



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

MAY 18 2011

To All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups:

In accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) procedures for the preparation of environmental impact statements (EIS), an environmental review has been performed on the proposed agency action below:

Project Name: Suffolk County Southwest Sewer District No. 3
Wyandanch Extension and Solid Waste Management
Facilities Leachate Force Main Project.

Purpose of Project: The purpose of this project is to connect the Hamlet of
Wyandanch, as well as the Town of Babylon Solid Waste
Management Facility (SWMF), to the existing Suffolk
County Southwest Sewer District No. 3. This project will
serve approximately 110 existing homes and a number of
businesses currently utilizing onsite septic systems, as well
as leachate from the Town of Babylon's SWMF.

Project Originator: Town of Babylon

Project Location: Suffolk County, New York

Project Description: The Town of Babylon is proposing to construct 21,400
linear feet of 8-inch to 20-inch diameter poly vinyl chloride
sewer pipe along Straight Path, including a pump station at
Irving Avenue, and a force main to the vicinity of Booker
Avenue. From there, a gravity sewer line will be
constructed extending southward, connecting to the 12th
and 17th Street sewer manhole in West Babylon. An
additional pump station will be constructed at Gleam Street
at the Town of Babylon's SWMF, and 4,900 linear feet of
4-inch diameter high-density polyethylene pipe will be
installed along Edison Avenue, connecting to the gravity
line to be constructed along Straight Path. All sewage and
leachate collected by this project will be conveyed to and
treated at the existing Bergen Point Sewage Treatment
Plant.

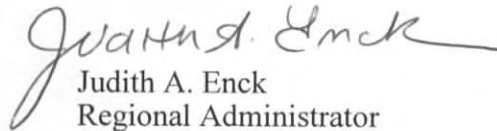
**Estimated Eligible
Project Costs:** \$ 14,749,470

EPA Grants: \$ 577,800

Our environmental review of this project indicates that no significant adverse environmental impacts will result from the proposed action. Consequently, we have made a decision not to prepare an EIS on the project. This decision is based on a careful review of the project's environmental information document, as well as other supporting information. All of these documents, along with the Environmental Assessment (copy enclosed), are on file at the offices of EPA Region 2 and the Town of Babylon, where they are available upon request for public scrutiny. The Environmental Assessment is also available on EPA Region 2's website at <http://www.epa.gov/region02/spmm/r2nepa.htm#r2docs>.

Comments supporting or disagreeing with this decision may be submitted to EPA for consideration. All comments must be received within 30 calendar days of the date of this finding of no significant impact (FNSI). Please address your comments to: Grace Musumeci, Chief, Environmental Review Section, at the above address. No administrative action will be taken on the project for at least 30 calendar days after the date of this FNSI.

Sincerely,



Judith A. Enck
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

**SUFFOLK COUNTY SOUTHWEST SEWER DISTRICT NO. 3
WYANDANCH EXTENSION AND SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT FACILITIES LEACHATE FORCE MAIN
PROJECT**



Environmental Assessment

**Prepared by
USEPA Region 2
290 Broadway
New York, NY 10007-1866**



May 2011

Environmental Assessment

I. Project Identification

Project Name: Suffolk County Southwest Sewer District No. 3 Wyandanch Extension and Solid Waste Management Facilities Leachate Force Main Project

Grant Applicant: Town Of Babylon
200 East Sunrise Highway
Lyndhurst, New York 11757-2597

Project Location: Hamlet of Wyandanch
Town of Babylon
Suffolk County, New York

II. Description of the Facility Planning Area

The study area for this project includes the Hamlet of Wyandanch, which is located in the Town of Babylon, Suffolk County, New York (see Figure 1). This project will serve two distinct areas: the Wyandanch Central Business District (CBD), which is bounded by an irregular tract of land along Straight Path, bordered by Garrison Road to the south and just south of Nicolls Road to the north, and the Town of Babylon's Solid Waste Management Facility (SWMF), located on Glean Street, with associated infrastructure extending along Edison Avenue to Straight Path.

Figure 1



The geology of the project area resulted from several periods of glaciation. These glaciers deposited quantities of sand, gravel and clay that now form Long Island. The glacial deposits overlay southeasterly sloping bedrock, which lies approximately 1,300 to 1,400 feet below the site. According to the “General Soil Map of Suffolk County,” the surface soils in the Hamlet of Wyandanch are varied. The predominant soil type is Urban Land. Other soil types include gently sloping Cut and Fill Land, Riverhead and Haven soils, Riverhead sandy loam, and Haven loam.

III. Purpose and Need for the Project

The majority of residents and businesses in the project area rely on onsite wastewater disposal systems. These systems are composed of septic tanks and associated leaching field, or cesspools. Due to the age of these site improvements, many of the existing wastewater disposal systems are rapidly reaching the end of their useful life, and will require rehabilitation or replacement. Failing septic systems are a common source of water pollution and can become a health hazard, especially in areas reliant on groundwater for their drinking water, such as is the case in Wyandanch.

In addition, leachate from the Town of Babylon Solid Waste Management Facility (SWMF) is currently trucked to the Suffolk County Southwest Sewer District (SCSSD) No. 3. This method of transport leads to increased traffic and associated emissions, and can increase the possibility of accidental spills. Connecting the SWMF directly to the sewer system will negate these issues.

The proposed project is also a necessary aspect of the Wyandanch Downtown Revitalization Plan (WDRP). Currently, developers who build in Wyandanch are required to provide costly, independent wastewater treatment infrastructure. The high groundwater table around Wyandanch only complicates this situation and potentially adds expenses to any construction project. Providing municipal sewer service is expected to lower development costs and increase development density in the Hamlet of Wyandanch.

IV. Detailed Description of Selected Plan

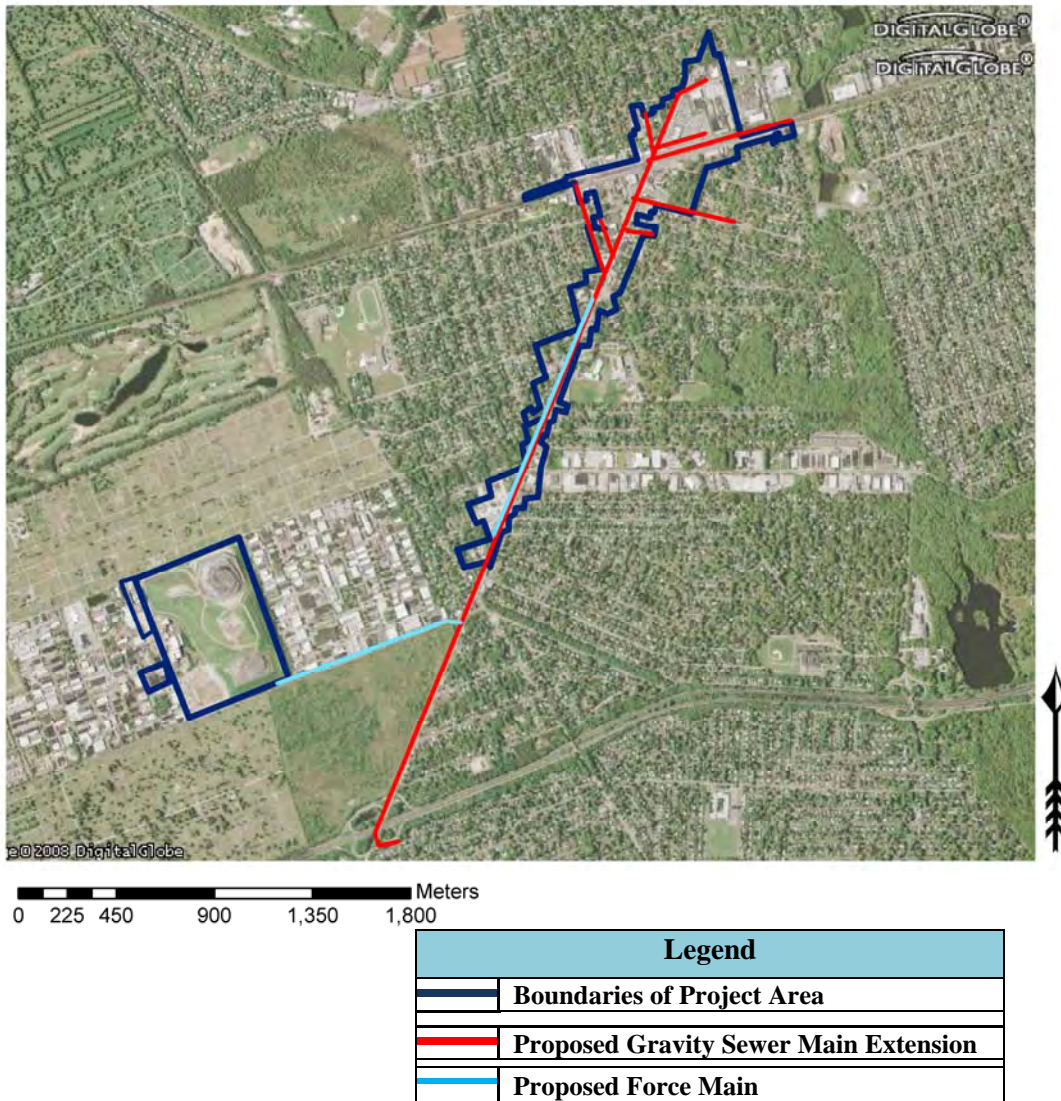
This project involves an extension of the existing SCSSD No. 3 to serve the Wyandanch CBD, as well as the Town of Babylon SWMF. To connect the CBD to the SCSSD No. 3, 21,400 linear feet of 8-inch to 20-inch diameter poly vinyl chloride pipe will be installed along and adjacent to Straight Path, to serve approximately 110 existing homes and a number of businesses currently utilizing onsite septic systems. This connection will include two gravity lines installed along Straight Path. A pump station will be constructed at Irving Avenue, which will convey the wastewater south to the vicinity of Booker Avenue by force main. From there, a gravity sewer line will be constructed extending southward, connecting to the 12th and 17th Street sewer manhole in West Babylon, south

of the Southern State Parkway.

An additional pump station will be constructed at Glean Street in West Babylon at the Town of Babylon’s SWMF, to convey landfill leachate to the sewer system. From this facility a force main (4,900 linear feet of 4-inch diameter high-density polyethylene pipe) will be constructed along Edison Avenue, and will connect to the gravity line to be constructed along Straight Path.

The design flow of the proposed sewer district extension is 380,000 gallons per day (gpd), which along with the 36,000 gpd of leachate, will be conveyed to the existing Bergen Point Sewage Treatment Plant. This plant is located about 5 miles south of the project area.

Figure 2: Proposed Sewer Mains



V. **Estimated Project Costs**

Description	Amount
Total Project Cost:	\$17,546,282
US EPA FY 2004 Consolidated Appropriations Act Funds	\$192,900
US EPA Grant XP972659-05	\$384,900
New York State Clean Water State Revolving Fund	\$14,668,482
New York State Legislative Member item	\$300,000
Empire State Development Incentive Grant	\$2,000,000

VI. **Evaluation of Alternatives**

A. **No Action Alternative**

Under the “No Action” alternative, the project area would not be connected to an offsite, centralized municipal sewage collection and treatment system. Existing onsite systems would continue to degrade as their useful lifespan came to a close, and would have to be replaced by property owners on a parcel by parcel basis. The continued use of onsite systems would generally discourage redevelopment of the Hamlet of Wyandanch, and would also do nothing to alleviate potential aquifer contamination caused by the existing, failing, onsite systems. The WDRP would also not be realized. Leachate from the Town of Babylon SWMF would continue to be trucked away for treatment, contributing to local traffic and increasing the possibility of an accidental discharge.

B. **New Treatment Plant**

The lack of large parcels, location of existing water supply wells, depth to groundwater and setback requirements are among the factors that make the potential alternative of constructing a separate wastewater treatment plant to serve the area less viable. Construction of such a system would also be more expensive, and potentially have a greater environmental impact, then connecting to the existing Bergen Point Sewage Treatment Plant.

C. **Gravity Sewerage Collection and Conveyance**

This alternative involves the installation of only gravity sewers within the study area

to the proposed connection with SCSSD No. 3. Initial estimates are that gravity sewer lines would need to be installed 10 to 28.8 feet below grade, with an average of 25 feet, extending below existing groundwater levels. The cost of dewatering and depth of trenching necessary for the construction of a solely gravity driven sewer conveyance system make this alternative a less economically feasible way to serve the Hamlet of Wyandanch.

D. Gravity Sewerage Collection with Pump Station/Force Main Conveyance

This alternative is similar to the one above, except that it incorporates force mains and pump stations, which reduces the average depth below grade that the sewage pipes would need to be installed to approximately nine feet. In addition, under this alternative the majority of the conveyance system would be above the groundwater table elevation. For these reasons, this is the preferred alternative for this project.

VII. Environmental Consequences of the Selected Plan/Mitigation Measures

A. Groundwater & Surface Water

According to the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Division of Environmental Quality's "Water Table Contours and Locations of Observed Wells in Suffolk County, New York," groundwater underlying the project area in the Hamlet of Wyandanch ranges from 40 to 50 feet above mean sea level, which is approximately 10-15 feet below ground level surface. Depending on seasonal hydrogeologic conditions, however, groundwater can be found at five feet below grade or less.

Since the groundwater table is relatively high, it is currently subject to contamination from stormwater runoff and failing septic systems. Up to 85 percent of the homes in Wyandanch are using onsite sewage treatment systems that may have outlived their useful lives. Many of the businesses in the project area also use septic systems. This project would redirect existing wastewater recharge to groundwater to the Bergen Point Wastewater Treatment Plant. This will have a beneficial environmental impact by reducing point source pollution to groundwater resources.

However, the decrease in groundwater recharge will result in a net deficit to groundwater volume, potentially resulting in a slight lowering of groundwater elevations in the project area, since wastewater will now be treated and discharged straight into the Atlantic Ocean.

There are no surface water bodies located along the construction route; a stormwater detention pond is visible on aerial photography of the Town of Babylon Landfill. To the east of the project impact area, there are several ponds, the Carlls

River, and a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) regulated freshwater wetland. The project impact area is within the drainage basin for these waterways.

Since impacts to groundwater levels are expected to be minimal, it is anticipated that surface waters in the general project area would not likely be impacted by the construction and operation of the proposed sewer extension. Consequently, significant alterations to surface water bodies and/or changes to existing stream or river courses are not expected.

The project area also has a slight to moderate soil erosion potential. To minimize this impact, erosion and sediment control measures would be implemented to stabilize exposed soil and to provide a final cover of native vegetation on post-construction slopes. Accordingly, substantial erosion or siltation within or outside the project study area is not anticipated.

The entire project area lies within the Nassau-Suffolk Sole Source Aquifer System, designated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a Sole Source Aquifer on June 21, 1978 (citation 43 FR 26611). Accordingly, EPA reviewed this project in accordance with Section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Based on the information provided, it is anticipated that this project will not create a significant hazard to public health or groundwater resources, and therefore satisfies the requirements of Section 1424(e) of the SDWA.

B. Population

Suffolk County, which includes the Town of Babylon and the Hamlet of Wyandanch, is densely populated. The 2000 Census indicated a population of 1,419,369 people, or approximately 1598 individuals per square mile (ISM), within the County, which is nearly four times the New York State average of 402 ISM. The Town of Babylon itself had a population of 211,792 people in the 2000 Census; the Hamlet of Wyandanch's population was 10,546.

C. Vegetation

The project area is primarily composed of buildings and a roadway network on previously disturbed, graded and paved soils in the Hamlet of Wyandanch. Upon inspection of the project area, the vegetation in the landscaped areas maintained by home and business owners consists largely of non-native ornamental species, while the vegetation along roadway corridors and other unkempt areas consists of a mix of native vegetation indicative of succession after disturbance, and non-native aggressive vegetation. Impact to sensitive habitats is therefore not expected.

D. Wildlife

The project area is an extensively developed urban area. Wildlife, and wildlife habitat, are predominantly absent from the area to be served by the proposed sewer line. The fauna observed in the project area included species typical of an urban environment, including Rock doves, European starling, Catbird, Canada geese, House sparrow, and grey squirrels. Other species that may be found include mice, moles, voles, rabbits and raccoons. Salamanders, turtles and frogs are not expected, due to the unnatural barriers (buildings, road, etc) and distance from significant standing water needed for breeding. The Northern brown snake and garter snake may be found in the project area. Since existing fauna is representative of species that are very tolerant to human- induced disturbances, they are expected to continue to be found in the project area after completion of this project.

E. Traffic

The proposed project is not anticipated to have significant adverse long term impacts to surrounding roadway networks. However, short term impacts during the construction phase would be likely. Traffic will be redirected by use of temporary lane changes, or through temporary detours around construction area(s). To mitigate this disruption to traffic flow, the construction operation will be undertaken in a coordinated effort with Suffolk County Police Department and the Town of Babylon, to assure minimization of this impact, as well as to provide appropriate safety measures. Since any disruption to traffic flow will be of limited duration, these impacts would not be considered significant. Significant changes in the transportation network are proposed as part of the WDRP. While they are not anticipated to result in an adverse impact and are not directly related to the proposed sewer extension project, it is important to note the integral change to the system that will result from implementation of the WDRP.

F. Coastal Resources

This project is not located within a state-designated coastal zone; consequently, coastal resources will not be affected.

G. Wild And Scenic Rivers

No designated wild or scenic rivers will be affected by this project.

H. Noise

No significant adverse long term noise impacts are anticipated due to the proposed project. While the noise produced by construction will likely have a short-term impact

on the noise levels in the area, these activities will be conducted in compliance with state regulations and local code requirements. Hours of construction would be limited to daytime hours, between 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Construction activities would not be undertaken during weekends when noise impacts to local houses of worship would be most egregious. If feasible, short term noise impacts to school facilities would be reduced by conducting construction during summer months when school is not in session.

I. Cultural Resources

A records and literature search were conducted to identify previously recorded archaeological sites and/or historic properties in or near the project site. Records examined included maps and reports on file with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, as well as the Suffolk County Historical Society. This file search concluded that there are no historic resources and/or National Register-eligible sites located on any of the project parcels, or within a one mile radius of the project site. Further, a project description and map were submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for review. The SHPO response indicated that based upon its review, the proposed project would have “No Effect” upon cultural resources on or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

J. Aesthetics

The proposed action will have no significant adverse impacts on visual resources in the area. It should be noted that the WDRP will produce a change in visual resources to the site, but the sewer district extension itself will not provide adverse impacts to the viewshed.

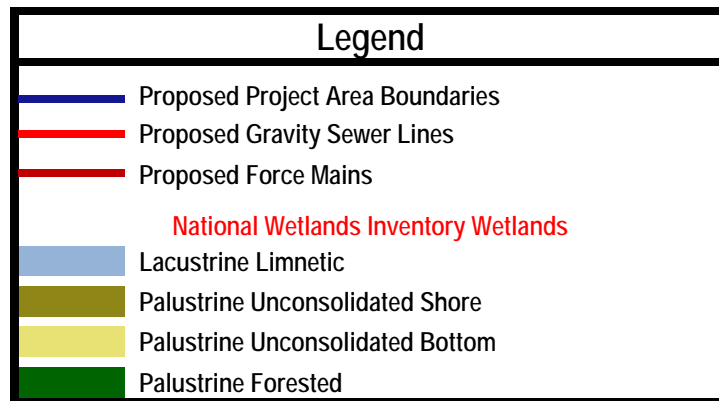
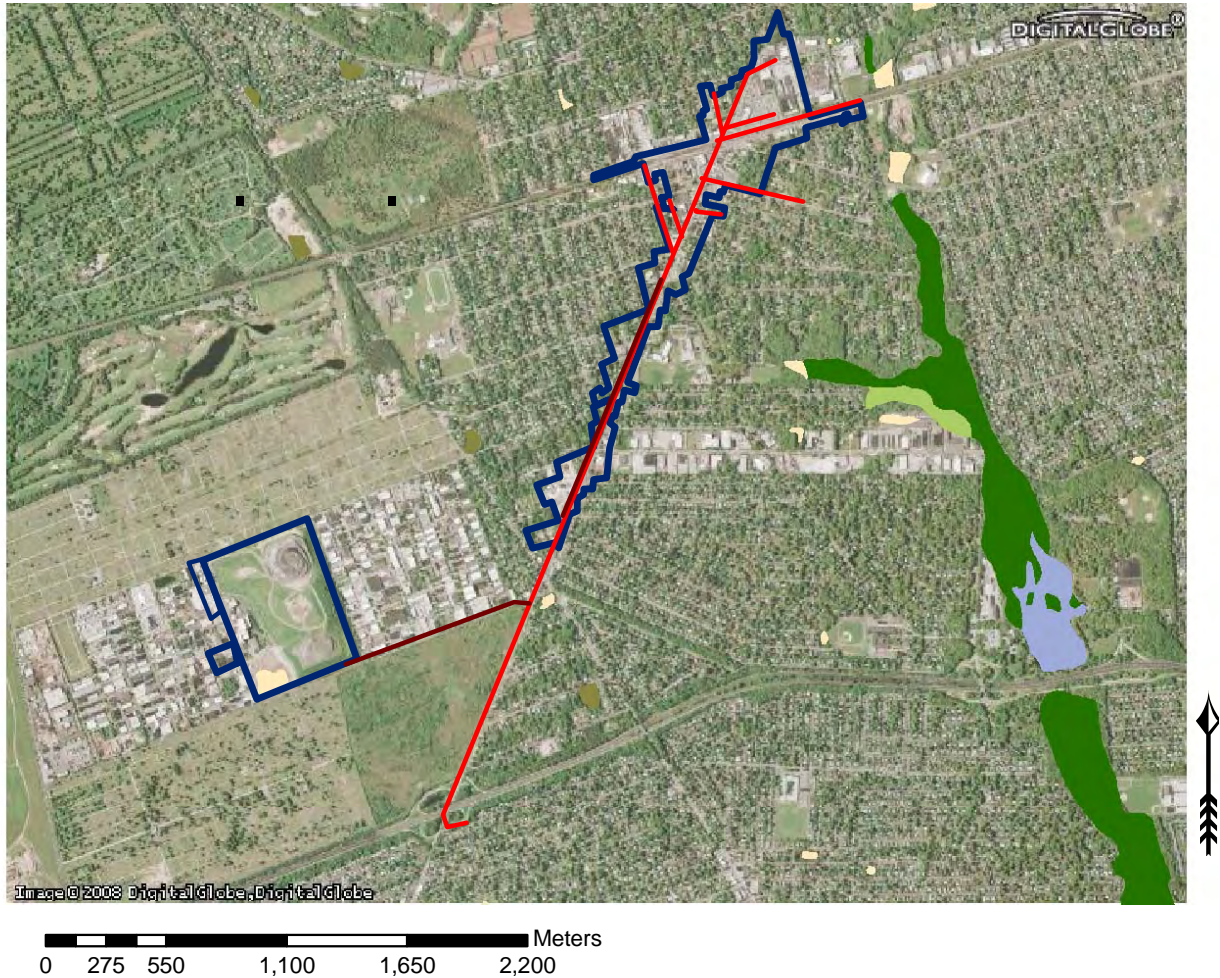
K. Wetlands/Floodplains

The proposed sewer mains will be located within existing road beds as noted in Figure 3. No direct impacts to wetlands will result from the construction of this project. A review of available GIS mapping indicates that of the parcels to be served by the proposed sewer mains, only one, the Babylon Landfill, contains wetlands within its boundary. This wetland appears to be a stormwater basin. It is extremely unlikely that provision of sewer service will directly impact any existing wetlands.

Since onsite septic systems will be abandoned and/or removed, it is possible that groundwater levels in the project vicinity could decrease somewhat over time since there will be reduced recharge of the aquifer. This impact is expected to be minimal.

Finally, according to the Q3 GIS data layer from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the project area is not located within the 100 year floodplain (see Figure 3).

Figure 3: Wetlands Resources



J. Land Use

The project area is currently very urbanized, with mixed commercial and residential uses. Construction of the proposed project is anticipated to have no direct impact on land use and zoning in the project area. However, one of the purposes for the proposed action is to facilitate the revitalization of the Wyandanch commercial corridor along Straight Path, and to lessen hurdles to redevelopment efforts. The WDRP is intended to have a positive impact on land use and zoning supported by the infrastructure created by the installation of the proposed sewer extension. Nevertheless, any future land use and/or zoning changes as a result of the WDRP will be subject to separate state and local environmental review.

K. Agricultural Lands

The project area is currently urbanized; there is no prime agricultural land that could be impacted by the proposed project.

L. Air Quality

This project is located in Suffolk County, NY, which is part of the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT moderate 8-hour ozone nonattainment area and PM_{2.5} nonattainment area. Because the project is funded through a Federal grant by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the project is subject to the general conformity regulations (40 CFR 93 Subpart B).

Accordingly, EPA conducted an analysis of pollutant emissions from the project. Ozone is not directly emitted from vehicles and equipment, but rather it forms through a chemical reaction in the atmosphere in the presence of sunlight. Therefore, for the analysis we determined the emissions of the ozone precursors, i.e., oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOC). These precursors result from combustion and are directly emitted by vehicles and engines.

Fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) is both directly-emitted and formed secondarily through chemical reactions in the atmosphere. EPA has identified the precursors of PM_{2.5} for general conformity purposes as NO_x and sulfur dioxide (SO₂). For the general conformity analysis, we determined the emissions of direct PM_{2.5}, NO_x and SO₂.

The general conformity rule identifies “deminimis levels” (40 CFR 93.153(b)(1)), or threshold values of emissions below which projects are presumed to conform without further mitigation of emissions or other action on the part of the project sponsor. These deminimis levels are based on annual pollutant emissions; therefore, we determined emissions by year for this project.

The de minimis levels for the NY-NJ-CT ozone nonattainment area are 100 tons per year of NO_x and 50 tons per year of VOC (40 CFR 93.153(b)(1)). For the NY-NJ-CT PM_{2.5} nonattainment area the de minimis levels are 100 tons per year of PM_{2.5}, 100 tons per year of NO_x, and 100 tons per year of SO₂. In the analysis we considered only the emissions from the construction of the project. Emissions from the operation of the project are considered indirect emissions (40 CFR 93.152). We have deemed that EPA does not have continuing program responsibility for the indirect emissions and therefore have not included those emissions in the analysis.

Emission estimates were based on emission factors taken from a number of sources and vehicle/equipment types and activity levels supplied by the project sponsor. Table 1 below shows the results of the general conformity applicability analysis. Emissions of NO_x, VOC, PM_{2.5} and SO₂ in this project's construction years of 2011 and 2012 are below the applicable de minimis threshold values; therefore, the project is presumed to conform and no further action is necessary.

Table 1

2011 CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS SUMMARY FOR GENERAL CONFORMITY				
POLLUTANT	NO _x	VOC	PM _{2.5}	SO ₂
OFF-ROAD CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS (tons)	0.280	0.023	0.017	0.000
ON-ROAD CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS (tons)	0.077	0.069	0.003	0.001
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS (tons)	0.357	0.092	0.019	0.002
GENERAL CONFORMITY THRESHOLD (tons)	100	50	100	100
PERCENTAGE OF THRESHOLD	0.36%	0.18%	0.02%	0.00%

2012 CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS SUMMARY FOR GENERAL CONFORMITY				
POLLUTANT	NO _x	VOC	PM _{2.5}	SO ₂
OFF-ROAD CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS (tons)	0.183	0.015	0.011	0.000
ON-ROAD CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS (tons)	0.065	0.060	0.002	0.001
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS (tons)	0.248	0.075	0.014	0.001
GENERAL CONFORMITY THRESHOLD (tons)	100	50	100	100
PERCENTAGE OF THRESHOLD	0.25%	0.15%	0.01%	0.00%

In addition, EPA conducted a greenhouse gas analysis of this project. This analysis (Table 2) includes carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from the construction phase of the project.

Table 2

CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS SUMMARY		
YEAR	2011	2012
OFF-ROAD CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS (tons)	36.839	28.908
ON-ROAD CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS (tons)	68.252	64.917
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS (tons)	105.091	93.824

M. Green Measures

Green measures will be incorporated into both this project and the overall WDRP. A stormwater pollution prevention plan has been prepared for this project in accordance with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Phase II stormwater regulations. This plan includes erosion and sediment control practices to reduce those potential environmental impacts during construction. The Town will promote the use of recycled materials in highway and construction projects associated with the project, including the safe reuse and recycling of construction wastes. Demolition debris will be brought to a local transfer station for recycling activities or stockpiled to be recycled onsite.

To the maximum extent practicable, the WDRP will encourage the use of recycled materials, recycle material generated onsite, and utilize low emissions technology and fuels. The redevelopment project will utilize cost efficient, environmentally friendly landscaping throughout the project area to help preserve natural resources and prevent waste and pollution. Greenways and open green plazas will be utilized as part of future project area development.

At this time, the Town is in the planning stages to utilize geothermal power for the core redevelopment zone of the Wyandanch CBD. The entire project will be developed in accordance with Leadership on Energy in Environmental Design (LEED) standards, including stormwater design quantity control that will be employed to limit the disruption of natural water hydrology by reducing impervious surfaces and increasing onsite infiltration, reducing or eliminating contaminants. The project will include a transportation hub, which will encourage the use of mass transit and the establishment of transit-oriented development in the central business district.

According to the WDRP, the Town will be requiring green building practices which have multi-media benefits, including energy efficiency, water conservation, and healthy indoor air quality. Other green infrastructure elements may include greenways, rain gardens, bioswales, porous pavement, and green roof techniques to reduce or eliminate roof drains.

The Town will also be utilizing Low Impact Development (LID) techniques as an approach for the WDRP. The LID approach works with nature to manage stormwater as close to its source as possible, employing principles such as preserving and recreating natural landscape features, while minimizing effective imperviousness to create functional and appealing site drainage that treats storm water as a resource and not a waste product. The Town will encourage innovative, environmentally conscious development techniques, including sustainable and green redevelopment practices and incorporating green infrastructure into its revitalization efforts, in order to strike a

balance between development and environmental conservation and the natural hydrologic features of the area. The Town will also be adopting a zoning code specifically created for the central business district that will specify the environmentally acceptable development uses and practices that the Town envisions.

N. Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts result from the combined impacts of two or more projects on a particular resource such that the environmental impacts are potentially additive. The proposed project will likely spur additional growth in the project area in accordance with the WDRP. However, the project area is already a largely developed urban setting. While implementation of the proposed project may result in an increased density of development in the Straight Path corridor, this development will for the most part not result in any significant additional impacts to environmental resources. One potential exception is the likelihood of a decrease in groundwater levels due to the elimination of recharge from onsite sewage treatment devices. This impact, however, is anticipated to be quite minor, and there will be a concomitant reduction in potential groundwater contamination from currently failing onsite systems.

If the goals of the WDRP are fully realized, an increase in energy demand and water usage may result due to increased density of development. Many of the green measures noted in Section M will help to alleviate those impacts, including the use of geothermal power and measures to increase groundwater recharge.

The planned transportation hub may serve to draw in commuters to the local area, and could result in increased local traffic. While this will likely serve to reduce traffic and the resulting air emissions in the surrounding area due to increased usage of mass transit, the impacts from any increased traffic in the project area will need to be evaluated. Any potential increase of impervious surfaces due to parking associated with the planned transportation hub will likely be mitigated by a number of the green measures discussed in Section M, which specifically call for the use of pervious pavement and other measures to increase groundwater recharge.

O. Induced Growth

This project is a cornerstone of the WDRP, designed by the Town of Babylon to encourage the redevelopment and revitalization of downtown Wyandanch. Currently, homes and businesses in the Hamlet are largely served by failing, onsite sewage treatment systems. Due to the inherent limitations in these systems, many uses within the proposed district extension boundary are constrained, since expansion or changes

in use are restricted. Further exacerbating this situation is the shallow depth to groundwater in the area. In order to facilitate the redevelopment of the area,

connection to the public sewer system is needed. It is anticipated that provision of municipal sewer service will increase development in the area, providing greater land area available per parcel for construction. In addition, restaurants and other developments which generate relatively large quantities of wastewater often experience problems with septic systems. The proposed action would facilitate the siting of these uses within the downtown Straight Path corridor.

Therefore, while the proposed sewer district expansion will not directly cause growth, the proposed project is linked to potential growth-inducing aspects as envisioned in the WDRP. The level of future development in the study area is controlled by the Town of Babylon under current and future zoning; any future development in the project area that might have adverse environmental impacts in and of themselves would also be subject to existing local, state and federal regulations.

P. Environmental Justice

The Region 2 Environmental Justice (EJ) Analysis supports EPA Region 2's Interim Policy for Environmental Justice (IP). The specific community that is under evaluation for inclusion in the Region's EJ program is referred to as the Community of Concern (COC) in the IP. The evaluation process hinges on the comparison of the respective levels of the environmental burden, minority representation, and low-income representation between the COC and its statistical reference area.

For environmental burden analysis, Region 2 advances the concept of an "Environmental Load Profile (ELP)." The profile would provide a representation of the environmental load (i.e., relative environmental burden) within a community. The ELP serves to identify communities that may bear a disproportionate environmental load in comparison to statewide-derived thresholds. Currently, the Environmental Load Profile consists of the following three indicators: Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Air Emissions, Air Toxics, and Facility Density. The ELP generates a summary report that provides numeric values for state thresholds, indicator of the community of concern (COC Indicator), and the ranking of the community in the state. These calculated values not only identify whether the particular community meets an ELP threshold, but further, upon exceedance, the indicator value is ranked to provide a measure of magnitude. Application of the Environmental Load Analysis for the Hamlet of Wyandanch indicates that only one of the indicators evaluated, Facility Density Indicator, exceeds the respective New York State thresholds (see Table 3). The ranking of that exceedance is a 7, indicating moderate to high potential risk.

Table 3: Environmental Load Analysis

Indicators	NYS Threshold	COC Indicator	Ranking
TRI Indicator	5.269	0.96	0
Facility Density Indicator	56	228.67	7
Air Toxics Cancer Indicator	50.04	46.86	0
Air Toxics Non-cancer Indicator	6.4	4.96	0

Further, analysis of the project area indicates that minorities are 60.77 percent of the population (compared to 51.51 percent, the percentage for determining minority areas in urban areas of New York State), and that 10.49 percent of residents have income below the poverty level (compared to 23.59 percent, which is the percentage that EPA uses in New York State to identify low income urban areas). Due to the high percentage of minority residents, Wyandanch is a potential EJ community.

The construction of the proposed project is not anticipated to have a detrimental effect on the residents of the affected area within the Hamlet of Wyandanch. Nevertheless, while it is anticipated that future development within the Hamlet of Wyandanch will be commercial or residential in nature, it is possible that additional facilities could be constructed which could add to the burden noted in the Facilities Density Indicator. Further, gentrification of the community could result from the WDRP, which could displace low income residents. Measures can be taken by the Town to limit such impacts to low income and minority residents.

VIII. Coordination of Environmental Review

A) Parties Consulted

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
 N.Y.S. Department of Transportation
 N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation
 N.Y.S. Environmental Facilities Corporation
 N.Y.S. Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Long Island Region
 N.Y.S. Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Historic Preservation
 Field Services Bureau
 Suffolk County Department of Health Services
 Suffolk County Planning Department/Suffolk Planning Commission
 Suffolk County Department of Public Works
 Long Island Railroad
 Town of Babylon Department of Public Works
 Town of Babylon Planning Board

B. Significant Correspondence

- 1) Town of Babylon Environmental Quality Review, Negative Declaration, Town of Babylon, Suffolk County, New York Southwest Sewer District Extension, Wyandanch Commercial Corridor and Solid Waste Management Facilities, Notice of Determination of Non Significance, August 5, 2009
- 2) N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation State Environmental Review Process (SERP) Certification, CWSRF Project Number C1-5162-04-00, February 4, 2010
- 3) N.Y.S. Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, August 31, 2005; and February 12, 2007.

C. Reference Documents

- 1) *“Town of Babylon United States Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Information Document (EID) Wyandanch Sewers Construction at Wyandanch, Town of Babylon County of Suffolk, New York,” 2010*
- 2) *“Feasibility Study/Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Town of Babylon, Suffolk County, New York, Southwest Sewer District Extension, Wyandanch Commercial Corridor & Solid Waste Management Facilities,” March, 2009*
- 3) *U.S. Census of Population, 2000*