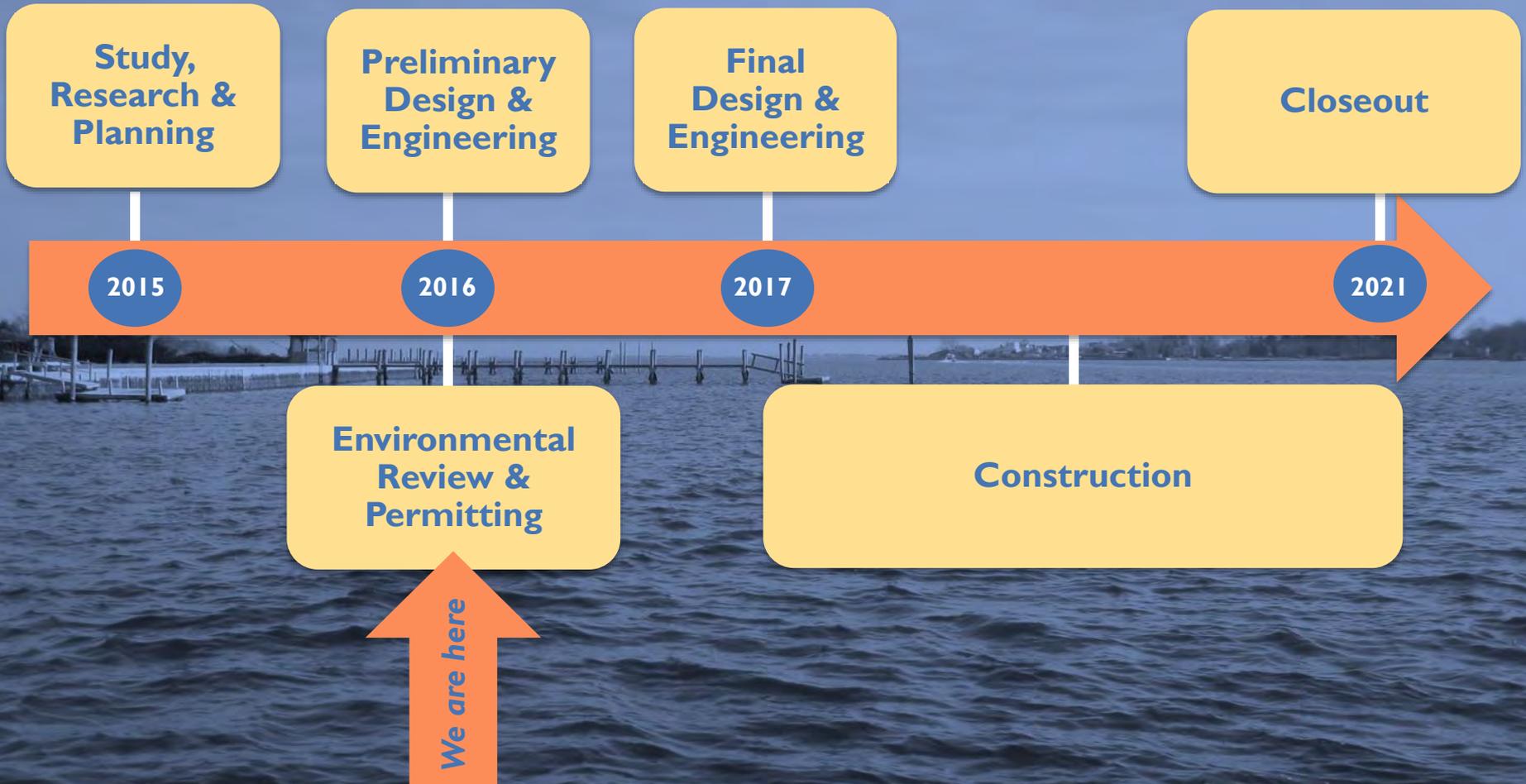


-  Private Sewer Areas
-  MTA Long Island Railroad
-  Proposed Project Area
-  Proposed Project Area Parcels
-  Proposed Pump Stations (PS-1 to PS-8)
-  Proposed Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility Parcel
-  Proposed Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility Expansion Area

Forge River Watershed Sewer Project Area



Approximate Project Timeline



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Environmental Review Process



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lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)



**Governor's Office
of Storm Recovery**

lead agency pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA)



**Coordinated
NEPA
environmental
assessment (EA)
& SEQRA
environmental
impact
statement (EIS)**



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Concurrent NEPA and SEQRA Environmental Review

- Both NEPA/SEQRA require agencies to determine whether a decision is subject to environmental review and whether an EIS should be prepared.
- Formal threshold requiring an EIS under NEPA is when an action “will cause an adverse environmental impact”, while the EIS threshold under SEQRA is when an action “may cause an adverse environmental impact”
- A Coordinated Environmental review is desirable to avoid redundancy and facilitate public review.



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Purpose & Need

Purpose:

- To mitigate *short-term and repetitive*, adverse impacts on human life and property associated with septic system failures caused by natural hazards and to mitigate the long-term, adverse impacts of onsite systems on surface waters and coastal wetlands that reduce the ability of these waters and wetlands to provide natural protection against storm surge.



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Purpose & Need

Need:

- Onsite wastewater treatment disposal systems in the project area are susceptible to both capacity and treatment / disposal failures during flooding and heavy rain events. Onsite systems in the project area failed during Hurricane Sandy.



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Proposed Action & Alternatives

Alternative I: No Action

- *No new sewer district would be established and no additional sewer infrastructure or wastewater treatment facilities would be constructed to provide sanitary sewer service to presently unsewered parcels.*
- *The unsewered parcels in the project area would continue to use onsite wastewater treatment disposal systems.*



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Proposed Action & Alternatives

Alternative 2: Proposed Action

- New Wastewater Collection and Conveyance System: decommissioning of onsite treatment disposal systems for approximately 2,094 parcels and connecting these parcels to the new collection system with a combination of gravity and low-pressure sewers
- New Wastewater Treatment Facility: wastewater from the newly connected parcels would flow to a newly constructed membrane bioreactor (MBR) advanced wastewater treatment facility (AWTF)



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Proposed Action & Alternatives

Alternative 3: Other Action Alternative(s)

- Repairing/Replacing septic systems
- Different Wastewater Treatment Technology
- Different Collection System Infrastructure
- Location Alternatives for AWTF
- Different Locations for Pump Stations

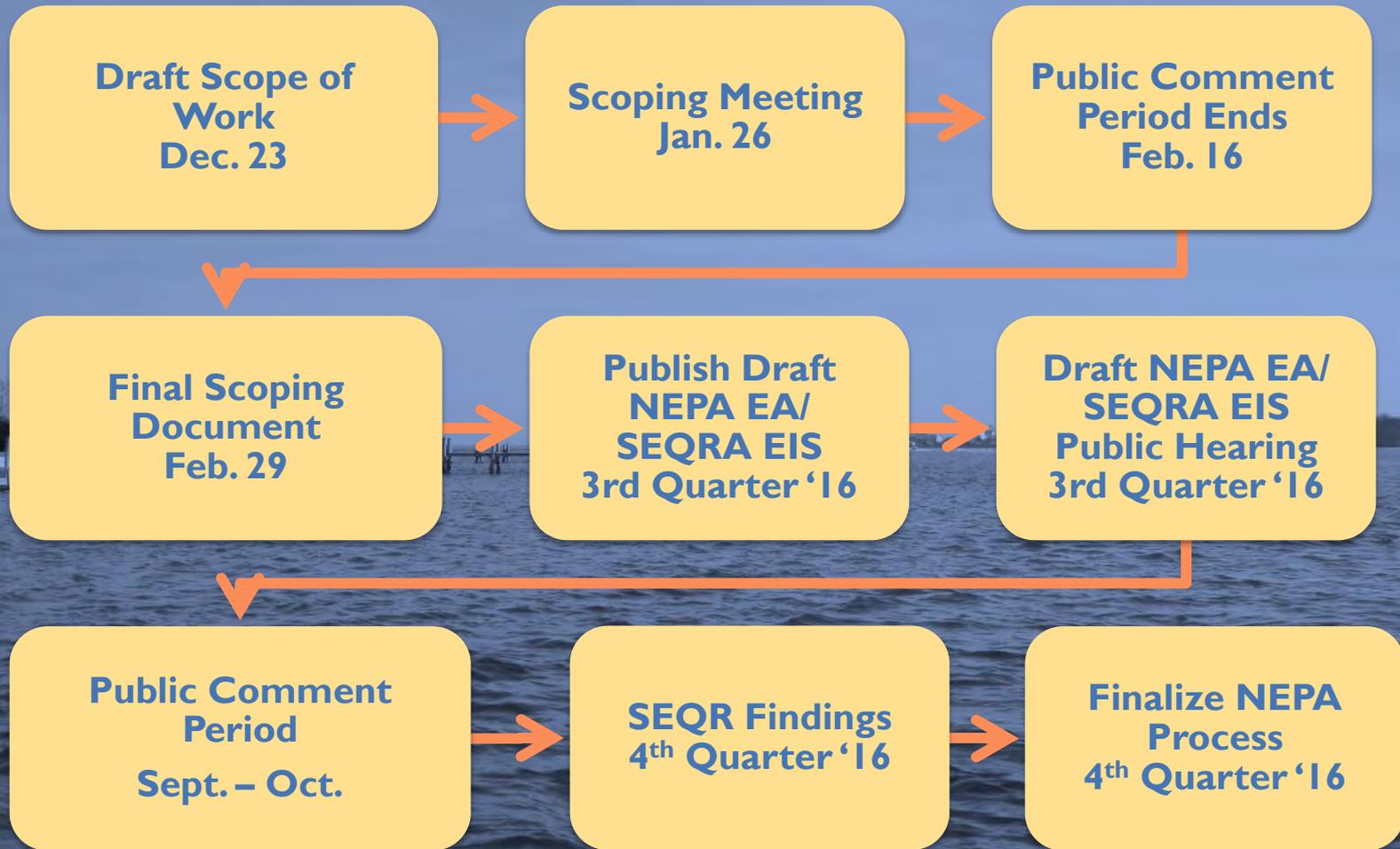


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Environmental Review Schedule



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Environmental Impact Analysis

- **Analysis will identify:**
 - whether or not there are adverse impacts
 - any avoidance/mitigation measures that should be applied, and
 - if impacts cannot be mitigated, unavoidable adverse impacts will be described.



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Environmental Impact Analysis

**Physical
Resources**

**Water
Resources**

**Biological
Resources**

**Land Use and
Planning**

Transportation

Noise

**Public Services
and Utilities**

Socioeconomics

**Environmental
Justice**

**Public Health
and Safety**

**Hazardous
Materials**

**Cultural
Resources**

**Construction
Impacts**



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Draft Scoping Document

The Draft Scope can be viewed/downloaded from the following website locations:

<http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/PublicWorks/Sanitation/ForgeRiverProject.aspx>

<http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/environmental-docs>

Print versions of the Draft Scope are available at:

GOSR
25 Beaver Street, 5th Floor
New York, New York 10004

Suffolk County
Division of Planning & Environment
H. Lee Dennison Building, 4th Floor
100 Veterans Memorial Hwy
Hauppauge, NY 11788

Town of Brookhaven
Town Clerk
1 Independence Hill,
Farmingville, NY 11738

Brookhaven Free Library
273 Beaver Dam Road
Brookhaven, NY 11719



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Provide your Comments

To provide comments related to the Draft Scope of Work for the NEPA Draft EA/SEQRA DEIS, please email:

nyscdbg_dr_er@nyshcr.org

***All comments must be submitted or postmarked on or before February 16, 2016**



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