

# A Ripple in Time:

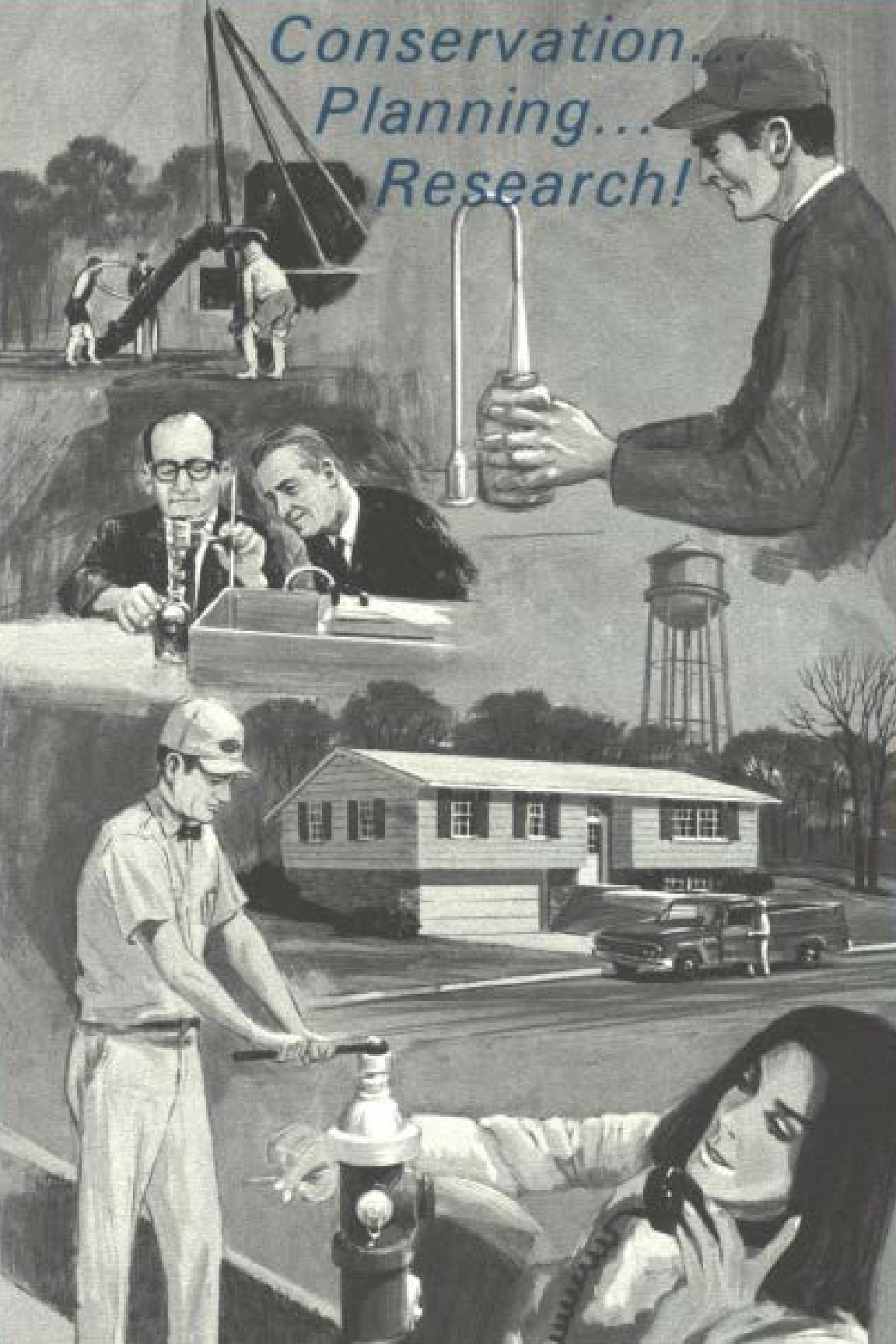


## A Brief History of the Suffolk County Water Authority





*Conservation...*  
*Planning...*  
*Research!*







# Introduction from the Chairman

Early in the 20th century, with pressure coming from New York City and Nassau County to access Suffolk County's ample drinking water supply, local leaders had the foresight to create the Suffolk County Water Authority to protect this incredible natural resource. The early years were bumpy, with considerable political wrangling over the new authority's direction among the factors leading to a 14-year gap between the creation of New York State's first public benefit corporation for drinking water in 1937 and the beginning of operations in 1951.

But as Suffolk County's population boomed after World War II, SCWA grew with the county. The vision to build an entity capable of serving the vast majority of Suffolk's growing population flourished, both through the construction of water infrastructure and the purchase of existing water suppliers and water districts. The focus of SCWA's leaders throughout this period was to provide safe drinking water to a fast-growing region.

During this time, SCWA became a good organization. In the 21st century, we've become a great one, serving the highest quality water to more than 85% of Suffolk's population, approximately 1.2 million people. We have incorporated the latest technological advancements in every facet of our operations. We have embraced transparency, sustainability, efficient management and diversity. We maintain AAA bond ratings and a work environment that encourages innovation, creativity and professional development.

In the following pages, you can follow our growth from our humble origins to the nationwide leader in public water supply that we are today. We hope you enjoy the book and that it gives you a better understanding of all that goes into making sure Suffolk residents always have safe water to drink.

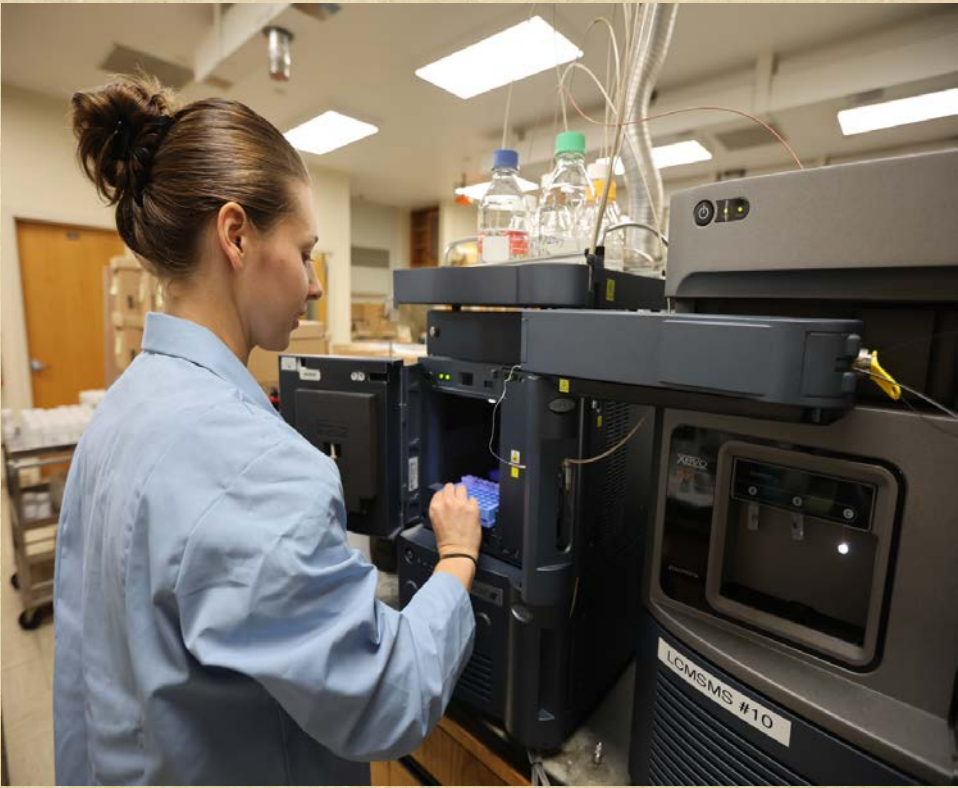
Patrick G. Halpin

*Member of the Board 2006-2023*

*Secretary of the Board 2009-2018*

*Chairman of the Board 2019-2023*







# SCWA Today

The Suffolk County Water Authority in the 21st century is a national leader in drinking water supply, serving 1.2 million Suffolk residents and boasting a state-of-the-art water quality testing laboratory, cutting-edge technology, top bond ratings and a team of experts.

Members of the SCWA staff serve on national organizations helping to shape policy for the water supply industry. On Long Island, these same staff members are leaders in their local communities too, developing the treatment systems needed to address emerging contaminants threatening the health of the sole source aquifer that provides all Long Island's drinking water.

As SCWA looks to the future with the recent introduction of a new written business plan, Strategic Plan 2030, the organization has fully embraced diversity, transparency in operations, efficient management and other hallmarks of successful enterprises.



# **Growth From a Patchwork of Small Water Companies**

Though it's hard to believe now, less than 90 years ago Suffolk County was home to a patchwork of small water companies all serving their own individual service territories.

These companies were located all throughout Suffolk County, each with their own customer base. Some were relatively big, and some were very small. The notion of achieving efficiencies of management, of combining resources into one operation and serving all of Suffolk County's residents, was not on anyone's radar in the public sphere.

At least not yet.



# Local Water Supply 90 Years Ago

*Northport*  
Water Works Company

Swan Lake  
Water Company

**Selden**  
Water Company

Eastern Suffolk  
Water Corporation

Fire Island Pines  
Water System

Amagansett  
Water Company

*Great Beach*  
Water Company

Ronkonkoma  
Water Company

Deer Lake  
Water Company

Shorewood  
Water Company

**Home**  
Water Company

Sunhill  
Water Company

Bridgehampton  
Water Company

*Bevon Water*  
Company

SOUTH BAY CONSOLIDATED  
WATER COMPANY

New York  
Water Service Company

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

OF

THE CITY OF NEW YORK



## LONG ISLAND SOURCES

Reports, Resolutions, Authorizations, Surveys and  
Designs Showing Sources and  
Manner of Obtaining

From Suffolk County, Long Island

AN ADDITIONAL SUPPLY OF WATER

FOR

THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Volume 2.



# Defending Suffolk's Water Supply

A primary focus of these small water companies was to defend Suffolk's groundwater supply from outside interests, including New York City.

It was widely understood that Suffolk's immense groundwater supply—trillions of gallons of water stored in an underground aquifer system created by glaciers millions of years ago—was a tremendous natural resource.

It was also widely understood that this tremendous natural resource held an equally tremendous potential financial value, and that led to jockeying between outside interests hoping to find a way to tap into Suffolk's groundwater supply.









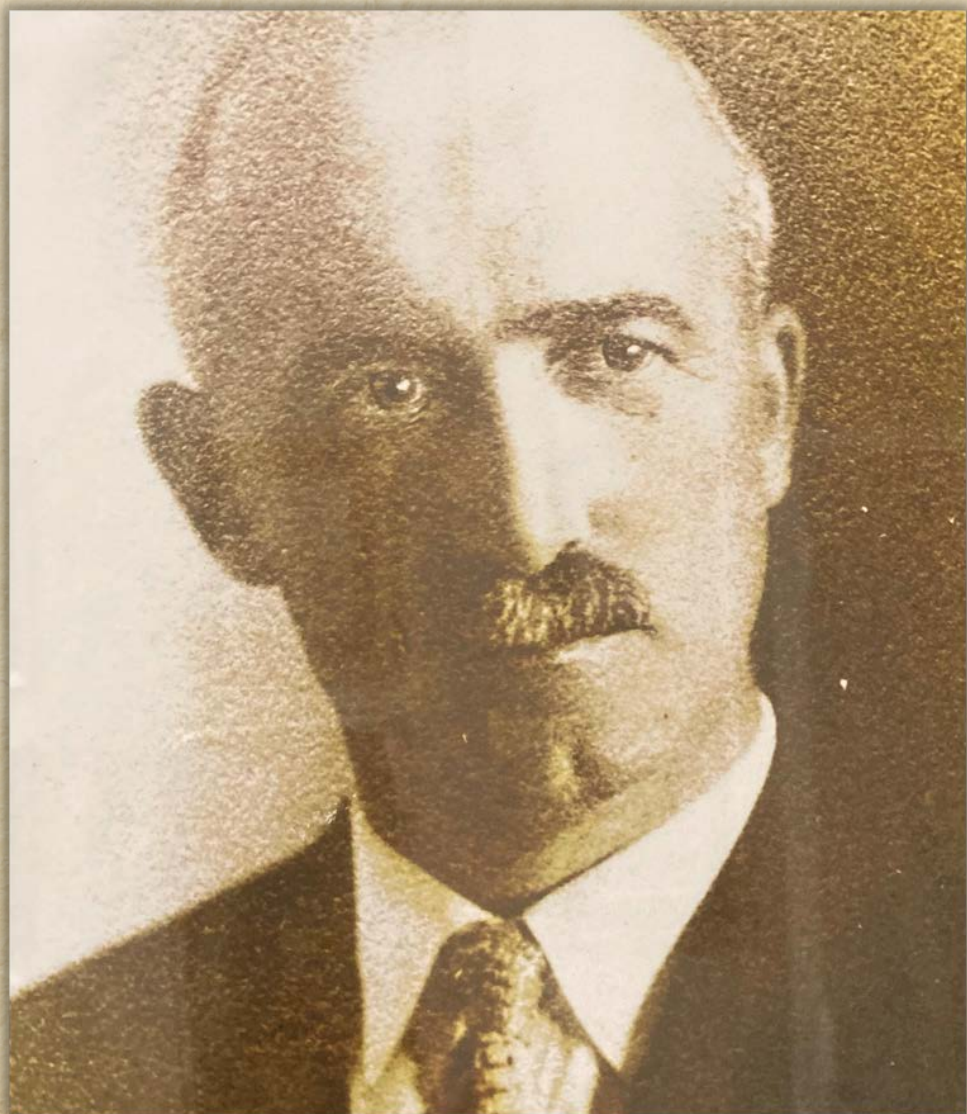
# **Local Control Granted**

This threat led Governor Herbert Lehman in 1934 to sign into law legislation giving counties the power to create their own authorities—and therefore, protect their groundwater resources.

Lehman would go on to serve prestigious roles in Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidential administration and later was elected to the U.S. Senate. At age 78, he joined Eleanor Roosevelt to help lead the reform movement that ended the grip of Tammany Hall and other political in New York.

When Lehman died, he was preparing to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom honoring him for his lifetime of public service.







# **Authority, Board Created in 1937**

Within weeks of Lehman signing the law giving counties the ability to create their own authorities in 1934, Suffolk's Board of Supervisors—headed by Huntington Town Supervisor William Watt—approved the creation of a new county authority and created a three-member Suffolk County Water Authority Board.

Watt and his backers said a county water authority would allow Suffolk to control its own water resources, including the option to sell surplus water outside Suffolk to aid county finances amid the Great Depression. Watt emphasized that such sales would merely be an option for local authorities to pursue if they chose to do so.





# Macy at First Opposed

Watt favored conducting surveys to find out if the county had sufficient water supplies to sell to outside interests.

But he would encounter a fierce opponent in exploring the potential sale of Suffolk's water supply. Ironically, the man whose name would later become synonymous with SCWA—its first chairman, W. Kingsland Macy—was at first adamantly opposed to the immense new power given to local authorities.

Macy's opposition to the new power given to local authorities centered on his opposition to municipalities such as New York City tapping into Suffolk's water, which he called "unthinkable."



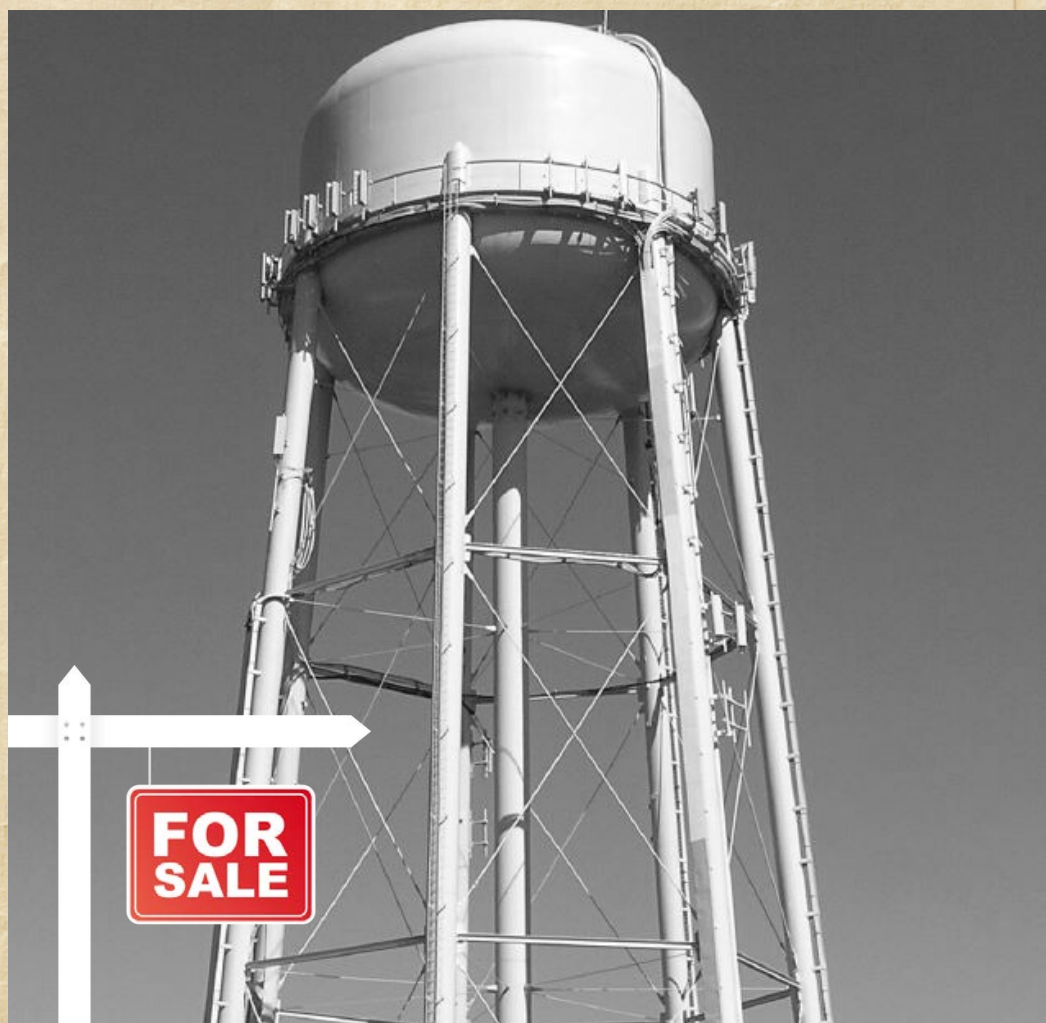
# **To Sell or Not to Sell?**

Political wrangling followed between those in favor of selling a portion of SCWA's water supply to outside interests and those in opposition.

With this battle raging locally, the 10-member Board of Supervisors on December 28, 1934 rescinded its original resolution creating the authority.

Despite the vote, the fate of the authority remained in limbo due to ongoing regulatory and court battles that lasted several years. While the state Water, Power and Control Commission ruled in 1935 that a "water authority conversant with local conditions is required for the protection of the people of Suffolk County," it took no stand on the validity of the board revocation.





## PROFILES

### THE KING

**K**ING MACY is the first important Republican to emerge in New York State since the rise of Charles Evans Hughes twenty-six years ago.

Since he became boss of the party last December, the King's accomplishments have been amazing. In his first month he made a fighting force out of the debris of the Republican organization. In his second he drove through the Legislature his project for the vivisection of Tammany by Judge Sutherland. He won the respect of his subordinates by mercilessly wedding the lash of party discipline until he broke the rebellious spirit of Boss Ward of Westchester County. Today, with his plan to investigate the State Department of Banking, he is thrusting at the jugular vein of Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose generally good record as an administrator is marred by the breakdown of the Banking Department, resulting in losses to the four hundred and forty thousand depositors of the Bank of United States.

Finally, King Macy has shaken the morale of Tammany by exposing the incompetence of Tammany leadership. He won a victory at Albany in a pitched battle which Tammany had no right to lose. The Democrats had enough votes at Albany to beat the resolution to investigate New York City, but Tammany failed to get out the vote; three Democratic assemblymen were allowed to wander away from Albany at the critical time. Even then Tammany could have saved the situation by an elementary knowledge of

twice by Roosevelt. Its record for a decade has been one of double-dealing on the prohibition question and of feckless sabotage against the progressive programs of strong Democratic governors. The stonemanship of the Republican party has been summed up in the old slogan, "Embarrass Smith," and in the new one, "Embarrass Roosevelt." The Republican worms had been trodden on so long that they had come to like it. They built up Smith as a Presidential possibility exactly as stage of another kind built up Cernoni as a heavyweight-championship possibility. The disasters of all these years were blamed on successive Republican leaders. When the fate of these unfortunates was expelled last fall with the usual marks of infamy, revengeful colleagues fired the lodge of shame on young Macy. By rights, Macy was finished. The fact that he has not only survived this ignominy but has actually become a power in the State and nation makes him a mysterious and arresting figure.



W. Kingsland Macy

scruples against picking a flower without pulling the plant up by the roots, instead of transforming a Garden of Eden into a Barren Island in three picnics, his sure touch in setting forest and brush fires, and its capacity for turning a gentleman's country home into an emergency hospital by swarming in with sprained ankles, ptomaine poisoning, acute alcoholism, snake and dog bites, bread-knife and bottle wounds, fits, sunstroke, and childbirth.

Macy and his associates tried to squish the property out of the State's clutches in time to head off the landscape-blighters from the big city. Litigation followed, in which Macy was eventually won out. Governor Smith may have been fundamentally right in the controversy, but his subordinates used tactics which Macy felt outraged his rights. No man living excels Macy in the capacity for appreciating an outrage that has been perpetrated against his rights. He cherished and cultivated his wrongs as other men worship Old Masters, rare stamps, and prize cattle. The affair gave a flaming interest in life to the workman from Ithaca and

Profile of W. Kingsland Macy - 'The King'-  
in the September 12, 1931 issue of The New Yorker



# **Change of Heart for Macy**

But in 1937, despite his initial resistance, Macy came to believe the local power of an authority was not a threat to the local water supply but instead the way to keep outside interests from getting ahold of the supply.

And so, in March 1937, the Board of Supervisors voted to revive the water authority and make Macy its chairman.

Joining Macy on the Suffolk County Water Authority's first Board were Frank J. Smith and Carll S. Burr, Jr. The three men would remain in those positions through 1951; in 1952, the full five-member Board was established.



# Island-Wide Authority Rejected

After becoming chairman, Macy undertook a public campaign to explain the reverse in his position regarding local authorities.

During this time, Macy also rejected the idea of an island-wide authority, which would have included even Brooklyn and Queens, noting that Suffolk was the only of the counties with surplus water. Coupled with its smaller population than Brooklyn and Queens, Macy feared that Suffolk's power in such an authority would be diminished.

Over the course of the next decade, Macy made no move to turn the authority into an operating utility but continued to take active stands against efforts by Nassau County and New York City to gain access to Suffolk's groundwater.









# **First Steps Forward**

With these various proposals and plots to access Suffolk's groundwater simmering, the SCWA Board in 1949 met at Islip Town Hall and voted unanimously to condemn the bankrupt South Bay Consolidated Water Co.

However, more political wrangling followed regarding the potential expense of acquiring South Bay, estimated at \$10 million. At about this time, though, the state Water, Power and Control Commission took one point of contention off the table by issuing a ruling that declared Long Island's groundwater resources must be reserved for the people of Nassau and Suffolk.

At this time, SCWA officials also pursued state law that Assemblyman Elisha Barrett said would "clear up legal obscurities" preventing SCWA from beginning operations. Under the new law, SCWA would serve as a public benefit corporation, but under the Public Authorities Law instead of Suffolk County law.



# Water Systems Acquired

By February of 1951, South Bay and SCWA had reached an agreement in federal bankruptcy court that would allow the acquisition of the private water company through condemnation in county court. The final price was lower than originally anticipated: \$7,265,812.

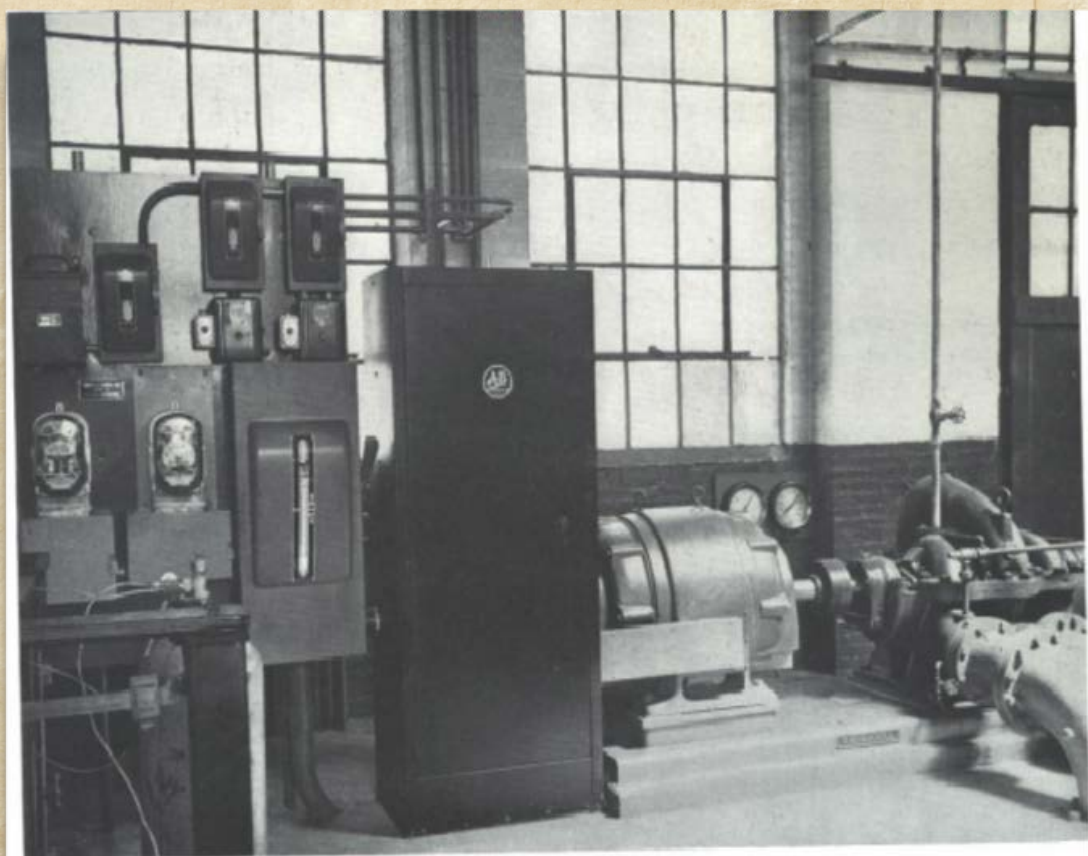
Under the agreement, SCWA's operations would be financed by revenue bonds paid through water rates. Also under the agreement, SCWA would be barred from taking over or supplying areas already served by a municipal utility without consent.

The proceeding led to the acquisition of South Bay's water infrastructure in Amityville, Bay Shore, Patchogue, Port Jefferson, Smithtown, Kings Park, Southampton and Westhampton Beach.





*Westhampton Beach office*



*The New 1400 Gallon Per Minute Electric Motor Driven Pump Unit and Controls Placed in Service at the Mill Street Station, Huntington in June, 1953.*



# More Infrastructure Added

Additional infrastructure owned by New York Water Services, of which South Bay was a subsidiary, was also acquired in Babylon, Huntington and Sag Harbor.

With these actions, Macy's days as the leader of SCWA began to wind down, and some of his final words as SCWA's first chairman reflected his continued determination to keep Suffolk's water in Suffolk.

"We are unfaltering in our determination to protect and use Suffolk County water supplies for our households, our agriculture, our industries," Macy said. "Suffolk is experiencing great and steady growth, and we intend to see to it that our greatest natural resource is not siphoned off to meet the apparent unquenchable thirst of New York City."



# **SCWA Begins Operations**

In June of 1951, SCWA began operations as the state's first public benefit corporation for water service with approximately 21,000 customers.

In its first six months as an operating utility, SCWA revenues rose \$40,000 over the corresponding period from a year before, and the new authority made plans for a \$65,000 construction budget for the coming fiscal year.



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# Agreement

BETWEEN

SIDNEY R. NUSSENFELD, as Trustee of SOUTH BAY  
CONSOLIDATED WATER COMPANY,  
INC., Debtor

AND

SUFFOLK COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

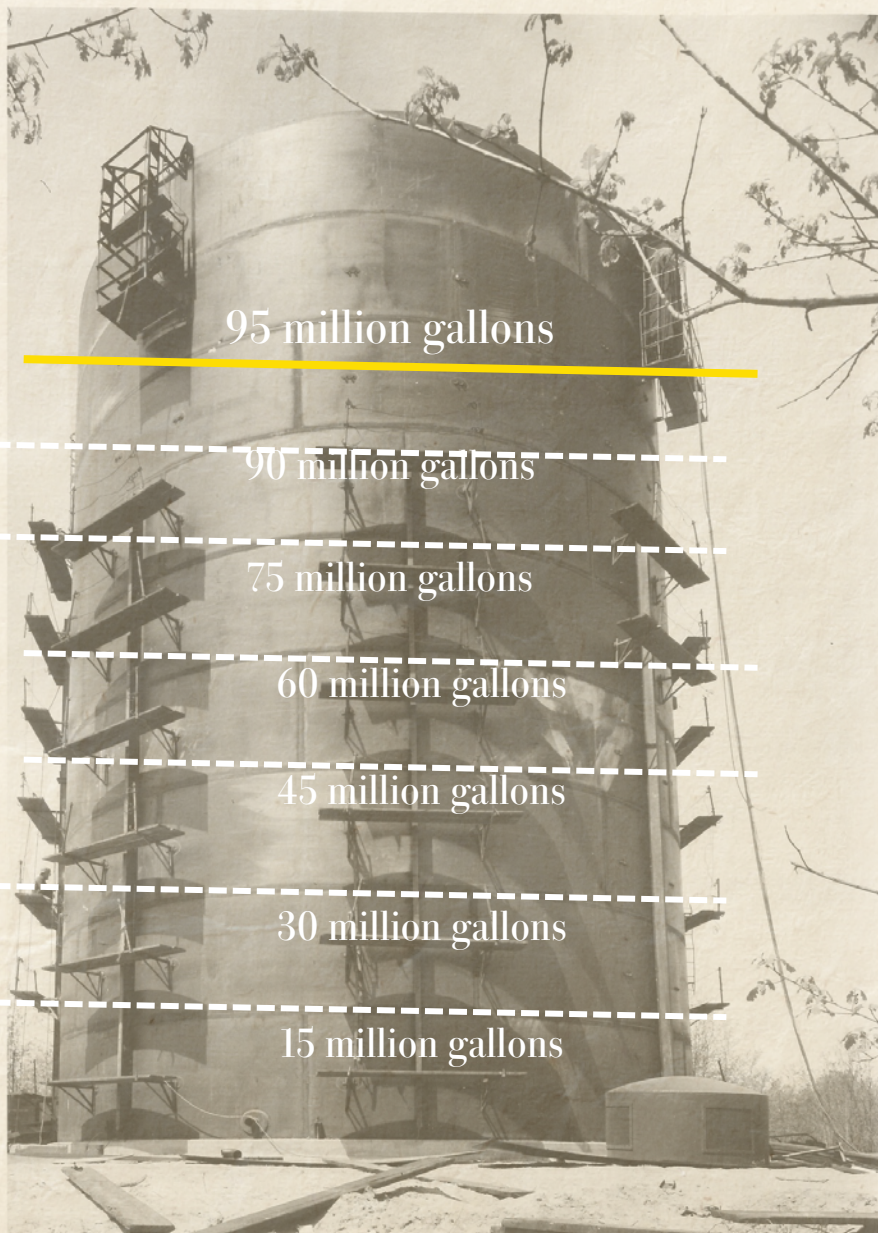
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*Dated February 13, 1951*

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GOLDWATER & FLYNN  
*Attorneys for Trustee*  
60 East 42nd Street  
New York 17, N. Y.

DAVID L. GLICKMAN  
*Attorney for Suffolk County Water Authority*  
New York Ave.  
Huntington, Long Island, N. Y.





# **Expanded Board, Expanded Water Pumpage**

At about this time, a bill was approved in the State Legislature which led to the expansion of the SCWA Board from three to five members, a move that shifted the political dynamic away from Macy, who would soon be replaced.

The new authority in its first six months delivered 95 million gallons of water to its customers, a 10 percent increase over the corresponding period a year before.



A high-speed photograph of a water droplet falling into a pool of water. The droplet is suspended in mid-air above the surface, which is covered in concentric ripples. The image is in a monochromatic blue and white color scheme.

1952:

SCWA Expands to Five  
Board Members



BRIGHTWATERS, N. Y.



FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY 31, 1952

AUTHORITY MEMB

T. BAYLES MINUSE

MINUSE  
CHARLES W. FRIEMAN  
W.  
STER E.  
New Y.

T. BAYLES MINUS.  
CHARLES W. FRIEMAN



# **New SCWA Chairman**

As the new utility prepared to take its first steps forward, it did so with a new chairman, LILCO Vice President Franklin S. Koons. The utility was run from an administrative office located in Brightwaters, where the engineering and accounting staffs were also located.

Koons noted that “new services are being connected to the system at a more rapid rate than last year,” and that the “pipe line construction program now in progress is more extensive than at this time last year.”

A long journey into incredible growth had begun as the population of Suffolk County boomed.



# SUFFOLK COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

*Publicly Owned For Public Service*

## COMMUNITIES SERVED BY OUR OPERATING DISTRICTS

### Amityville

Retail:

Amityville  
Copiague

Wholesale:

Amity Harbor‡

### Babylon\*

Babylon  
Lindenhurst  
North Babylon  
West Babylon

### Bay Shore

Bay Shore  
Brightwaters  
Central Islip  
East Islip  
Great River  
Islip Manor  
Islip Terrace  
Oakdale  
West Islip

### Huntington\*

Centerport  
Cold Spring Harbor  
Halesite  
Huntington  
Huntington Bay  
Huntington Station  
Lloyd Harbor

### Kings Park

Retail:

Kings Park

Wholesale:

Smithtown‡

### Patchogue

Bayport  
Bellport  
Blue Point  
Bohemia  
Patchogue  
Sayville  
West Sayville

### Port Jefferson

Retail:

East Setauket  
Poquott  
Port Jefferson  
Port Jefferson  
Station

Wholesale:

Stony Brook‡

### Sag Harbor\*

North Haven  
Sag Harbor

### Smithtown

Retail:

Head-of-the-  
Harbor  
Smithtown  
Smithtown  
Branch

Wholesale:

St. James‡

### Southampton

Southampton

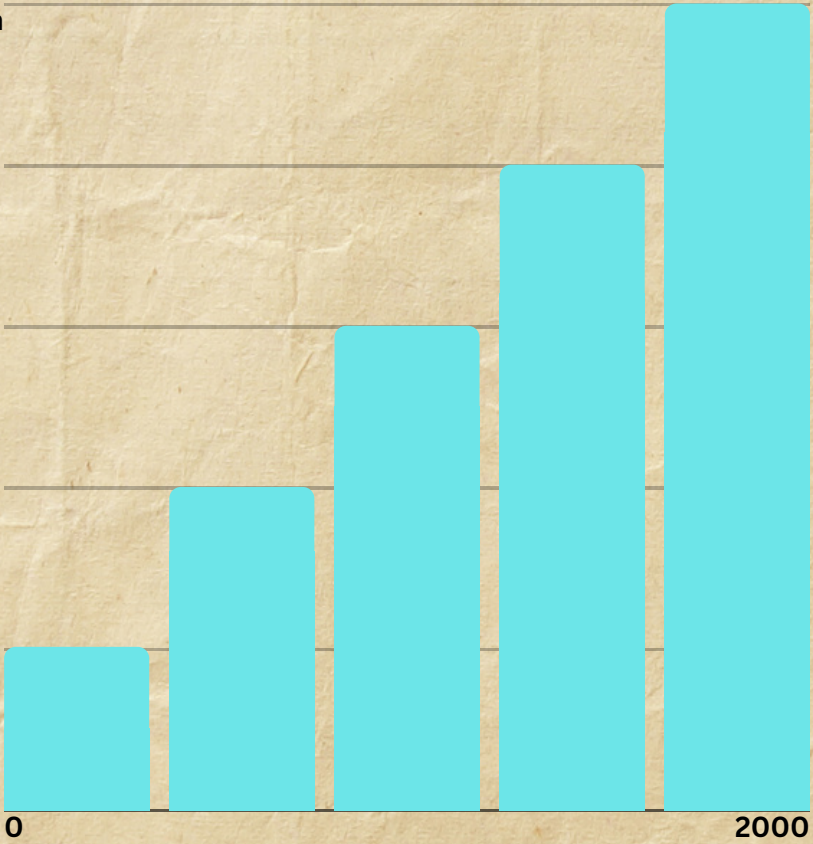
### Westhampton Beach

East Quogue  
Quogue  
Quogue  
Westhampton  
Westhampton Beach

\* Huntington-Babylon-Sag Harbor Division.

‡ Water Districts.

1.7 million





# **SCWA Comprehensive Plan Released**

SCWA leadership in the utility's first few years of operation began to develop a comprehensive plan released in 1957 to chart out the utility's future.

The plan predicted a boom in Suffolk's population growth to 1.7 million by 2000 and the capacity of the authority to supply water to more than 3.3 million residents.



# **Suffolk Population Booms**

Those numbers would not be reached—Suffolk's population in 2000 was below 1.5 million— but the county's population did increase from 276,129 in 1950 to 1,124,950 by 1970.

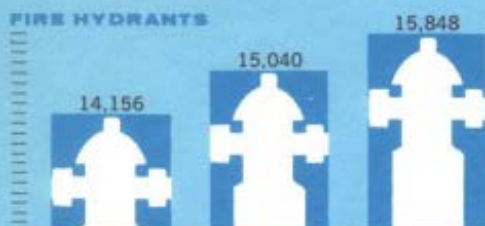
SCWA leaders had correctly predicted that a boom that would ultimately last more than two decades would result from the post-World War II generation looking to put down roots in Long Island's easternmost county.



# 1970

## RESULTS

### FIRE HYDRANTS



### MILES OF MAIN



### GALLONS PUMPED (millions)



### ACTIVE SERVICES



### NET ADDITIONS TO PLANT





180,000



# **Customer Base Grows Exponentially**

As Suffolk County's population grew, so did the Suffolk County Water Authority. Despite beginning as essentially an advocate for Suffolk's groundwater supply, the utility was quickly becoming a vital cog in the county's growth.

From a little over 21,000 customers when SCWA took over the bankrupt South Bay Consolidated Water Co., SCWA had nearly quadrupled in size in the next decade with 83,313 customers and another 2,336 homes supplied through local water districts.

By 1971, SCWA had more than doubled again, growing to approximately 180,000 residential and commercial customers.



# **Expressway Facilitates Growth**

This growth was fueled in large part by the push of Robert Moses for a brand-new modern highway—the Long Island Expressway—connecting Suffolk to points west.

The new highway, larger than the more scenic Northern State Parkway and Southern State Parkway, entered Suffolk County in 1962, stretched to Hauppauge a year later, and then to William Floyd Parkway by the mid-1960s.

The road finally reached its terminus—Riverhead—in 1972.









*Governor Nelson Rockefeller is joined by Ward Melville and State University of New York Trustee Frank Moore at the 1960 groundbreaking for the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Photo is courtesy of the University*



# **Stony Brook, BNL Add to Suburban Expansion**

Stony Brook University was created during this period, adding to the region's suburban expansion for which SCWA supplied more and more potable drinking water. The university has since become a flagship of the state university system and SCWA's biggest non-municipal customer.

Also at this time, a one-time World War I U.S. Army training camp (and the place soldier Irving Berlin penned "God Bless America") became Brookhaven National Laboratory. The lab built the first nuclear reactor after World War II and has been at the cutting edge of scientific research ever since.



# **SCWA Water Infrastructure Takes Off**

SCWA's growth during this period can be tracked not just by customer growth but the substantial growth of its water infrastructure. In 1960, SCWA added an astounding 235 miles of water main.

In eight of the next 14 years, SCWA added 140 miles of water main or more. (By comparison, in its first year of operation, SCWA installed just 8.2 miles of water main.) Today, SCWA maintains more than 6,000 miles of water main, which, if connected end-to-end, would reach all the way from Suffolk deep into Siberia.





# SUFFOLK COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

PUBLICLY OWNED FOR PUBLIC SERVICE



## Communities Served

### Amityville

#### Retail:

Amityville  
Gripingue

#### Wholesale:

Amity Harbor‡

### Bay Shore

Bay Shore  
Brightwaters  
Central Islip  
Great River  
Islip Manor  
Islip Terrace  
Oakdale  
West Islip

### Babylon\*

Babylon  
Lindenhurst  
North Babylon  
West Babylon

### Kings Park

#### Retail:

Kings Park

#### Wholesale:

Smithtown‡

### Huntington\*

Centerport  
Cold Spring Harbor  
Halesite  
Huntington  
Huntington Bay  
Huntington Station  
Lloyd Harbor

### Patchogue

Bayport  
Bellport  
Blue Point  
Bohemia  
Patchogue  
Sayville  
West Sayville

### Port Jefferson

#### Retail:

East Setauket  
Poquott  
Port Jefferson  
Port Jefferson Station

#### Wholesale:

Stony Brook‡

### Sag Harbor\*

North Haven  
Sag Harbor

### Smithtown

#### Retail:

Head-of-the-Harbor  
Smithtown  
Smithtown Branch

#### Wholesale:

St. James‡

### Southampton

Southampton

### Westhampton Beach

East Quogue  
Quogue  
Quogue  
Westhampton  
Westhampton Beach

\* Huntington-Babylon-Sag Harbor Division.

‡ Water Districts.



# **Additional Water Suppliers Acquired**

Acquisition of additional water suppliers continued unabated; a trend facilitated by the signing of a state law allowing such acquisitions if approved by residents of the impacted area.

The measure also permitted the Board of Supervisors to allow payment of SCWA Board members. The pay rates were later set at \$7,500 for Board Chairman Franklin Koons and \$1,500 apiece for the other Board members.

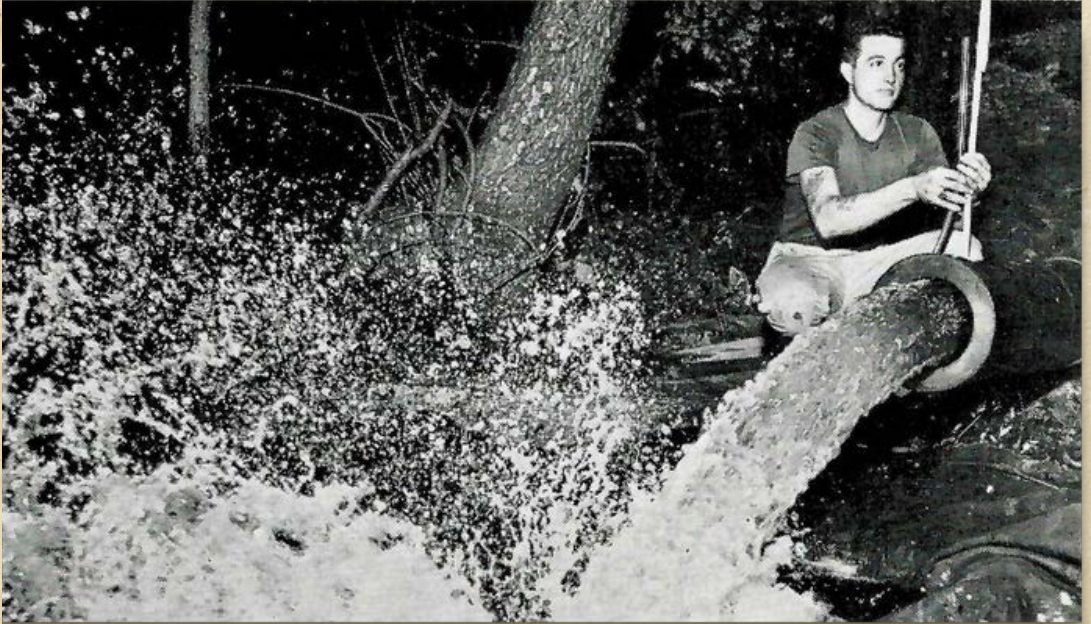


# **A New SCWA Well Produces More Water than any on Long Island**

To meet this rapidly expanding customer growth, SCWA initiated corresponding investments in its water infrastructure. From 1956 to 1957, the construction budget increased by 50 percent, from \$2.05 million to nearly \$3.2 million.

One of the prime examples of the increased emphasis on water infrastructure was the construction of a new well on Woodchuck Hollow Road in Huntington. The new well was 500 feet deep and produced twice as much water as any other well on Long Island.





*1957 test pumping a new well at Woodchuck Hollow Road in Huntington Station*

# SUFFOLK FORBIDS DETERGENTS' SALE



Give this article



By Carter B. Horsley; Special to The New York Times

Nov. 11, 1970



The New York Times Archives

## About the Archive

This is a digitized version of an article from The Times's print archive, before the

See the article in its original context from

≡ TIME

## Environment: Suffolk Bans Detergents

Monday, Nov. 23, 1970



# **With Population Growth Comes Contamination Concerns**

The growth also foreshadowed a disturbing development in Suffolk County, and one predicted by the 1957 SCWA comprehensive plan: the potential degradation of groundwater as a result of detergents and potential pollutants used in industrial processes.

The comprehensive study warned prophetically that the greatest threat to groundwater was from “chemicals, such as detergents, and fluids containing chromium or other plating materials.”

The consultant who prepared the plan also called for strict controls on development; limiting Suffolk’s population by density zoning to ensure the water supply would continue to be sufficient to meet the needs of a fast-growing county.



# **Public Water Seen as Solution**

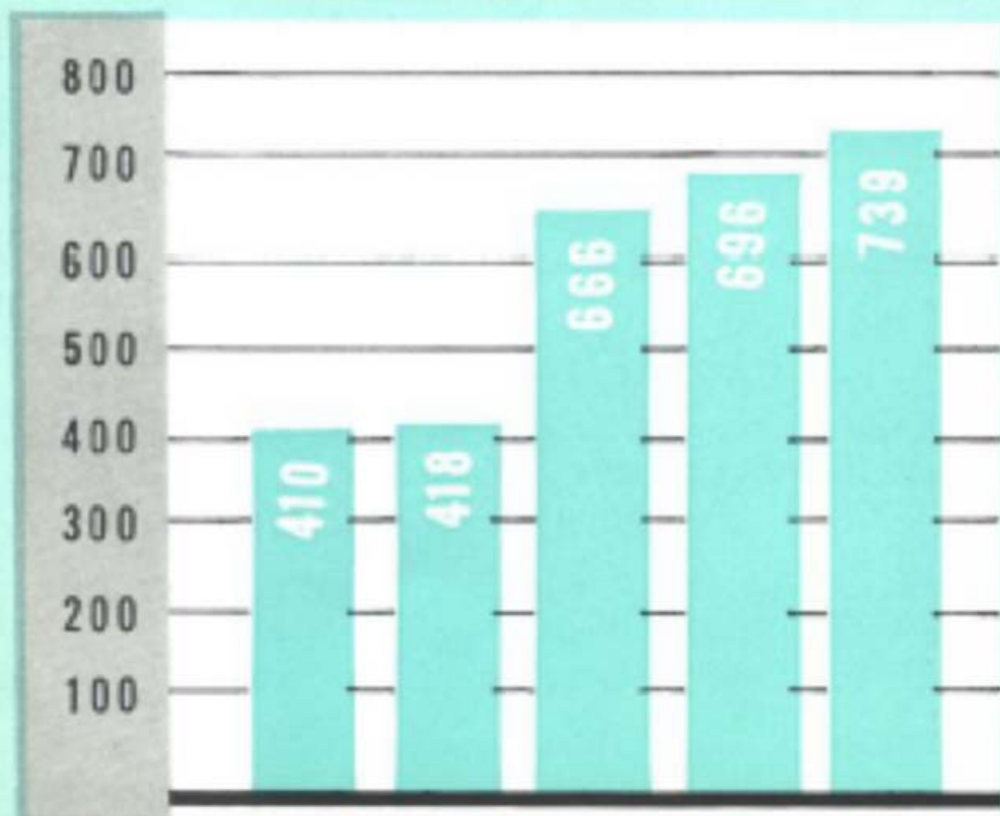
The concern about potential pollution of groundwater and the many private wells that tapped directly into the aquifer led county and town officials to seek to expand the availability of public water wherever possible as Suffolk's population continued to grow.

In July of 1959, the Suffolk Board of Supervisors called a meeting with SCWA officials to seek to persuade them to spend more of the utility's revenues on expanding water mains to address the growing contamination concerns and less on paying off the utility's bonds.





## miles of main





# **SCWA Helps More Residents Receive Safe Water**

SCWA answered the call. To facilitate the effort to expand public water to more Suffolk residents, SCWA leaders in 1959 authorized a resolution providing 75 feet of water main free of charge to new customers in densely populated areas, such as in the Towns of Babylon and Islip. This allowance had already expanded from 50, 60 and finally up to 70 feet.

For less congested areas, the Board of Supervisors sought a new state law (that was later enacted) allowing towns to create local water districts that could finance any needed expansions with bonds.

The Board of Supervisors also called on SCWA to help in the design and management of such expansions.



# **New SCWA Headquarters Opens**

In 1960, SCWA opened its familiar headquarters on Sunrise Highway in Oakdale, and two years later, its Production Control center in Bay Shore, with telemetered circuits connected to a vast growing array of pump stations.

The new Williamsburg Colonial-styled headquarters was located on a 10-acre site and included SCWA's Administrative Headquarters, Meter Shop, the Construction/Maintenance department, Water Quality Testing Laboratory and Storeroom.

Six years later, additional office space was added for the Accounting and Data Processing departments.





SCWA new Oakdale Campus on Sunrise Highway





# **SCWA Serves More than Half of County**

By 1964, SCWA was serving more than 50% of Suffolk's 769,000 residents.



# Sewer Plans Developed

At about this time, state and county leaders looking at the potential impact of residential sewage on groundwater considered SCWA for the oversight of a new county sewer system. SCWA leaders took part in a temporary State Commission on Water Resources Planning concerning domestic sewage and its potential impact on Long Island groundwater resources.

The sewer project at the time was estimated to cost \$30 million. Ultimately, the project remained in county hands and became the Southwest Sewer District. Its cost later ballooned to \$640 million.





*Bergen Point Wastewater Sewage Plant in West Babylon*



# **Record Number of Wells Drilled**

The early '70s also brought record numbers of wells being drilled—21 in 1972 and 25 in 1973.

SCWA also expanded its number of customers to 195,360, serving more than 700,000 of Suffolk's 1.25 million residents, or 56 percent of the population.





*36-inch well casing is inspected by William J. Schickler, chief engineer of SCWA*



## Communities Served

### Babylon District

Amityville  
Amity Harbor  
Babylon  
Copiague  
Deer Park  
Lindenhurst  
North Amityville  
North Babylon  
North Lindenhurst  
Pinelawn  
West Babylon  
Wyandanch

### Bay Shore District

Bay Shore  
Brentwood  
Brightwaters  
Central Islip  
East Islip  
Edgewood  
Great River  
Islip  
Islip Terrace  
North Bay Shore  
North Great River  
North Islip  
Oakdale  
West Bay Shore  
West Brentwood  
West Islip

### East Hampton District

Amagansett  
East Hampton  
Freetown  
Montauk

### Huntington District

Asharoken  
Centerport  
Cold Spring Harbor

Commack  
Crab Meadow  
East Huntington  
East Neck  
East Northport  
Eatons Neck  
Fort Salonga  
Halesite  
Huntington  
Huntington Bay  
Huntington Station  
Lloyd Harbor  
Northport

### Patchogue District

Bayport  
Bellport  
Blue Point  
Bohemia  
Brookhaven  
Coram  
East Holbrook  
East Lake Ronkonkoma  
East Patchogue  
Farmingville  
Holbrook  
Holtsville  
Lakeland  
Lake Ronkonkoma  
North Bellport  
North Patchogue  
Patchogue  
Ronkonkoma  
Sayville  
Selden  
South Centereach  
South Holbrook  
South Medford  
South Yaphank  
West Bellport  
West Ronkonkoma  
West Sayville  
Yaphank

### Port Jefferson District

Belle Terre  
Centereach  
Coram  
East Setauket  
Lake Grove  
Middle Island  
Miller Place  
Mount Sinai  
North Centereach  
North Selden  
Poquott  
Port Jefferson  
Port Jefferson Station  
Ridge  
Setauket-South Setauket  
Sound Beach  
South Stony Brook  
Stony Brook\*  
Terryville

### Smithtown District

East Commack  
Flowerfield\*  
Hauppauge  
Kings Park  
Nesconset  
Saint James\*  
San Remo\*  
Smithtown  
South Hauppauge  
West St. James  
West Smithtown\*  
Village of The Branch

### Sag Harbor District

Sag Harbor

### Southampton District

Southampton

### Westhampton District

East Quogue  
Quogue  
Quogue  
Westhampton  
Westhampton Beach

\* Included in Wholesale  
Water Districts



# **Customer Base Tops 200,000**

By this point, SCWA had acquired 22 municipal and private water companies. Acquisitions of four more in 1975—Selden, Ronkonkoma, Amagansett Water Companies and the system run by Shinnecock Shores Association—grew the utility's customer base to 212,356.

SCWA was still growing, but much of the growth at this point was through acquisition of other water suppliers. Whereas SCWA signed up 9,892 customers in 1975, the utility averaged only 3,585 per year between 1978 and 1980.



# **County Tackles Other Contaminants**

Much of the focus in the 1970s turned to protecting Suffolk's groundwater from pollution from a variety of sources, kicked off by a three-year study with the Suffolk County Department of Health and Board of Supervisors to guide development of groundwater resources over a 50-year period.

In 1970, SCWA also began a monitoring program with 20 wells along Fire Island's barrier beach and took part on an inter-agency committee seeking to improve data processing systems to share information about water resources.



## Suffolk Is Planning a Comprehensive Study of Water Resources on the South Fork

By BARBARA DELATISER

**SOUTHAMPTON, LI.**—The South Fork, which needs water to keep its agricultural and forest industries alive, will be the subject of a comprehensive study of its water resources.

Proposed as a joint project of Suffolk County's Department of Environmental Control and Water Authority, the County of East Hampton and Southampton and the United States Geological Survey, the study will consider the ecological, esthetic and

recreational aspects of water as well as its present and potential supply.

The county and Federal agencies have committed themselves to the project. The survey, though expensive in principle, are withholding formal commitment until the costs are determined. However, with or without the towns' participation, the study will proceed, said John Flynn, Suffolk Commissioner of Environmental Control.

"There's no doubt in my mind, however, that they will cooperate," he added.

Designed as a five-phase

program that will take three years to complete, the study will begin with an inventory of existing facilities. In addition to physically measuring the water supply by sinking test wells, establishing stream gauging and rainfall monitoring systems, the project will conduct surveys to determine whether "medically and recreationally valuable locations" would be altered by water table changes.

There will also be field studies of plant, animal and aquatic life.

The final report will include recommendations for

developing the region's water resources, cost estimates and a time schedule for implementing the recommendations. The extent of the project will depend upon the results, which the participating agencies will share.

Suffolk "Particulars"

"We have to work out the particulars," said Mr. Flynn. "Determine the exact costs and who will pay how much."

Long Hampton Supervisor Eugene Lauer, who sought county involvement after a \$200,000 Federal study fell through when appropriations

were cut, said: "We're interested in going the route, by which out the financial problems."

Unlike its neighbor, the Town of Southampton has reversed its previous water stance. "Our master plan

and zoning, which we adopted in May, is based on self water supply," said Theodore Hales, Supervisor of Southampton. However, land with a deficit this year and a proposed budget of more than \$5,500,000 for next year, Mr. Hales was more restrained than Mr. Lauer. "We'll have to see

just how much information it can give us that we don't have now, and, most important, how much it will cost," he said.

Those costs are being figured by Southampton, Hales and Merrill, consulting engineers from Middlesex. This firm, already hired for the proposed study, also conducted a countywide water resources survey in 1970 that cost Suffolk \$560,000 and an additional \$300,000 for test wells that report has been studied by conservationists for ignoring environmental issues.

Robert Holmacher, head of the firm, agrees that his first study was limited. "We treated water as a commodity, not as a factor in the orderly development of an area," he said.

"We, however, know that population has to be limited in the South Fork because it is unique. But the numbers we provided before were based on sustainable population. Now, we will consider whether things like lakes should be retained for esthetic purposes, no matter how much water they can provide when drained."

Waste, known to be limited

on the narrow strip of sea-enclosed land that constitutes the South Fork, has long been a factor in the area's future, a bone of contention between conservationists and developers.

The conservationists have insisted that population should be curtailed to insure a steady supply of water for coming generations. They usually support massive spending to achieve that end, expensive maintain that enough water can be brought into the admittedly water shy region to support many more people.







# **Lab Equipment Upgraded to Meet New Challenges**

With pollution threats increasing, SCWA invested in its water quality testing equipment. The lab purchased an absorption spectrophotometer to detect metals and upgraded existing instruments.

The lab also conducted more on-premise testing with new federal legislation setting limits for a number of organic and inorganic chemicals, including pesticides and insecticides.



# Well Monitoring Introduced

Shortly after these investments, SCWA further upgraded its laboratory to monitor water pumped at SCWA wells to detect any issues with water entering the SCWA distribution system.

By 1980, SCWA had the capability of monitoring water pumped at all 348 production wells to “detect even the slightest deviation in water quality entering” the distribution system, as stated in that year’s annual report.







## COMMUNITIES SERVED



### BABYLON DISTRICT

Amity Harbor  
Amityville  
Babylon  
Copiague  
Deer Park  
Lindenhurst  
North Amityville  
North Babylon  
North Lindenhurst  
Pinelawn  
West Babylon  
Wheatley Heights  
Wyandanch

### BAY SHORE DISTRICT

Bay Shore  
Brentwood  
Brightwaters  
Central Islip  
East Islip  
Edgewood  
Great River  
Islip  
Islip Terrace  
North Bay Shore  
North Great River  
North Islip  
Oakdale  
West Bay Shore  
West Islip

### HUNTINGTON DISTRICT

Asharoken  
Centerport  
Cold Spring Harbor  
Commack  
Crab Meadow  
East Huntington  
East Neck  
East Northport  
Eatons Neck  
Fort Salonga  
Halesite  
Huntington  
Huntington Bay  
Huntington Station  
Lloyd Harbor  
Northport

### EAST HAMPTON DISTRICT

Amagansett  
East Hampton  
Freetown  
Montauk  
Sag Harbor  
Southampton

### PATCHOGUE DISTRICT

Bayport  
Bellport  
Blue Point  
Bohemia  
Brookhaven  
Coram

East Holbrook  
East Patchogue  
Farmingville  
Gordon Heights  
Holbrook  
Holtsville  
Lakeland  
Lake Ronkonkoma  
North Bellport  
North Patchogue  
Patchogue  
Ronkonkoma  
Sayville  
Selden  
South Centereach  
South Holbrook  
South Medford  
South Yaphank  
West Bellport  
West Ronkonkoma  
West Sayville  
Yaphank

### PORT JEFFERSON DISTRICT

Belle Terre  
Centereach  
Coram  
East Setauket  
Lake Grove  
Middle Island  
Miller Place  
Mount Sinai  
North Centereach  
North Selden  
Poquott  
Port Jefferson

Port Jefferson Station  
Ridge  
Rocky Point  
Setauket  
South Setauket  
Sound Beach  
South Stony Brook  
Stony Brook\*  
Terryville

### SMITHTOWN DISTRICT

East Commack  
Flowerfield\*  
Hauppauge  
Kings Park  
Nesconset  
Saint James\*  
San Remo\*  
Smithtown  
South Hauppauge  
West St. James  
West Smithtown\*  
Village of The Branch

### WESTHAMPTON DISTRICT

Center Moriches  
East Quogue  
Moriches  
Quogue  
Quogue  
Westhampton  
Westhampton Beach



# **Further Expansion with Help of Federal Funding**

As customer growth slowed in the late '70s, SCWA utilized funding available from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development to extend water to several economically depressed communities in Suffolk that needed water supply.

HUD funding of \$642,322 paid for the extension of 9.71 miles of water main to connect customers at Canaan Lake in North Patchogue, Gordon Heights and East Patchogue.

SCWA also acquired more private water companies that were struggling to comply with the increasingly stringent provisions of the Clean Water Act, which took effect in 1980.



A high-speed photograph of a water droplet falling into a pool of water. The droplet is suspended in mid-air above the point of impact, which has created a series of concentric ripples. The water is a deep blue color, and the background is a lighter blue sky with soft, wispy clouds. The overall composition is centered and symmetrical.

1978:

Miriam T. Anzel Becomes  
First Woman  
to Serve on SCWA Board





*Miriam T. Anzel with fellow Board members (left to right) Bert R. Friedman, William A. Frankenbach, Matthew B. Kondenar and Chairman Robert J. Flynn (seated)*



# Ensuring Water Safety

In the early '80s, the focus on pollutants shifted toward removing them from groundwater. SCWA began conducting research with air stripping technology for this purpose.

Air stripping was considered the most economical means of removing certain organic compounds from groundwater. The technology removed contaminants by exposing them to air at a rate of 1,100 gallons per minute.

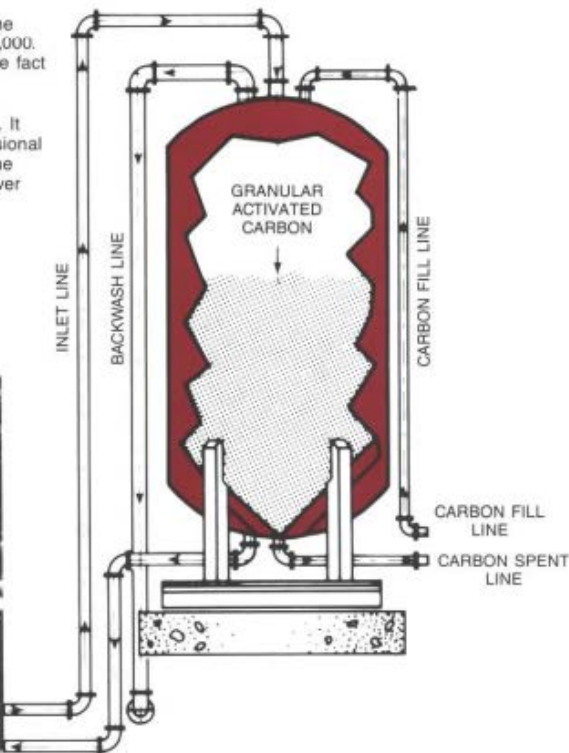




*Air stripping operation located at Bellerose Avenue pump station  
in East Northport*

Each GAC costs approximately \$500,000 which includes the installation and housing of the unit. The approximate cost of this program to date is \$18,000,000. This is a staggering amount of money in view of the fact that there are no governmental funds available to mitigate against the impact of these regulations.

Implementation of this program was quite a task. It took a monumental effort on the part of our professional staff and the outcome was outstanding. Because the Authority moved swiftly and decisively, we have never contravened the new standards.



GRANULAR ACTIVATED CARBON SYSTEM

The Granular Activated Carbon System (GAC) is used for the efficient removal of dissolved organic compounds from water intended for potable use. A unit consists of two process vessels. Each vessel contains 20,000 lbs. of Granulated Activated Carbon. When the carbon in the vessels becomes saturated with contaminants from the water, the unit is shut down and the spent carbon is replaced.



# First GAC Filters Installed

Then in 1984, a breakthrough in treatment technology occurred, as SCWA began to install water treatment systems using granular activated carbon (GAC) filters to remove a wide range of organic chemicals. These systems are the most common filters used by SCWA today.

The first GAC filters were installed on three Southampton wells.

“Suffolk County Water Authority is in the midst of a water quality revolution,” said then-SCWA Chairman Robert Flynn. “Water which a decade ago was considered pure has now been determined to contain chemical contaminants previously undetectable.”

SCWA adapted to the testing capabilities and new water quality regulations with new treatments systems installed where needed.



# **Continuity Through a Hurricane**

In 1985, SCWA was tested by a totally different kind of challenge: keeping water flowing to its customers despite widespread electricity outages caused by Hurricane Gloria. The utility was able to do so due to its supply of emergency power generators.





Credit: Newsday / Audrey C. Tiernan

An uprooted tree blocks an entrance to a site in Babylon where debris from Hurricane Gloria is being stored on Oct. 1, 1985. The huge mound behind it is more debris.





# **Massive Gas Leak Threatens Groundwater**

Pollutant challenges continued to emerge. A one-million-gallon gasoline leak from a Northville Industries storage tank in 1988 threatened groundwater supplies in the East Setauket area, leading to a \$25 million settlement, of which SCWA received \$10 million to be used for emergency water connections and a reserve fund.



# **New Regulations, More Filtration Systems**

The spill came the same year in which SCWA officials were required to close 28 wells due to tougher state water quality standards that lowered maximum contaminant levels on known or suspected carcinogens from 50 parts-per-billion to five parts-per-billion.

However, SCWA installed GAC filtration systems on 20 of the wells, allowing them to meet the new regulations and reopen shortly after.







# AUTHORITY MEMBERS



Left to right Michael E.White; Leon J. Campo, Chairman; James T.B. Tripp, Esq.; Melvin M. Fritz, D.O.M.D. and Matthew B. Kondenar, Secretary.



# **Bipartisan Board Takes Over**

This time also coincided with an effort to de-politicize SCWA, which had originated in a political atmosphere. A bipartisan board took over in 1987 led by Chairman Leon Campo, a school superintendent in East Meadow.

The reform movement was launched by Suffolk Legislature Presiding Officer Gregory Blass, a Republican backed by a Democrat-led coalition. His reform slate was lead by Campo, an anti-Shoreham activist; Republican James Tripp, legal counsel for the Environmental Defense Fund; and Democrat Michael White, an environmental lawyer who later served as chair of the Long Island Regional Planning Council.



# **LoGrande Begins Long Run**

Campo's time on the board was short-lived, however, and he was succeeded by former Suffolk County Executive Michael LoGrande, who served as chairman for 20 years, a portion of which he served a dual role as chief executive officer.

LoGrande's long and distinguished career also included service as Islip town Supervisor.



## AUTHORITY MEMBERS



*SCWA Chairman Michael LoGrande surrounded by fellow Board members Matthew B. Kondenar (Secretary), James T.B. Tripp, Esq., Eric J. Russo, Esq., and Melvin M. Fritz, D.O., M.D.*







# **Protection Efforts Shift to Land Preservation**

Under LoGrande's tenure, SCWA turned its attention increasingly toward a different way of protecting Suffolk's groundwater—the preservation of land that sits atop Long Island's sole source aquifer.

This increased attention toward land preservation as a means of protecting the water supply beneath the land surface was being taken on at the same time by then-County Executive Patrick Halpin, who would later serve as SCWA chairman.



# **Pine Barrens Act Signed**

Dating back to its original comprehensive plan, SCWA leaders had been concerned about the ramifications of massive development in Suffolk, but under LoGrande, the utility took it to another level with the integral role SCWA played in the creation and signing of the Long Island Pine Barrens Protection Act.

SCWA officials worked with environmentalists, government officials and developers over numerous negotiating sessions to hammer out an agreement.

The act was signed into law by Governor Mario Cuomo in 1993.





*New York State Govenor Mario Cuomo signs the Long Island Pine Barrens Protection Act*



Note: This map is intended for general reference only and is not to be used for carrying out any project of jurisdictional boundaries, wildlife preservation, or other purposes. Information shown on this map may contain errors, omissions, and/or inaccuracies. Refer to the official maps of the Central Pine Barrens Commission for the official boundaries of the Central Pine Barrens Commission. Prepared by Central Pine Barrens Commission Staff (KJG), December 11, 2013.

# CENTRAL PINE BARRENS JOINT PLANNING AND POLICY COMMISSION





# **Planned Development in 106,000-Acre Region**

The act ultimately created a region of more than 106,000 acres of protected lands, split into a Core Preservation Area and a Compatible Growth Area.

Development within the region is meticulously planned, thereby protecting the sole source aquifer beneath the land and the vast and diverse ecological treasures that make the region unique and spectacular.



# **Central Pine Barrens Commission Joins SCWA**

After the act went into effect, SCWA's policy and planning director, Ray Corwin, was named executive director of the Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission, the staff of which to this day continue to be SCWA employees as part of an administrative agreement with the state.

The five-member commission meets once a month and consists of one member each representing New York State, Suffolk County and the Towns of Brookhaven, Riverhead and Southampton, with one of the members serving as chairperson.





*Central Pine Barrens Commission staff in December of 2022*







# **Computerizing Operations**

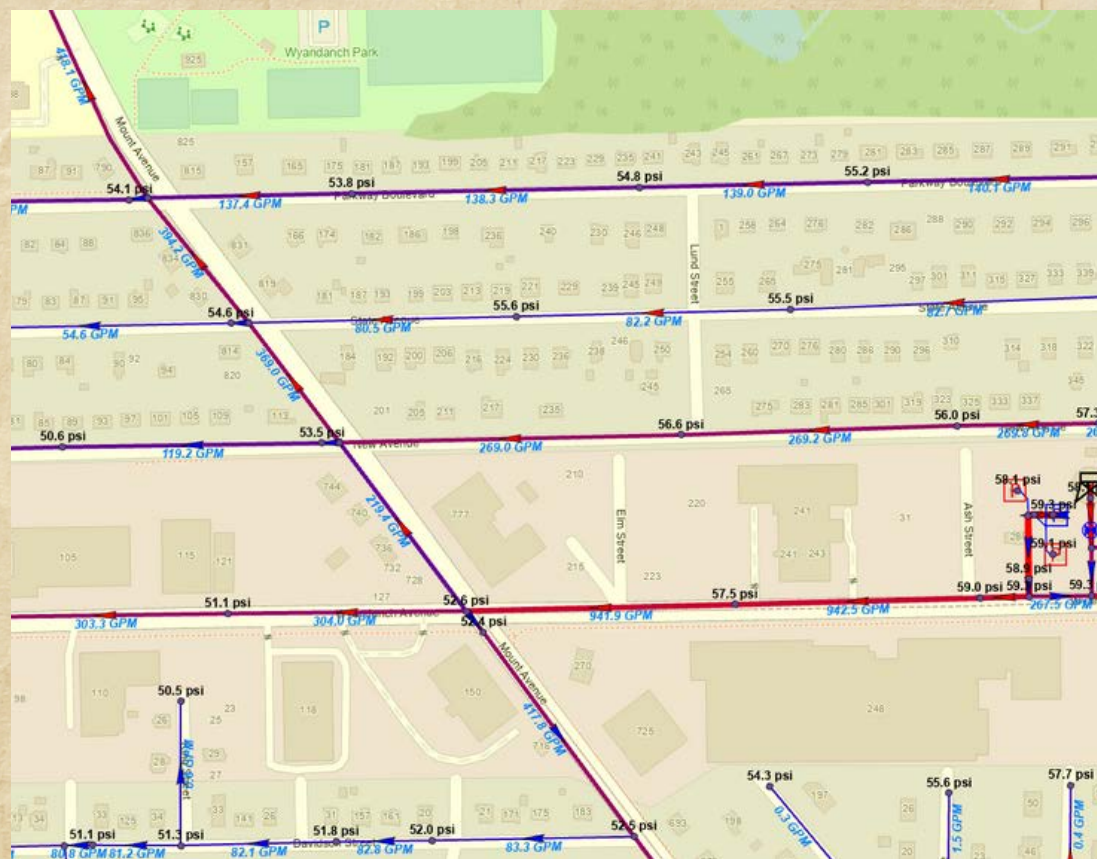
Other major advancements at SCWA were underway at the same time, including computerizing locations and sketches for 26,000 water main valves to increase the speed at which water main shutdowns and repairs could be made.



# **Distribution System Automated**

SCWA also at this time computerized and automated its distribution system using a Stoner Model, which allowed modeling and the simulation of the system of wells, pumps, storage tanks and water mains.











# **Sophisticated New Lab Equipment Added**

Enhancements at the laboratory continued with the addition of an inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer to test inorganic chemicals such as lead, manganese and other metals.

The new technology also allowed the detection of more than one metal from a single sample to help meet new regulations requiring the testing of copper and lead samples every six months from homes that may have potential risk of contamination from those metals.



# **Regional Office Added to Improve Customer Experience**

To improve the customer experience, SCWA created a modern western regional office in Hauppauge in 1993. The new facility consolidated work once performed in the Babylon, Bay Shore, Huntington and Smithtown district offices.

Two years later, the building also became the new home of SCWA's state-of-the-art, 26,000-square-foot laboratory, one of the most sophisticated in the country.





*SCWA Board members and guests at ribbon cutting for new state-of-the-art laboratory. Left to right are: Eric J. Russo, Esq., James T.B. Tripp, Esq., Donald Blydenburgh (Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature), Melvin M. Fritz, D.O., M.D., Joseph Rizzo (Suffolk County Legislator), Matthew B. Kondenar (Secretary); and Michael A. LoGrande (Chairman/Chief Executive Officer)*







# **First Iron Filter Added**

In 1996, SCWA's first iron and manganese filtration system went into service at Harvest Lane pump station in West Islip. Within three years, additional iron filters had been installed at three well sites in Montauk as well as in Babylon, Bohemia, Amityville and Sayville.

Plans were also in place for additional systems in West Babylon, Oakdale and Laurel.



# **Service Territory Extended to Fire Island**

Toward the turn of the new century, SCWA began to look to the east and beyond the mainland, acquiring numerous private water companies on Fire Island and a portion of the Village of Greenport's service territory.

On Fire Island, SCWA acquired private utilities in Cherry Grove, Point O' Woods, Kismet, Lonelyville and Fire Island Pines.

In Greenport, SCWA purchased water infrastructure outside of the Village of Greenport's boundaries for \$3.5 million, as the village served more than 2,000 business and residential customers in that area but were unequipped to expand service to meet the needs of those with private wells impacted by contamination.

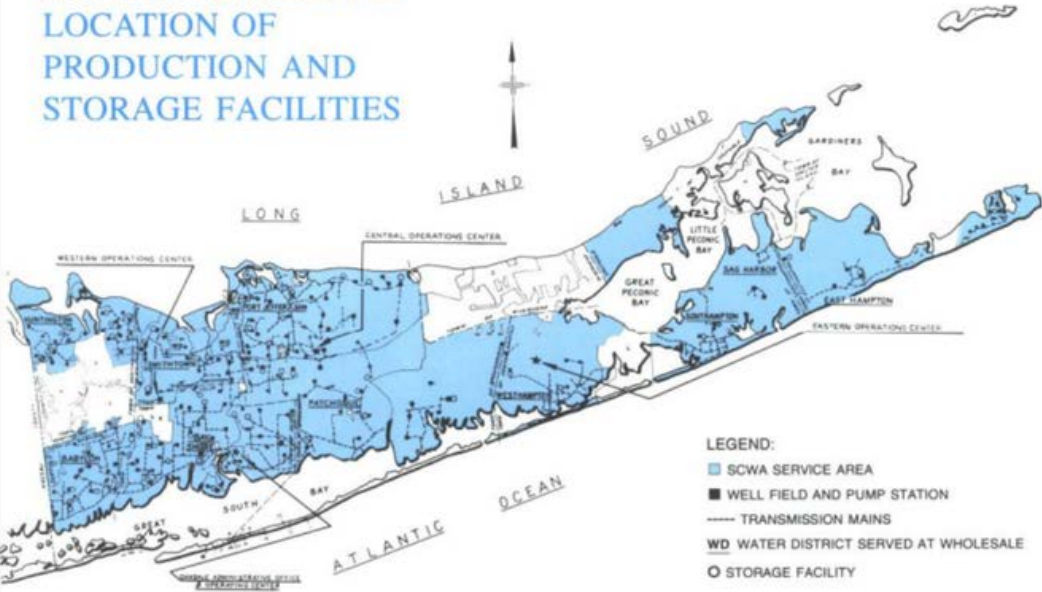




Davis Park hydro tank



# SERVICE AREAS AND LOCATION OF PRODUCTION AND STORAGE FACILITIES





# **Management Agreements for More Small Districts**

Subsequent years would add management agreements for water districts in Riverside and Brentwood, providing the resources of a modern utility to smaller water districts.

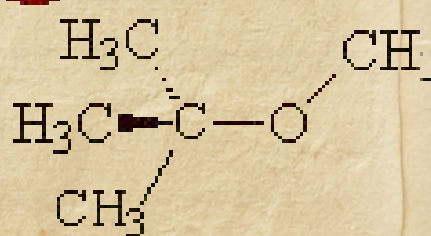
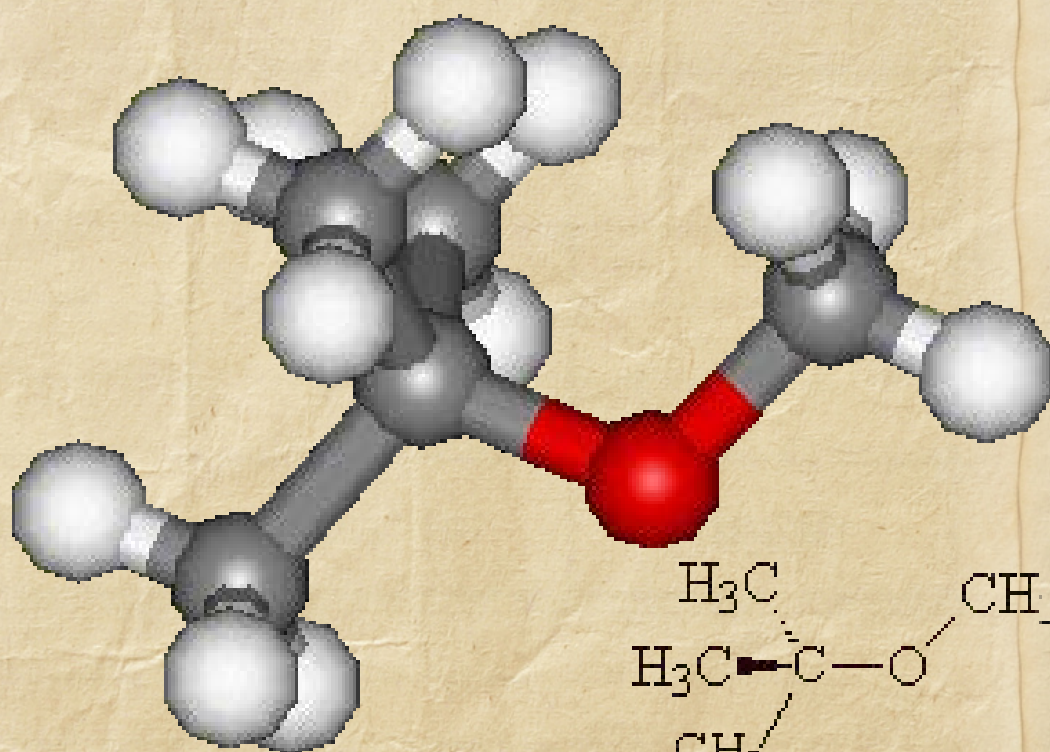
In 2000, SCWA entered into a 60-year agreement to manage the Brentwood system, the first long-term pact of its kind, bringing in 7,000 new customers.



# **SCWA Pushes for MTBE Ban**

The next major contaminant battle involved the gasoline additive MTBE. SCWA had been testing the compound for a decade, finding amounts far below the 50 parts-per-billion drinking water regulation, well before the television program “60 Minutes” raised concerns nationwide about the chemical.









LONG ISLAND / SUFFOLK

## Suffolk Water wins \$1.1M in contamination suits

The authority in its suit alleges that the damages come largely from dry cleaning shops that used chemicals and equipment for decades. The suit says the companies were aware of the "typical" practice of "dumping PCE wastewater and muck into public sewer systems and the habitual problem with multiple leaks of PCE's into the environment."

Regulators say that PCE may harm the liver, kidneys and central nervous system and increase the risk of cancer if ingested at levels that exceed federal standards of 5 parts per billion.

The authority in 2008 won \$73.4 million in damages as part of a \$424 million settlement with 150 water utilities in 17 states against oil companies for contamination involving MTBE, a gasoline additive. Suffolk County also received \$1.43 million.

percent of the sites have contamination connected to dry cleaning operations. Officials say PCE has been documented in 49 percent of all Superfund sites on Long Island.

Suffolk has 89 state Superfund sites and 20 federal Superfund sites, and officials estimate that about 9 percent of the sites have contamination connected to dry cleaning operations. Officials say PCE has been documented in 49 percent of all Superfund sites on Long Island.



# **Tens of Millions in Damages Won**

SCWA's efforts did more than protect the aquifer from future contamination. SCWA and Suffolk sued MTBE manufacturers for the damage they caused, and SCWA later won \$73.4 million in damages for cleanup of the chemical.

Later, in 2013, SCWA settled a contamination lawsuit for \$1.1 million against various companies that made or sold dry cleaning compounds and equipment including perchloroethylene.

SCWA also sued Suffolk County for perchlorate contamination and settled the suit against the county for easement lands.

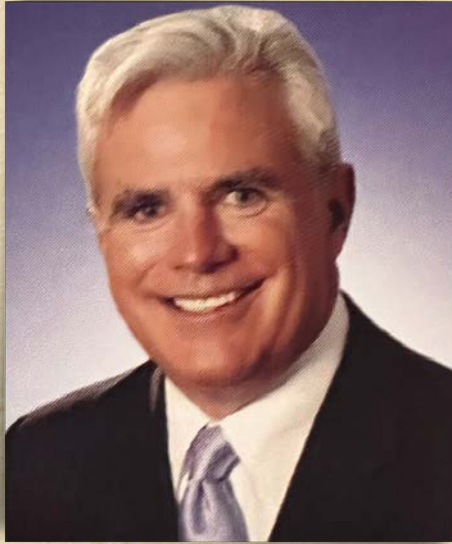


# **New Board Approves Reforms**

In 2007, the utility's efforts to become a model modern organization took another step forward, when a new Board majority led by former County Executive Patrick Halpin, Jane Devine and Michael Deering adopted a series of reform resolutions.

The resolutions eliminated various perks, some of which had been in place for decades.





*Patrick Halpin*



*Jane Devine*



*Michael Deering*





(324-08-2007) WHEREAS, the Suffolk County Water Authority has a policy, in place since 1990, allowing Authority-owned vehicles to be issued to SCWA Board members for both business and personal use; and

WHEREAS, Board members may use a SCWA pool car for official SCWA business when such use of an Authority-owned vehicle is warranted; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That effective October 1, 2007, no Board member shall be assigned a SCWA-owned or leased vehicle for business and/or personal use (except that the Chairman who represents the Board on call for all SCWA matters at any time shall have available a pool car for strictly SCWA Board matters and shall be returned to the pool when such availability is not necessary); and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That any use of SCWA pool vehicles by Board members shall be in connection with their official duties in accordance with applicable Public Authorities laws; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the specifics of such use of any pool car by a Board member for official business is required to be entered into that vehicle's log, including and citing date, place of origination, destination, purpose, number of miles at the beginning at the end of the vehicle's use; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the policy as articulated in this resolution supersedes any other written or customary policy regarding vehicle use by members of the Suffolk County Water Authority Board of Directors.

On motion made by Ms. Devine, duly seconded by Mr. Pellegrino, and unanimously carried, it was

(156-04-2009) RESOLVED, That the SCWA Board Members agree to voluntarily forgo life insurance benefits paid for by the Authority; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the SCWA shall no longer offer a health insurance buy-back in the amount of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) for SCWA Board Members.



# **Board Perks Eliminated**

The 10 reform resolutions included the elimination of Board member perks such as the use of company cars, health and dental insurance and the use of company credit cards.



# **Transparency, Accountability Improved**

The resolutions also improved employee accountability by adding GPS technology to company vehicles and ensuring that the company's seal would be affixed to every vehicle.

Under the reform measures, agendas and minutes of Board meetings were required to be prominently posted for maximum transparency. Time was specifically allotted for the public to comment on resolutions prior to Board votes on resolutions and at the end of meetings as well.





(327-08-2007) WHEREAS, the installation and implementation of Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking technology to monitor the fleet of trucks and other vehicles owned by the Authority and/or operated by employees is an innovative, efficient, and cost-effective way to manage the fleet and enhance accountability; and

WHEREAS, combining the latest advances in GPS, wireless communication and web-enabled software makes monitoring the fleet of vehicles easy, efficient, and cost-effective and provides the knowledge of where every vehicle is at all times; and

WHEREAS, with real time tracking and vehicle location, enabling the recording of time and date each vehicle arrives at a designated job site, what route it takes and speed at which the vehicle is driven, there will be increased accountability, ability to correlate vehicle use records with work order records, improved productivity and effective delivery of services, improved security and safety for employees and equipment, reduced labor and vehicle down time, better preventive maintenance resulting in reduced wear and tear on the fleet, reduced mileage, fuel and operational costs; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That effective January 1, 2008, all Authority-owned and/or operated vehicles shall have installed an operational GPS tracking system that is connected to an integrated real time system-wide tracking and monitoring system; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That effective January 1, 2008, a GPS policy shall be provided to and a training program shall be implemented for all employees who are authorized to operate Authority vehicles in the required and responsible use of such GPS system, including any required data input and reporting; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the policy as articulated in this resolution supersedes any other written or customary policy or plan regarding the installation of Global Positioning System (GPS) in Authority vehicles



A high-speed photograph of a water droplet falling into a pool of water. The droplet is suspended in mid-air above the point of impact, which has created a series of concentric ripples. The water is a deep blue color, and the background is a lighter blue with a subtle, textured pattern.

2010:

Errol Toulon Becomes First African  
American to Serve on Board





*SCWA Board Member Errol Toulon Jr., center, surrounded by, from left, Board Member Mario Mattera, CEO Jeffrey Szabo, Chairman James Gaughran, Board Member Jane Devine and Board Secretary Patrick Halpin*





*From left: Deputy Fleet Manager Gerald Healy, Chief Sustainability Officer Carrie Meek Gallagher, Fleet Manager Steve Monahan and CEO Jeffrey Szabo*



# **Increased Emphasis on Sustainability**

An increased emphasis on sustainability led in 2010 to the conversion of numerous company vehicles to the use of compressed natural gas, reducing the use of fossil fuels.

The conversion to compressed natural gas was just one of many measures taken by SCWA to make its vehicle fleet more friendly to the environment.



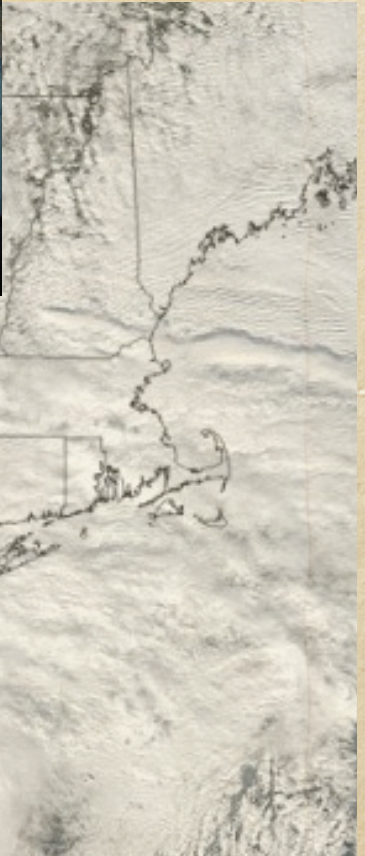
# **Surviving Superstorm Sandy**

In 2012, the first devastating hurricane to hit the area in years knocked out power to 75% of SCWA pump stations.

But using a vast network of emergency generators, SCWA maintained the ability to supply safe drinking water to all customers other than those on Fire Island, which was severely damaged by the storm.

SCWA also offered free well testing to residents using private wells who were impacted by the storm.







SUFFOLK COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

# *Strategic Plan* *2025*





# First Strategic Plan Launched

The following year, SCWA Chief Executive Officer Jeffrey Szabo launched SCWA's first-ever written business plan, Strategic Plan 2025, outlining a series of initiatives that created a blueprint for SCWA's future.

The plan charted out a course of action to transform SCWA operation across the board, with initiatives targeting the improvement of water infrastructure; enhancing customer service; completing the transition to automated meter reading technology; connecting residents using private wells; implementing mobile workforce technology; foster employee growth and promote diversity; conduct vulnerability assessments of critical infrastructure; develop new treatment methods for emerging contaminants; develop long-term sustainable water supply plans for vulnerable areas; and assess new rates and fee structures that equitably reflect the cost of service across SCWA's customer base.



# **LICAP Provides Regional Aquifer Management**

That accomplishment was followed by another with ramifications for all of Long Island. SCWA led the creation of the Long Island Commission for Aquifer Protection, a bi-county organization focused on managing Long Island's aquifer in a regional manner.

Since its formation, the organization has published a comprehensive Groundwater Resources Management Plan, published a State of the Aquifer report updated every year with the latest important information about quality and quantity impacts to the aquifer and created a major water conservation public outreach and education campaign called Our Water Our Lives.

LICAP is currently nearing the end of its second five-year term.





#### Tasks and Deliverables

- All 10 shall meet quarterly to share frequently to report progress
- Share and all the space to the public
- Coordinate with public, having monthly to each county
- Study Water Resources and Environmental Management
- Share plans to identify long term water demand and planning
- Research and develop a process to integrate public water planning
- Water Resources Opportunities Refinement
- Develop and update the water plan for a comprehensive assessment
- Conduct a Study of the Aquifer Report
- Conduct a Comprehensive Resource Management Plan



STATE OF NEW YORK

Cal. No. 247

4909--B

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

April 23, 2015

Introduced by Sens. CROCI, BOYLE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions -- recommitted to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, ordered to a third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading -- again amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the public authorities law, in relation to method of collection of charges by the Suffolk county water authority

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. The public authorities law is amended by adding a new  
2 section 1078-f to read as follows:

3 S 1078-F. CHARGES BY AUTHORITY; METHOD OF COLLECTION. ALL RATES, FEES  
4 AND OTHER CHARGES FOR THE USE OR AVAILABILITY OF THE FACILITIES OR  
5 SERVICES OR COMMODITIES PROVIDED OR MADE AVAILABLE BY THE AUTHORITY AND  
6 BILLED DIRECTLY BY THE AUTHORITY TO THE USER OR SERVICE RECIPIENT PURSU-  
7 ANT TO A CLASSIFICATION OF PERSON ADOPTED BY THE AUTHORITY AS HEREIN  
8 PROVIDED SHALL BE A LIEN UPON THE REAL PROPERTY UPON WHICH, OR IN  
9 CONNECTION WITH WHICH, SERVICES ARE PROVIDED OR ARE MADE AVAILABLE, AS  
0 AND FROM THE FIRST DATE FIXED FOR A PAYMENT OF SUCH RATES, FEES AND  
1 OTHER CHARGES. **SHALL BE A LIEN UPON THE REAL PROPERTY UPON WHICH,**  
2 OR ENCUMBRANCES, EXCEPT TAXES OR ASSESSMENTS. THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFI-  
3 CIER OF THE AUTHORITY SHALL PREPARE AND TRANSMIT TO THE RECEIVER OF TAXES  
4 AND ASSESSMENTS, ON OR BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF NOVEMBER IN EACH YEAR, A  
5 LIST OF THOSE PROPERTIES USING SUCH FACILITIES OR FOR WHICH SUCH FACILI-  
6 TIES, SERVICES OR COMMODITIES WERE PROVIDED OR MADE AVAILABLE AND FROM  
7 WHICH THE PAYMENT OF RATES, FEES AND OTHER CHARGES ARE IN ARREARS FOR A  
8 PERIOD OF NINETY DAYS OR MORE AFTER THE LAST DAY FIXED FOR PAYMENT OF  
9 SUCH RATES, FEES AND OTHER CHARGES WITHOUT PENALTY. THE LIST SHALL

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

LBD10191-06-6



# **Lien Legislation Protects Ratepayers**

2016 brought an initiative geared toward protecting SCWA's bill-paying customers in the form of state legislation allowing the utility to recoup annual write-offs of unpaid bills by placing tax liens on delinquent water bills.

Since the legislation was enacted, the new policy has allowed SCWA to save in excess of \$600,000 annually in unpaid balances.

That money benefits SCWA customers who pay their bills in full.



# **New Legal Battle Against Groundwater Polluters**

A decade after the successful battle against MTBE manufacturers, SCWA in 2017 took legal action against the makers of the latest threat to Long Island's aquifer—the emerging contaminants PFOS/PFOA and 1,4-dioxane.

PFOS/PFOA compounds are found in firefighting foams, pizza boxes, stain-resistant coatings and non-stick cookware. 1,4-dioxane is found in industrial solvents as well as cleaning and personal care products. PFOS/PFOA and 1,4-dioxane are considered to be likely carcinogens by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The actions filed by SCWA maintain the companies knew or should have known the products they made, distributed or sold is dangerous to human health and contain unique characteristics that cause extensive and persistent environmental contamination.





## SCWA Pursues Legal Action against Companies Responsible For PFOS, PFOA and 1,4-Dioxane Contamination

December 1, 2017 09:30 AM

The Suffolk County Water Authority today filed civil complaints in federal district court against companies that manufactured, distributed and sold products containing three contaminants that have polluted public supply wells in the Authority's service territory.

The two separate complaints—one pertaining to the synthetic industrial chemical 1,4-dioxane and...organic fluorinated alkanes perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)—were filed in the Eastern District Court of New York and seek to recover the costs of treating contaminated water to remove the chemicals, all shown to be potentially carcinogenic in studies, from SCWA wells.

"The ratepayers of the Suffolk County Water Authority should not have to pay for the reckless behavior of companies who knew or should have known about these dangers," said SCWA Chairman James F. Gaughran. "And we're going to do everything we can to make sure they won't."







# **SCWA Leads the Way in AOP Treatment**

Though PFOS/PFOA can be removed via granular activated carbon, 1,4-dioxane requires specialized advanced oxidation process (AOP) treatment. The year after the lawsuits were filed, SCWA became the first water supplier to have an AOP system approved for use by New York State to remove 1,4-dioxane.

In 2020, highly protective maximum contaminant levels were enacted by New York State for PFOS/PFOA and 1,4-dioxane. To meet the new 1 part per billion regulation for 1,4-dioxane, SCWA is in the process of building, testing and installing AOP systems wherever needed to remove the chemical.



# Education Center Opens

2017 also saw the opening of the SCWA Education Center in Hauppauge. The center is open to the public and aims to educate Suffolk residents about Long Island's groundwater and all the steps taken to make sure it's safe when it reaches household taps.

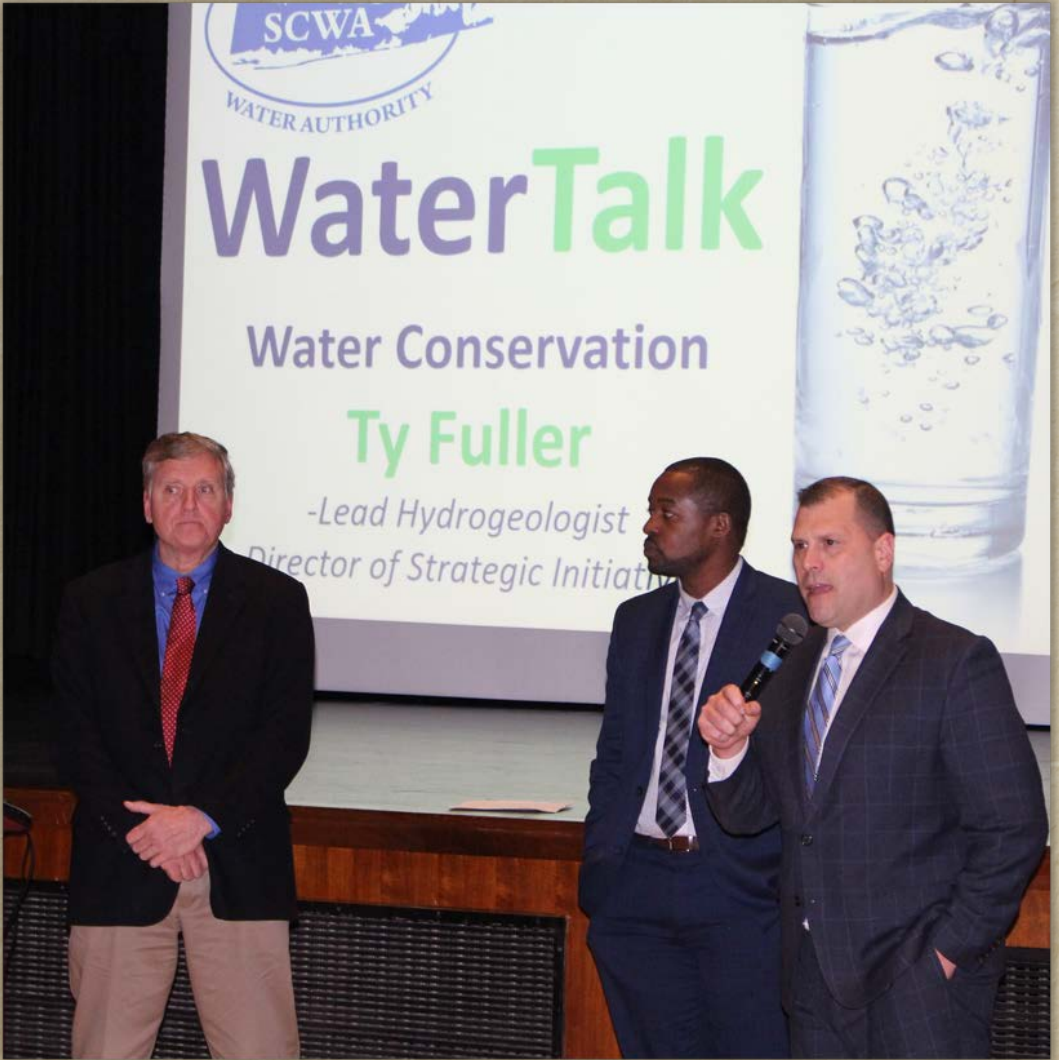
The Education Center is filled with exhibits that tell the story of how water travels from a drop of water to a drip coming out of your household tap. Tours cover the water cycle and Long Island's underground aquifer; well drilling; steps taken at SCWA pump stations to make sure your water is safe; how water travels and is monitored through our extensive network of pipes; and how it is tested for quality, among other topics.

There are also fun activities, including showing kids how to make their own mini-aquifer in a plastic bottle and testing their knowledge in a tour-ending game that crowns the "Water Wizard" of the day.











# **WaterTalk Provides Forum for Public Engagement**

SCWA in 2017 also launched WaterTalk, a public education forum that gives Suffolk residents the opportunity to learn about their water supply and to ask our water quality experts any questions they may have.

These forums are held throughout SCWA's service territory, from Huntington to Montauk. At the forums, SCWA experts discuss topics including water quality in the area in which the forum is being held; water infrastructure in the area, including recent improvements or new investments; and water conservation, among other topics.

The primary reason the forums are held, though, is to find out what's on the mind of SCWA customers and answer any questions they may have about the water SCWA serves or any aspect of SCWA operations.



# **Massive Water Main Project Helps those on Private Wells**

With PFOS/PFOA threatening private wells in Suffolk, SCWA in 2018 installed 45,000 feet of water main in Wainscott to help residents whose private wells were threatened by PFOS/PFOA contamination. SCWA partnered with the Town of East Hampton on the project.

SCWA has made numerous efforts in recent years to extend water main to areas in which private wells have been impacted by contaminants, including a multi-jurisdiction project currently in the planning stages to bring safe public water to parts of Manorville where PFOS/PFOA has impacted residential wells.

A core mission of SCWA is to do everything possible to make its high quality drinking water available to those who would like to become SCWA customers.





*SCWA Chairman James Gaughran, at podium, announcing project to bring safe drinking water to Wainscott residents with SCWA and town of East Hampton officials*







# **Continuity of Water Service All Throughout Pandemic**

Like citizens, businesses and other organizations throughout the world, SCWA confronted the COVID-19 pandemic that began in early 2020 and has kept a safe and reliable drinking water supply flowing to its customers.

During the height of the pandemic, SCWA invested millions of dollars to make sure all SCWA workplaces were safe for all SCWA employees. Measures taken included mandatory daily symptom checks, conveniently located hand sanitizer stations and rebuilt work stations with partitions to reduce the spread of germs. Staggered schedules and work-from-home protocols were also introduced to ensure safe spaces between workers.

Measures were also taken to ensure the safety of SCWA customers and vendors interacting with SCWA employees.



A high-speed photograph of a water droplet falling into a pool of water. The droplet is suspended in mid-air above the surface, which is covered in concentric ripples. The scene is captured in a monochromatic blue and white color scheme.

# 2021:

First Female Majority, Including Two Women of  
Color, Takes Charge of Board





*Jacqueline Gordon*



*Jane Devine*



*Elizabeth Mercado*



# **Transmission Line to Bring Central Pine Barrens Water to North Fork**

The first steps have been taken to launch one of the biggest and most significant projects ever undertaken by SCWA: bringing high quality water straight from the heart of the Central Pine Barrens to the North Fork, where the shallow aquifer presents water quality and quantity challenges for residents.

The North Fork Halpin Transmission line, named after current SCWA Chairman Patrick Halpin, will extend 44,000 feet from the hamlet of Riverside, through the Town of Riverhead, and ultimately connect to existing water main in Laurel.

The project will be conducted in stages in the coming years.











# Looking to the Future

In 2023, SCWA is looking to the future with a new business plan, Strategic Plan 2030, that outlines key challenges facing SCWA and the strategies to address them. More than 80 SCWA employees took part in committees assembled to tackle these challenges, which include water quality, customer expectations, organizational development, cost of service, expanding access to public water, aging infrastructure, external threats, safety, diversity and sustainability.

SCWA's first ever written business plan, Strategic Plan 2025, focused mainly on operational improvements and has been completed.

“We’ve had a great history, but feel the future is even brighter,” said current SCWA Chairman Patrick Halpin.



# Board Member Index

(From 1937-1951, the Suffolk County Water Authority had a three-member Board consisting of Chairman W. Kingsland Macy, Frank J. Smith and Carll S. Burr, Jr. The full five-member SCWA Board was established in 1952.)

## 1952-1957

Franklin S. Koons, Chairman  
Harry Paul Fishel, Secretary  
Carll S. Burr, Jr., Treasurer  
T. Bayles Minuse  
Charles W. Frieman

## 1960

Franklin S. Koons, Chairman  
Harry Paul Fishel, Secretary  
Carll S. Burr, Jr., Treasurer  
T Bayles Minuse  
Hermon P. Bishop

## 1962

T. Bayles Minuse, Chairman  
Harry Paul Fishel, Secretary  
Carll S. Burr, Jr., Treasurer  
Adrian F. Mason  
Hermon L. Bishop

## 1958-1959

Franklin S. Koons, Chairman  
Harry Paul Fishel, Secretary  
Charles W. Frieman,  
Assistant Secretary  
Carll S. Burr, Jr. Treasurer  
T. Bayles Minuse

## 1961

T. Bayles Minuse, Chairman  
Harry Paul Fishel, Secretary  
Carll S. Burr, Jr., Treasurer  
Charles W. Frieman,  
Assistant Secretary  
Adrian F. Mason



# Board Member Index

1963

T. Bayles Minuse, Chairman

Carll S. Burr, Jr.,

Secretary and Treasurer

Adrian F. Mason

Hermon L. Bishop

Edward McGowan

1965-1966

Richard D. Zeidler, Chairman

Edward McGowan, Secretary

Hermon L. Bishop,

Treasurer and Assistant Secretary

Richard E. Allen

Matthew B. Kondenar

1968-1969

Richard D. Zeidler, Chairman

Hermon L. Bishop, Treasurer

Matthew B. Kondenar, Secretary

J. Harvey McCoy

H. Ward Ackerson

1964

Richard D. Zeidler, Chairman

Edward McGowan, Secretary

Hermon L. Bishop,

Treasurer and Assistant Secretary

Richard E. Allen

Adrian F. Mason

1967

Richard D. Zeidler, Chairman

Edward McGowan, Secretary

Hermon L. Bishop,

Treasurer and Secretary

Matthew B. Kondenar

J. Harvey McCoy

1970-1972

Hermon L. Bishop,

Treasurer and Assistant Secretary

Matthew B. Kondenar, Secretary

J. Harvey McCoy

H. Ward Ackerson



# Board Member Index

1973

Walter C. Hazlitt, Chairman

Hermon L. Bishop,

Treasurer and Assistant Secretary

Matthew B. Kondenar, Secretary

J. Harvey McCoy

H. Ward Ackerson

1976

Walter C. Hazlitt, Chairman

Matthew B. Kondenar, Secretary

William A. Frankenbach,

Treasurer and Assistant Secretary

H. Ward Ackerson

1978-1986

Robert J. Flynn, Chairman

Matthew B. Kondenar, Secretary

William A. Frankenbach,

Treasurer and Assistant Secretary

Bert R. Friedman

Miriam T. Anzel

1974-1975

Walter C. Hazlitt, Chairman

Hermon L. Bishop,

Treasurer and Assistant Secretary

Matthew B. Kondenar, Secretary

William A. Frankenbach

H. Ward Ackerson

1977

Robert J. Flynn, Chairman

Matthew B. Kondenar, Secretary

William A. Frankenbach,

Treasurer and Assistant Secretary

H. Ward Ackerson

Bert R. Friedman

1987-1989

Leon J. Campo, Chairman

Matthew B. Kondenar, Secretary

Melvin M. Fritz, D.O., M.D.

James T.B. Tripp, Esq.

Michael E. White



# Board Member Index

1990

Michael A. LoGrande, Chairman

Matthew B. Kondenar, Secretary

Melvin M. Fritz, D.O., M.D.

James T.B. Tripp, Esq.

Leon J. Campo

1997-2001

Michael A. LoGrande, Chairman

Melvin M. Fritz, D.O.,

M.D., Secretary

John E. Gee, Jr.

Eric J. Russo, Esq.

James T.B. Tripp, Esq.

2004-2005

Michael A. LoGrande, Chairman

Melvin M. Fritz, D.O., M.D.,

Secretary

Eric J. Russo, Esq.

George Proios

Bernard Brady

1991-1996

Michael A. LoGrande, Chairman

Matthew B. Kondenar, Secretary

Melvin M. Fritz, D.O., M.D.

Eric J. Russo, Esq.

James T.B. Tripp, Esq.

2002—2003

Michael A. LoGrande, Chairman

Melvin M. Fritz, D.O.,

M.D., Secretary

John E. Gee, Jr.

Eric J. Russo, Esq.

George Proios

2006

Michael A. LoGrande, Chairman

Melvin M. Fritz, D.O., M.D.,

Secretary

George Proios

Bernard Brady

Patrick G. Halpin



# Board Member Index

2007

Michael A. LoGrande, Chairman

Bernard Brady, Secretary

Michael J. Deering

Jane R. Devine

Patrick G. Halpin

2009

Michael A. LoGrande, Chairman

Patrick G. Halpin, Secretary

Jane R. Devine

James F. Gaughran

Frank J. Pellegrino

2014-2017

James F. Gaughran, Chairman

Patrick G. Halpin, Secretary

Jane R. Devine

Errol D. Toulon, Jr.

Mario R. Mattera

2008

Michael A. LoGrande, Chairman

Bernard Brady, Secretary

Patrick G. Halpin

Jane R. Devine

James F. Gaughran

2010-2013

James F. Gaughran, Chairman

Patrick G. Halpin, Secretary

Jane R. Devine

Frank J. Pellegrino

Errol D. Toulon, Jr.

2018

James F. Gaughran, Chairman

Patrick G. Halpin, Secretary

Jane R. Devine

Mario R. Mattera

Timothy H. Bishop



# Board Member Index

2019-2020

Patrick G. Halpin, Chairman

Jane R. Devine, Secretary

Mario R. Mattera

Timothy H. Bishop

Elizabeth Mercado

2022

Patrick G. Halpin, Chairman

Timothy H. Bishop, Secretary

Elizabeth Mercado

Jacqueline A. Gordon

Charles Lefkowitz

2021

Patrick G. Halpin, Chairman

Jane R. Devine, Secretary

Timothy H. Bishop

Elizabeth Mercado

Jacqueline A. Gordon

2023



Board Members attend the Strategic Plan 2030 presentation at the Education Center in Hauppauge. Left to right: Charles Lefkowitz, Elizabeth Mercado, Jacqueline A. Gordon, Timothy H. Bishop, Secretary, Patrick G. Halpin, Chairman











