APPENDIX A
PUBLIC HEARING TRANSCRIPTS

APPENDIX A-1
PUBLIC HEARING TRANSCRIPT

SCWA's Westhampton Office Building, Town of Southampton,

August 19,2026

In the Matter Of:

SUFFOLK COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NORTH FORK WATER MAIN PROJECT

August 19, 2026



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SUFFOLK COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NORTH FORK WATER MAIN PROJECT

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Public Hearing

August 19, 2026

6:01 p.m.

Westhampton

ACCURATE COURT REPORTING SERVICE, INC.
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A P P E A R A N C E S :

SUFFOLK COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE BOARD:

JEFFREY W. SZABO - Chief Executive Officer

JOSEPH POKORNY - Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Operations

FRANK TASSONE - Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Customer Service

JOHN MILAZZO, ESQ. - General Counsel

CARRIE O'FARRELL - Senior Partner/Manager NELSON POPE VOORHIS

MARY ANNE TAYLOR - Vice-President/CDM-Smith

* * * * * * * * * *

A L S O P R E S E N T :

DANIELLE PUMA - Assistant to General Counsel/SCWA

THEODORE APONTE - Communications Project Mgr/SCWA

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MR. SZABO: This is a public hearing of the North Fork Water Main Project.

Thank you all for being here tonight, we appreciate it.

My name is Jeff Szabo, I'm Chief Executive Officer of the Suffolk County Water Authority.

We're going to open up with some guidelines on what tonight is and what it isn't.

The purpose of tonight's meeting is to receive public comments. You can express yourself related to our project to bring safe drinking water to Southold with the Draft EIS and the project overall.

Public comments will be responded to in writing in the final EIS. The written comment period will end at 5 P.M., close of business, September 11th. So if you don't make a comment today,

you're more than welcome and we encourage you to submit written comments there to the Water Authority -- there is a website address -- and have it in by 5 P.M. on the 11th.

All comments, whether received in writing or verbally during tonight's meeting and the two other meetings that we will have in the next week or so, will be responded to in the final EIS. It'll be posted on the Water Authority's website.

I want to be very clear about this next point; this is a public hearing. This is not a public Q and A, this isn't a discussion. It is a presentation by myself, by my Chief Deputy, Joe Pokorny, and by Carrie O'Farrell from Nelson, Pope, Voorhis and possibly some comments by Mary Anne Taylor from CDM. But this is a

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presentation for -- to educate everybody on the project itself and then for us to receive comments.

We understand -- right -- this is a small audience here and it's somewhat -- there's a couple of elected officials. If there's a question or two for sure that you want answered, of course we'll answer it, but overall, tonight and moving forward, we plan to receive comments. In the interest of time and so that everyone has a chance to speak, we're going to limit that to about three minutes.

I'm going to back up a little bit and talk about SCWA and what we are and how we are governed. The Suffolk County Water Authority is one of the largest groundwater suppliers in the nation. We're at the cutting edge of drinking water for over 75 years. This year marks our 75th

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year in operation.

We are a not-for-profit, public benefit corporation -- right -- established by the New York State Legislature; a not-for-profit public benefit corporation operating under the Public Authorities Law of New York State. That means that we are operating without taxpayer or investor dollars; everything we get is from our ratepayers and is invested back into our system. Okay?

We serve about one point two million of the roughly one point five million Suffolk County residents. We have over 600 employees. Our professionals handle nearly every aspect of operations in-house, from engineering and laboratory services to customer service reps, information technology,

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construction maintenance, production control, communications. Our workforce ensures reliable, high quality drinking water every single day.

About two-thirds of our team are blue collar and about one-third are white collar. We are not a branch of County government. We often get confused with being a department within County government, but we are not and never have been. SCWA does not create or enforce drinking water standards, but we are responsible for following the regulations set forth by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the New York State Department of Health. SCWA does not control land use or development. We do not control land use or development. That power is reserved for the local

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municipalities.

We're also a little different than some other places. In many parts of the country, drinking water is sourced from surface water such as rivers, lakes and reservoirs. New York City, for example, gets most of their water from reservoirs that are filled up in the Catskill watershed area and the Hudson Valley and it's tunnelled down into the city itself.

Our water, one hundred percent of all of our drinking water comes from our sole source aquifer. It's composed of three principal aquifers; the Upper Glacial, the Magothy and the Lloyd. Collectively, the aquifer is contained of about 65 trillion gallons of groundwater; 65 trillions gallons of groundwater. SCWA maintains more than 600 active

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drinking water wells at any given time at about 240 different locations, from Melville to Montauk.

I want to talk a little bit about our laboratory. We have a state-of-the-art water quality laboratory. It's one of the largest in the country. We take samples. They're taken at the well head and at various stages of treatment within the distribution system for bacteria and a wide range of inorganic and organic chemicals.

We analyzed over 95,000 samples last year and produced 195,000 tests. We test for 390 compounds, that's 231 more than we are required to. Isn't that a good thing, right? I'm really proud of that fact. I say this all the time.

We do this -- I wish I could

take credit for it and say it was something I implemented when I became CEO, but, fortunately, for the residents of Suffolk County, that's something that we have been doing for many, many years, my predecessor started that. And as we test for certain unregulated compounds through the unregulated contaminant monitoring rule, we continue to test for them whether they are going to be regulated or not, and now we're up to 390.

Testing also occurs at a higher frequency than required by the Suffolk County Department of Health or the New York State Department of Health. That's something that we do internally. We challenge ourselves and our staffs to make sure that we provide the safest drinking water possible. And, at times, if there's a concern or something that we notice,

detection of a compound that may be increasing levels, we then test at a higher frequency because we think it's the right thing to do.

SCWA's, as I mentioned, in-house standards for water quality are tougher than most State and Federal regulations.

One slide here about PFOA and PFOS, they're perfluorinated compounds, organic compounds. They're part of a class of chemicals collectively known as PFOS. Some of these chemicals have been in commercial use since the 1940s. PFOS, they're very stable, they do not interact much with other chemicals, so it can be -- so it can be helpful in making products that are oil resistant, like stains and water -- I'm not sure if that reads properly or I misread that, I apologize. They're dangerous and we don't want them in

our drinking water and we --
they're used as treatment, such
things as carpets, clothing,
furniture, fabrics, personal care
products, they're also found in
fire-fighting foam.

SCWA took action for PFOS
and PFOA, we began testing for it
in 2013. New York State Department
of Health set a standard for PFOS
and PFOA at 10 parts per trillion
in 2020. PFOS and PFOA are removed
by the two things you see on the
right here which is granular
activated carbon. That's carbon on
the bottom. Those are carbon
vessels up top; we have many of
those stretched across our service
territory.

Two-thirds of our wells,
two-thirds of almost 600 wells,
have no filtration at all.

But, Joe, how many wells
have carbon on it this time?

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MR. POKORNY: Approximately 200.

MR. SZABO: Two hundred?

MR. POKORNY: Yep.

MR. SZABO: Two hundred of our roughly 600. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed a national drinking water regulation for PFOS at four parts. That regulation goes into effect in 2031 and we are really proud to say that for the past year and two months we are already treating to four parts.

We do have challenges. The North Fork presents a tremendous challenge to the Water Authority. Supplying water on the North Fork is an interesting -- interesting concept. We have roughly 60 wells in the Township of Southold, 18 different well fields. We serve approximately 97, 9800 customers as of 2024. Projected peak demand is

about 12,664 gallons permitted in 2026, usable capacity is substantially less due to pumpage restrictions. Some restrictions are imposed by our regulators, some are imposed by ourselves. Internally, like I said, we will -- we will not pump.

Hi, Steve, nice to see you.

We will not pump what we're permitted to because we are concerned about chlorides and other things like that.

Some of the efforts that we've undertaken, and we've really ramped up over the last couple of years, we've been strongly messaging and providing rebates for conservation. The Board at the Water Authority has been very, very aggressive and they've been very vocal in their support and giving us the funds that we need to communicate with the public and to

educate the public about proper use of water, the value of water and then also how we can provide certain rebates for low-flow shower heads and things like that. We offer a whole wide variety of items, smart irrigation controllers, rain sensors, solar pool covers, rain barrels, $75 credits, $150 credits, $200 credit.

In 2020, SCWA adopted a tiered-rate structure so customers who use more water and broke a certain threshold above the average would pay a higher amount. That was an attempt to sort of let folks know, hey, if it's costing us more money to bring you the water you need, the people who are using it should pay more than people who use less than the average amount.

In 2020, we also banned open, loose geothermal systems which use a lot of water. In

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January, 2023, SCWA submitted a new Comprehensive Water Conservation Plan. Some of the key elements, the Board of the Water Authority adopted an odd/even lawn watering policy based on your house number, so people with even-numbered homes within addresses would then water on even-numbered days and so on. We also, like I said, enhanced our rebates.

We also passed a resolution that asked folks not to water between the hours of 10 a.m. And 4 p.m., and we've been proactive with this advertising campaign on social media and print, on radio, you name it, just having the conversation about the value of water and how we should best use it.

North Fork water quality is something we have definite concerns about. Virtually all of our wells

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on the North Fork draw from the Upper Glacial Aquifer, that's the top layer, because it is the only part of the aquifer that we can draw from because there's not a lot of water there.

The shallower the well, the more surface conditions can impact the quality of the well.

Approximately 25 of our wells are tested for and we're concerned with pesticides and herbicides from historical use. Chlorides further limit our operational capacity of our wells. All our wells on the North Fork are threatened by lateral saltwater intrusion and vertical intrusion as they sit above salt water. We don't want to have an issue with chlorides, high chloride levels, because if we pump too much water we could actually -- the well could be taken out of service and be

unusable forever, so we monitor that closely.

We have challenges. Peak demand continues to stress the aquifer and, of course, peak demand being the early-morning hours when most irrigation systems are on between, say, 2:00 a.m. and 6:00, 7:00 a.m. Our capacity to drill wells is also limited, just because there is not a lot of water in Southold. So for many, many years, if we needed more water we would drill a well and we'd get approval from the New York State DEC. They would give us a permit and they would do a review, but that no longer really exists because there just isn't water readily available.

Also, as I mentioned, chlorides levels continue to be on the rise and its impacting many of our wells.

Current demand is currently

outstripping capacity. Demand in Southold continues to increase. The number of customers that SCWA serves continues to inch up; not by any great number, but you can see, since 2002, the number does continue to go up; I think on average it's maybe about a hundred or so a year. These are folks who were formally on private wells who are now connecting to the Water Authority.

It's also, as I mentioned, difficult to drill new wells in the North Fork because of the geology, also our regulators and the cost. New well construction could cost millions of dollars in investments. Our regulators also, they have most definite concerns about future wells and well development on the North Fork and other areas of our service territory.

I want to just point this

out a little bit. This will show you -- we mentioned chlorides a couple of times and we see this line, this graph here showing chloride increase is relative -- you know, pretty consistently, over the years, based on when we pump. What we want to do is make sure that those chloride levels stay, obviously, within -- you know, within reason but don't exceed and cause a violation in the State Department of Environmental Conservation.

The result, we're pumping a lot of water. It's early in the morning, all of our wells are running, all of our wells. Joe and I get alerts, it's 5 a.m., it's 6 a.m. Our folks in our production control department are frantically looking at the system trying to monitor it because we monitor it remotely, and the number one

concern that he has every single day is the North Fork. It's the --

MR. POKORNY: Moore's Lane tank.

MR. SZABO: Moore's Lane tank. The Moore's Lane tank. The Moore's Lane tank will fill up, all of our tanks are full -- right -- overnight, full. And then, as everything's running and all the irrigation systems go on, the tanks get drained. And in many -- and we get a daily report -- in many instances those tanks fall to, you know, not 30 feet but six feet and five feet. And what happens if those tanks run out of water? Steve, you know.

MR. COLAVUFO: Oh, yeah; low pressure in the system.

MR. SZABO: Significant problems. No pressure, low pressure, inability to have enough water to fight fires, to make sure

that we're there for emergency services. That's something that we continuously, you know, obviously want to prevent from happening.

Conservation is necessary. We fully support conservation initiatives. We have partnered with elected officials across Suffolk County in promoting conservation. We've also done it Island-wide with some of the commissions, the LICAP Commission and others, but the problem is only getting worse. We need a long-time, sustainable source of water for the North Fork. We have a solution; the solution is the North Fork Water Main Project.

I want to go over a little bit of a timeline. This is SEQRA, the SEQRA process, which will give you sort of a general understanding of some of our history and then I'm going to turn it over to Joe and

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Joe's going to talk specifically about the project.

SCWA first discussed the possibility of this water main project from Flanders to Southold back with the Southold Town Board in 2022. In August of '23, we had a roundtable discussion with many elected officials in Riverhead, with the prior supervisor of the Township of Riverhead, members of the Assembly, elected officials, and we had committed at that time to hold public scoping sessions to hear from everybody and to take comment in about this project.

We also hired Nelson, Pope, Voorhis Engineering, Architecture and Land Surveying to conduct the environmental review. We contracted with CDM-Smith. They were hired to do the analysis and the environmental impacts.

Three public scoping

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sessions were held in June, 2025, that contributed to modifications to the original plan; that's why we're here tonight. And the SCWA Board accepted and released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement in July of 2026.

We received extensive feedback. We analyzed the different routes. We made significant changes. You can see from this picture here that that's essentially what we're looking at; we're in Flanders down here in the southern-most tip. The red dotted line shows the initial proposed route which took us up along Sound Avenue and into the north part of Southold. That was met with some concern from elected officials in Southold and Riverhead and the general public-at-large.

Southold, there were concerns about the width of Sound

Avenue and some of the historic features and nature of the roadway and we took all that back and decided that we were going to revise the plan and come up with a preferred alternative route which is through Main Road.

So that revised plan that we're now proposing and talking about still runs from Flanders in the south, it runs through the 104, 105, up to Main Road and then heads east through State roads over into Southold.

The new route has several important benefits. Construction on the narrow Sound Avenue corridor is avoided mitigating traffic and safety concerns. The route is much more direct by, I think, over a mile. It reduces the overall length, shorter route, lower age of water mains. Our analysis also shows that the new route is

hydraulically beneficial because we've eliminated the need for an additional booster station.

Joseph? I'm going to turn it over to Joe, he's going to talk a little bit more about the specifics of the plan. You don't need to clap, thank you.

MR. POKORNY: All right. Well, thank you, Jeff.

Thank you, everybody, for coming out tonight and giving me the opportunity to tell you about this important project.

My name is Joe Pokorny, I'm Deputy CEO for Operations at the Suffolk County Water Authority. I handle the construction work that goes on out in the street, the pipelines, treatment systems, new wells that are sourced to tap, pretty much.

Let's talk about this project. So, like Jeff said, the

new preferred route that we have starts in Flanders, connects down on Route 24, comes across the Peconic River, makes it's way up to Main Road. We put a booster station in the plan. There's a booster station at the corner of Main Road and Route 105, and that booster station will house the booster pumps that will actually move the water. So the water doesn't just move by gravity here, we have to push the water out to the North Fork. The water will go in one direction and one direction only. That will be from the Flanders area out to the North Fork. So we're not going to be taking water from the North Fork and bringing it back to the mainland.

That pipeline is about seven and-a-half miles long, overall. It's a 24 inch ductile iron water

main. People ask, you know, what's this going to be like? What type of disruption are you going to do? You see this big length of Main, do you think that everybody's going to be disrupted at the same time? No, this is done incrementally. You do 300 to maybe 500 feet a day, depending on how road conditions are, depending on the weather, you know, that will influence how much production we get. But we'll start at one end. In fact, we may even start at two ends and move towards the center. But the point is we're only going to have one particular part open at any time, so the road will only be open in an area of maybe three to 500 feet on any given day. And at the end of the day, the road will be closed back up, there'll be a temporary patch that will be put on it. All the machinery, everything will be

moved out of the way and for the rest of the day and the rest of the night, traffic can run over that area that was just constructed on. So it's a temporary disturbance that happens on a daily basis. And again, when the weather is bad, the crews don't work.

We do this walk work all the time. The Suffolk County Water Authority installs probably around 20 miles of main a year in various places all throughout the County. So dealing with traffic, addressing residents' concerns, you know, making sure that emergency vehicles can get through, that's all in our DNA. We do that all the time. We're very, very, you know, confident we can do that type of work.

What else do I have? Again, we're -- and we intend to do this during the off-peak periods.

So we understand that there are times when everybody's out here buying vegetables in the fall and there are other seasonal activities that go on that create a lot of additional traffic and whatnot; we're going to avoid those. We're going to work around that and we're going to work with the community to develop a schedule that works in their interest.

So where is the water coming from. All right, so the water -- like I said, the water is coming from the South Shore load area, which is pretty much this area of the Pine Barrens and a little bit further to the west and a little bit further to the east. But all the wells in this area are all connected together. In fact, the wells that are here are actually connected to wells that go way far to the west. These are all

considered one long pressure zone and it's the largest pressure zone that the Water Authority operates.

Now, I'm not suggesting we're going to take water from Amityville and send it out to the North Fork because it's hydrologic -- hydraulically not possible to do that. So what we -- we've determined that the wells here to the eastern portion of the zone -- and these are the ones that you see pretty much south of Sears Bellows Park and out towards East Moriches -- these wells will all contribute to the pipeline. We have tanks that are in the system here, multiple tanks. We've got a tank up on the Suffolk Community College campus. And so the connection will allow that water from all of these wells to make their way through the booster. Again, the booster will be pulling water from the system

and moving it out.

We're not going to be drilling any additional wells to make this happen.

Now, all these wells are permitted for 24/7 operation at their rate of capacity, none of them run at that level. Those wells run a fraction of the time in their permitted capacity. So there's plenty of permitted -- there's plenty of additional permitted capacity in the well permits to provide the water that's needed.

And in reality, the water that's needed for the North Fork is really a tiny fraction of the water that we pump. We pump about 75 billion gallons of water a year to serve Suffolk County. The North Fork requires about a billion and-a-half gallons of that. So it really -- the North Fork's water

demands are very, very low compared to the rest of our system, and the system down here to the south produces an awful lot of water compared to the North Fork.

There are about 33 wells; they draw from the Glacial and the Magothy Aquifers. The wells, when we draw wells, we determine at that time where the well is going to be. Is it going to be -- Steve's a hydrogeologist here, he knows all about that, but we will determine whether that well will be in the Magothy Aquifer, depending on conditions in that particular location. So the wells that are here are a mix of Magothy and Glacial wells.

And again, there's a big difference between the aquifer in this area and the North Fork aquifer.

Jeff told you that the North

Fork aquifer is very thin, it's threatened by chlorides, not only on both sides but below -- right. If you drill a well deep enough on the North Fork you hit salt water. So it's a perched -- you know, a perched layer of fresh water that sits above salt water on the North Fork, and on the South Fork it's much, much deeper, it can go much deeper. There's the Magothy Aquifer we can drill into where, again, we don't have access to that on the North Fork. So it's vastly different aquifer conditions on the South Shore.

So what are the benefits of this. You know, you're doing this project, obviously the primary benefit is we're bringing water to people that need water. But with less reliance on the shallow wells on the North Fork, we're going to

be able to reduce the production of the wells. So we have wells -- Jeff showed you charts of chlorides in wells and that's now, and those wells are impacted now. And we need to do something about that because if we don't, the chlorides levels will continue to increase, and once the chloride levels get to about 250 milligrams per liter, you can't run the well anymore. In fact, the New York State DEC would like us not to run wells when they get, maybe, to or 75 milligrams per liter. So we're in a position now where we have to really carefully manage our wells so that they don't get to those levels, but it's becoming untenable. So what we're going to do is we're going to be able to -- immediately, when this pipeline goes into service, we're going to be able to shut down the wells that are threatened. Of the

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60 wells that we have out there, we're going to be able to shut down a whole host of them, and other ones that are not terribly threatening, we'll be able to reduce their use. So just by reducing their use, we take the pressure off of them and they don't continue to bring salt water into their well screens and they don't continue to be contaminated. So, that's the immediate benefit that you're going to see.

Importing water from outside the Southold hydrogeological cycle will provide additional recharge. So now, since you're not pumping water out of the ground on the North Fork, now you're -- ineffectively, you're recharging more; you're bringing water in from the outside. So you're bringing in an external source of water. You're actually creating more

recharge. It almost looks like more rainfall on the North Fork in that aquifer. So you're going to improve conditions in the aquifer because you're going to be recharging more water than you normally would. So the aquifer should -- it should help the aquifer recover.

The agriculture industry will be a beneficiary of this, because the agriculture industry relies on fresh water in order to take care of its crops. There will be more fresh water, theoretically, available for the agricultural industry.

More water means improved fire pressure. So this is what Jeff was talking about, that Moore's Lane tank. When that tank level is low, when it's down in the single digits, the water pressure in the street is much lower. And,

of course, if there was a massive fire, that water in that tank is the reserve of water for an emergency like a fire. If there's not much left in it and you have a fire, you could run out of water. And we've seen that. Actually, now we're seeing that more and more throughout the country; when there are big fires there's a shortage of water. We don't want that to happen.

The cost. So, you know, our estimated cost for this project, the direct costs are about $22 million, okay, and that's all of our contracted cost and materials, but we have to put that in perspective. People say, well, that's an awful lot of money, and $22 million is nothing to sneeze at, but our capital budget, our annual capital budget -- every year the Water Authority plows another

$100 million back into its water system. So we're going to be able to integrate this $22 million cost of this project into our existing Capital Program. So it's not going to require, like, some kind of surcharge or some kind of extra charge for people that live on the North Fork. This is going to be integrated into our existing capital program.

We're going to look for grants because we always do. The Water Authority is really good at finding grants and obtaining grants. So once the SEQRA process is done, we will be eligible, then, to apply for grants and we'll do that. We will continue to do that, and hopefully, we'll be able to get more money to offset it, offset the cost of them.

And just so everybody understands, there's no plan on

making any connections in Riverhead along the way, so this water is for the North Fork. This is, basically, a transmission line. It's going from point A to point B, and once it connects to the Southold system, the Southold system is an existing water network, we're basically plugging in down by Franklinville on Main Road down at the Southold/Riverhead border and that's where we're connecting to the system, or we're pushing water into the system there and we'll push water further out all the way to the end of the -- you know, at the end of our distribution system which is out by East Marion.

So there's a Phase 2 to this project. A lot of people have asked questions about the Phase 2 and why are you considering a Phase 2. The Phase 2 involves bringing

the water to the people of Orient, and the people of Orient have a problem; they have some of the highest levels of contamination in their private wells in Suffolk County.

The New York State -- I'm sorry, the Suffolk County Health Department has created what's called an assessment area, some call it a survey area. But that yellow or orange area that's outlined there, those are areas that the Suffolk County Health Department, they call that like a priority area. That's an area where they would like to see people off of private wells and on public water.

So, as we're doing this project, clearly there's a need for water out there. And so there's the possibility that one day we're going to bring water out there. So

the prudent way to approach this SEQRA process was to address that and not just put that in the back and say, Well, that may happen or it may not happen. We're being transparent with this and we're saying, look, there's a need for water out here. It may or may not happen. We're not planning on doing it right now, but we're putting it on the table, we're showing people that it is a possibility. Okay?

But we're not -- I don't want anybody to walk out of here tonight and say the Water Authority is planning on bringing water to Orient. Bringing water to Orient is a completely different scenario than bringing water through our pipeline right now. To bring water out there, we would have to get people -- people would have to pay for that. So that would be a very

expensive proposition and it would -- that'd be a whole host of additional problems with bringing water out here.

But this is called Phase 2, you'll see it in the SEQRA documents. We analyzed it; we analyzed it hydrogeologically, we analyzed it hydraulically and it is part of it. And, you know, the big thing is if you don't do this, then you could be accused of being -- of segmenting the project, meaning you're doing things in little pieces and not presenting the entire project. So, in our role and being transparent, we're presenting the entire project.

All right. And so with that, I'm going to turn it over to Carrie O'Farrell from Nelson, Pope and Voorhis.

MS. O'FARRELL: All right. Good evening, everyone.

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My name is Carrie O'Farrell. I am the Senior Partner of the firm Nelson, Pope, Voorhis. We are an environmental and planning firm located in Melville and do our work throughout Long Island and also throughout the Hudson Valley and New York City.

We've done a number of projects for the Town of Riverhead, for the Town of Southold, for the Town of Southampton and, you know, work throughout the Island, and specialize on really complex environmental projects and environmental impact reviews.

So, the Suffolk County Water Authority, you know, going back in time, determined that -- they were determined to be the lead agency, the agency responsible for the environmental review, and as that lead determined that an environmental impact statement

would be necessary; that's the most thorough environmental review that you can do under the State process. So that took place in May of 2025.

The environmental impact statement process is a multi-step. So we are kind of in the second phase of it. Your -- the document is over on the table and available on the Suffolk County Water Authority website.

Is there a pointer?

MR. POKORNY: Yeah, hit the center arrow there.

MS. O'FARRELL: Oh, center. There it is. There we go.

So if you scroll down -- it has a little bit of history -- but if you scroll down the documents you can click into the folders and look at the full environmental impact statement on-line. There are hard copies available at this office and at the local libraries

and the Suffolk County Water Authority office in Oakdale as well. But the environmental impact statement has a couple of different sections to it. I'll go through those, but the idea is to identify the existing environmental conditions, identify any potential environmental impacts that could occur because of the project, consider project alternatives which -- well, you talked about a few of those and identified a preferred alternative in this case. And then, most importantly, identify ways to prevent impacts and mitigate those impacts. So, there is a laundry list of mitigation that has been built in to the project to minimize potential impacts to those along the route.

The scope of the environmental impact statement was determined -- the scope is the

content, so we went through three public hearings and a pretty lengthy written comment period for the content of the EIS and that was adopted after that input.

So what does the document cover? Again, there's more to it than just this, but generally speaking, it's a pretty detailed analysis of the following topics. So soil and topography; water resources including wetlands, surface water impacts and potential groundwater impacts; ecological resources; land use zoning and land use plans; historic and cultural resources; traffic; construction-related impacts are a big one, that's the majority of this project; noise, both during construction and operational noise; cumulative impacts including a build-out analysis that was done for the extension of the water

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main; growth-inducing and secondary impacts; and then the project alternatives.

So there were three alternatives that were considered -- technically four.

The proposed action was the original plan that went through the Sound Avenue connection, the northern route we called it. The no action alternative means you don't proceed with anything. The preferred alternative is the Main Road connection that Jeff described and Joe described. And then we also considered a southern route through Peconic Bay Boulevard, which was dismissed because of a number of factors.

The Water Authority hired a renowned expert, CDM-Smith. And Mary Anne Taylor is here with CDM-Smith to conduct a detailed groundwater analysis, since that

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was one of the main concerns that we heard during the scoping sessions, to evaluate what would happen. If we're bringing water from the South Shore up to the North Shore, what does that do to groundwater levels within the Town of Southold and what does it do to the wells that you're pulling the water out of in the Town of Southampton.

So they looked at that using a detailed -- the Suffolk County watershed groundwater models -- sorry, sub-watershed groundwater models, and determined that there is a minimal change to the water table that would occur and it's well within the seasonal variations that currently happen. So it's a vast aquifer on the South Shore -- as Joe was describing -- and it is a net benefit to the North Shore in terms of restoring the aquifer

that's there.

So I know this slide has got a lot on it, but this is mitigation, this is the most important part. So, this is how are they going to make sure that they are minimizing impacts to those along the route during construction. So, the main thing -- again, there are exhaustive lists of mitigation measures based on every topic, these are just a few, but I'll run through them.

Joe mentioned the installation of the water main is on a rolling 300 feet to five to 600 feet per day, depending on conditions. It will be a schedule to avoid the peak seasons. All of the trenches are backfilled daily and there's a temporary patch, so you're able to drive over it. They will coordinate daily with the property owners that -- where

construction will be occurring, so property owners will know what is going to occur and make sure that they can get access to their properties during the period that they are under construction. They'll use trained flag people; again, make sure that traffic is safely routed through the areas that are under construction.

Road milling and full-depth, diamond-cut saw cutting was something that came up as a way to minimize both vibration and noise in proximity to historic homes. So that's something that came up in the review -- the historic review, because Main Road has quite a few historic homes along the route. So that's a mitigation that will be implemented when they're in close proximity to those homes.

They will fully repave the affected roadway upon completion of

the project. So there will be the temporary patch first, but then there will be full roadway restoration at the end.

Use of erosion and sediment controls along the route. Implementation of the Storm Water Pollution and Prevention Plan, if you're familiar with those, but those have strict New York State DEC requirements to them.

Soil and equipment management protocols, adherence to wetland permit conditions, use of directional drilling below the wetlands, like the entirety of the Peconic and other wetlands as well as major interactions. Planting of native species for the booster station restoration as well as the roadway restoration if it's within the shoulder areas. Adherence to -- we did a noise study and there were recommendations out of that.

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If DOT requires night-time construction on Main Road, they will use noise abatement sound barriers which are movable along the route. Compliance with any other permit conditions as they go through the DOT highway work permit process. And again, like I said, there's a laundry list of other mitigation measures if you look through the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I highly recommend, if you don't want to go through the entirety of the document, the Executive Summary is something like 60 pages and gives a really good overview of impacts and mitigation, so. And there's also a very detailed figure package that helps understand the route and all the environmental conditions along the route.

We went through this in the

guidelines for the hearing tonight. Just a reminder that the written comment period is open until September 11th. We treat all comments the same way; whether you verbalize them tonight or they come in in writing, they all get answered in what's called the Final Environmental Impact Statement. So if, for some reason, you forgot -- you speak tonight and forget something, you're welcome to provide additional comments. And the final EIS will be posted on the Water Authority's website when it's completed and ready for review, so we'll alert everyone when that's available.

You can submit your comments in writing at the Suffolk County Water Authority website; the QR code gets you there. And these are the other hearings we have, in case you want to come to more of

these.

I know that was a little longer than we expected, but I think we're ready to open it up to public comment.

Do you have the cards?

MR. SZABO: So we have one card from Legislator Greg Doroski.

Thank you, Carrie. Great job. Thanks very much.

So, Legislator?

LEGISLATOR DOROSKI: Thank you.

So, first off, I do have a letter signed by myself, the Legislator of District 1; Ann Welker, Legislator District 2; Supervisor Al Krupski; Supervisor Jerry Halpin -- I've been on the road all day, I think we have a few more signatures, so we will submit it tomorrow -- just asking for more time for the comment deadline. So we will e-mail that to you

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tomorrow.

I guess I would also ask the three-minute limit to be waived, if you will. I do have 11 different questions that I will try to summarize to speed along, but I think they capture some of our concerns. My district itself does span Southampton, Southold Town and Riverhead Town, all of the affected areas, so some of them are the same, some of them are different.

The first question. The Towns of Riverhead, Southold, Southampton were all classified as interested agencies rather than involved agencies under SEQRA. What ongoing consultation and coordination process will the Water Authority offer to the towns beyond the standard that we've seen so far?

H1GD-1
Section 2.17.1

As I have mentioned to Jeff, in our phone call, I was taken

aback, and I know the Town Supervisors were taken aback, that we learned about the re-route in the news media, in a press release; and to me, that really doesn't reflect a collaborative relationship. The need for this collaborative relationship, for me, goes back to 2022 when I was on the Town Board and we had that original discussion.

H1GD-1
Section 2.17.1

Question two. The draft EIS lists the Town of Southampton as an interested agency only for notification of the directional drill under the Peconic River within 150 feet of the town wetlands at Flanders. Why is the Water Authority treating Southampton's wetlands jurisdiction as a notice item only rather than obtaining the town's wetlands permit? We'd like to know what the Water Authority plans to do in

H1GD-2
Section 2.17.1

working with the Town Trustees here.

I would also note that Riverhead Town does also have wetlands. Of particular concern along the route is the Mill Creek Restoration that they just worked with Peconic Estuary Partnership, New York State DEC, and invested $2.2 million to restore wetlands right on the Main Road there.

H1GD-2
Section 2.17.1

This same -- so question three. This same pattern also applies in Southold in Phase 2 in Orient where the Draft EIS lists the Town as an interested agency for notification only within the wetlands. And it's not just for the directional drilling, it's also for the staging areas that are in any work that'll be done there.

H1GD-3
Section 2.17.1

For the record, it is worth noting, based on my experience in Southold Town, I know the DEC will

have their requirements for the wetlands permit here. Sometimes there are differences between the Town's requirements and the DEC's requirements and the Town feels like it's really important to engage with the town as a good partner here.

H1GD-3
Section 2.17.1

Question four is if the Suffolk County Water Authority will not seek town wetlands permits, what independent standards will apply to protect those areas, who will enforce them, and then how will they engage with the towns here?

H1GD-4
Section 2.6.1

And then question five: The Suffolk County Water Authority is seeking road opening permits from Suffolk County Department of Public Works and in coordination with New York State DOT as an involved agency yet treats the Town's wetlands jurisdiction in the same

H1GD-5
Section 2.17.1

project as a notification only. You know, why is the Water Authority willing to seek road opening permits in those jurisdictions but not in the town jurisdiction?

H1GD-5
Section 2.17.1

The Draft EIS lists the group for the East End, the Orient Association, Peconic Estuary Partnership and other civic groups as local non-agency parties of interest with no permits or approvals required. What mechanism will the Water Authority use to incorporate their input? I know the Peconic Estuary Partnership, for instance, missed the deadline in the first scoping session and some of the comments that they submitted were ignored.

H1GD-6
Section 2.17.1

On the water conservation side, the Draft EIS states that conservation alone will not meet project goals, but it seems to

H1GD-7
Section 2.6.5

treat conservation as a policy afterthought. By the Suffolk County Water Authority's own numbers, seventy percent of the water that's pumped in the summer is used for residential lawn irrigation; 50 percent of that water is wasted.

H1GD-7
Section 2.6.5

Will the Suffolk County Water Authority quantify exactly how much demand a real conservation and efficiency program could offset? I've looked through the Draft EIS and I can't find any of these figures in there based on what conservation could provide.

Question eight: The mitigation lists and includes odd/even watering day rules, quote, "Enforced by local jurisdictions." The local jurisdictions were not shown, though, as partners in designating this measure. Will the Suffolk County Water Authority sit

H1GD-8
Section 2.6.5

down with each of the towns and the County to design and mitigate rather than assign this to them, which kind of seems like after the fact.

H1GD-8
Section 2.6.5

On water conservation, which for me is really a top priority here, we really need to look at closer collaboration between the Water Authority, the towns, the villages. The time to have this discussion is before we boost supply, not after we do it.

H1GD-9
Section 2.6.5

I know you have done some tiered billing, which is good, but I think we need to get more aggressive with that, especially as we're looking at boosting the supply out there are significantly.

Number nine: Given that Orient currently has no public water and demand growth is a stated driver of Phase 2 of this project, what conservation and irrigation

H1GD-10
Section 2.6.5

standards could we look at applying to new hook-ups in Orient and will the Suffolk County Water Authority work with the Town to justify those standards and put them in place? I think the same applies to individuals within Phase 1 of this project as we're looking at new hook-ups, particularly with new construction.

H1GD-10
Section 2.6.5

And then question 10: Will the Water Authority report conservation program performance to the towns annually under the same way that you plan to report on groundwater and base flow monitoring? I think it would be very, very useful to see what the impact -- I know in Southold, before I left the Town Board there, we implemented what we saw as some baseline water conservation measures. It would be useful to have regular reporting of that,

H1GD-11
Section 2.6.5

kind of bake that into any discussion of an expansion.

And then if -- my final question.

Question 11: If conservation measures underperform, what can the Suffolk County Water Authority do to slow demand growth rather than just kind of default to supplying more water?

So thank you for waiving my three minutes. Thank you for listening to my questions. And I think, more importantly, thank you for delivering good, clean water to our community. These emergent chemicals, forever chemicals are really a concern. I called Jeff the other day with one particular homeowner who had a question, he's very responsive as is the rest of the Water Authority. So, thank you.

MR. SZABO: Thank you.

H1GD-11
Section 2.6.5

H1GD-12
Section 2.6.5

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Thank you for your comments.

All of your comments will be answered thoroughly.

LEGISLATOR DOROSKI: Absolutely. I'm familiar. Thank you.

MR. SZABO: Thank you.

Anybody else from the audience wish to address us and make a public comment?

(WHEREUPON, no response was heard.)

MR. SZABO: No? Going once, going twice?

Okay. With that, we will close the hearing for tonight. We will -- as we've mentioned at numerous times, we will keep -- it's 6:51. We will have -- we'll accept public comment through September 11th at 5 p.m.

And just to your point, Legislator, you know, we had done this the last time. We set a date

and we had requests to extend that date and we did; we will -- we'll do that again. I'm not sure what the date will be, but if we extend it another couple of weeks, or whatever, I can assure you that that will happen and we'll get back to you on how long that will be.

I want to thank you all for coming tonight and for learning a little bit more about the project. Bringing safe drinking water to people that need it -- right -- is of paramount interest of the Water Authority -- right. We take our mission very seriously. We have a very skilled group of highly professional individuals that want to make sure we keep people safe in Suffolk County.

So, thank you all for coming. We hope to see you again at another public hearing.

(WHEREUPON, the session

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concluded at 6:52 p.m.)

* * * *

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, ALISON MAHONEY, Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of New York, do hereby certify:

THAT the within transcript was prepared by me and is a true and accurate record of this hearing to the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am not related, either by blood or marriage, to any of the parties in this action; and

THAT I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 1st day of September, 2026.

Alison Mahoney

_____

ALISON MAHONEY

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APPENDIX A-2
PUBLIC HEARING TRANSCRIPT
Southold Recreation Center, Peconic, Town of Southold, August 20, 2026

In the Matter Of:

SUFFOLK COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NORTH FORK WATER MAIN PROJECT

August 20, 2026



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SUFFOLK COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NORTH FORK WATER MAIN PROJECT

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Public Hearing

August 20, 2026

5:03 p.m.

Southold

ACCURATE COURT REPORTING SERVICE, INC.
info@accuratecorp.com
631-331-3753

A P P E A R A N C E S :

SUFFOLK COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE BOARD:

JEFFREY W. SZABO - Chief Executive Officer

JOSEPH POKORNY - Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Operations

JOHN MILAZZO, ESQ. - General Counsel

CARRIE O'FARRELL - Senior Partner/Manager Nelson, Pope, Voorhis

MARY ANNE TAYLOR - Vice-President/CDM-Smith

* * * * * * * * * *

A L S O P R E S E N T:

DANIELLE PUMA - Assistant to General Counsel/SCWA

THEODORE APONTE - Communications Project Mgr/SCWA

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MR. SZABO: My name is Jeff Szabo. I'm Chief Executive Officer of the Suffolk County Water Authority.

We are here tonight to discuss the North Fork Water Main Project, this is an update on our Draft Environmental Impact Statement. This is a public hearing.

Again, my name's Jeff. Thank you all for coming out tonight.

Some guidelines for tonight's hearing. The purpose of the meeting is to receive public comment and for you to express you thoughts and concerns, recommendations about the Draft EIS and the project overall. Public comments will be responded to in writing.

Written comments, the period is open until September 11th at 5

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p.m. We had a request yesterday from Legislator Doroski and a couple of others, Supervisor Krupski and some other elected officials to extend that. I certainly agree, we can do that. Right now we're looking at extending it a week, but I think they want to extend it a little longer so we'll have a conversation, but I think a week or so is probably appropriate. All substantive comments, whether received in writing or verbally during tonight's meeting, will be responded to. The final EIS will be posted to SCWA's website for review.

I want to make this clear; this is not a back and forth, a Q and A, this is a hearing. We're presenting findings and then you're going to be able to speak. Obviously, you know, there are

elected officials here and, obviously, you know, there's a lot of folks who have important and thoughtful questions. So we -- if there are concerns expressed that are similar from a couple of different people, I will try to sort of clear the air. I think it's better to be as forthcoming and as transparent as we possibly can be, but we're not getting into a back and forth Q and A all night. Thank you, I appreciate that.

And for those that are speaking, we will try to keep it to three minutes. So if you want to speak, please fill out a card up front by the entrance, by the main door, and let folks know and then I'll collect the cards and once this presentation is done then we'll start with that portion.

So I'm going to give you a little history of SCWA and who we

are and what we do. The Suffolk County Water Authority is one of the largest groundwater suppliers in the nation. We've been at the cutting edge of the drinking water industry for 75 years, this year we're starting -- we're actually celebrating or recognizing 75 years in operation.

We are a not-for-profit, independent public benefit corporation operating under New York State Public Authority's Law. Got it? Not-for-profit public benefit corporation operating under New York State Authority's Law; that means we operate without taxpayer dollars. There are no taxpayer dollars or investor dollars; we do have bond holders but we don't have shareholders. Everything we get, all the revenues that we get is from our ratepayers, the rates that are generated from

the consumption of water and being connected to SCWA.

We serve about one point two, almost one point three million people and we have about 400,000 accounts from Melville to Montauk.

We have over 600 employees. Our professionals handle nearly every aspect of operations and most of them are in-house, which is something we're very proud of. We have engineers, we have scientists, laboratory staff, customer service folks, information technology, construction maintenance. You name it, our professional expertise runs the entire gamut from, you know, folks who are in the street, you know, fixing water mains, to those that are PEs and, you know, supervising, reviewing and drawing up plans. Two-thirds of our team are blue collar workers and a third are white collar.

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We are not a branch of County government. That can be confusing, that's why I sort of reiterated who we are and how we operate because most folks think we're a department or a division within Suffolk County. We also do not create or enforce drinking water standards. We are responsible for following the regulations that are set forth by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and New York State Department of Health.

SCWA does not also control land use or development. We do not control land use or development. That is not our responsibility, that is not within our jurisdiction, that's left to the hands of town supervisors and town boards and local jurisdictions.

We're also a little different than other places. In

other parts of the country, drinking water is sourced from surface waters; rivers, lakes, reservoirs. New York City, for example, they get most of their water from reservoirs from Upstate, New York in the Catskills and the watershed Hudson Valley; they tunnel the water down to the city.

Here, all of our water comes one hundred percent from a sole source aquifer beneath our feet, one of the largest in the nation. It's composed of three principal aquifers; the Upper Glacial, the Magothy and the Lloyd. Collectively, they contain about 65 trillion gallons of groundwater; 65 trillion gallons.

SCWA also maintains, at any given time, about 600 supplies wells. Wells are always coming in and out of service for routine maintenance, we're decommissioning

wells, we're doing repairs, so that number fluctuates a little bit, but on average it's about 600. And again, that stretches all the way from western -- you know, Nassau County border over to Montauk.

We're very proud of our water quality laboratory. It's a state-of-the-art lab, one of the largest groundwater laboratories in the nation. We take samples and -- test samples are taken at various points at the well; right, we have 600 wells so we collect samples at the well. We also take samples at various places throughout the distribution system. So you may see these little -- little things on the side of the road where we send out our staff and they actually take samples and we collect to see what's happening in the distribution system. We have over 7,000 miles of water main

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throughout our service territory. We also take samples -- you know, pre-treatment and post-treatment and we're checking for both inorganic and organic chemicals. We analyzed 95,668 samples last year for almost 200,000 test results.

We test for almost 400 compounds, 400 chemical compounds; nobody else does that in the region. That's 231 more than we're required to do by regulators. We also test at a higher frequency than required by the Suffolk County Department of Health and our in-house standards for water quality are much tougher than State and Federal regulations. I'm really proud of that, right? That's something -- that's a record -- Yeah, that does deserve a clap, doesn't it? That's something that -- I always say this and Joe's

probably tired of me saying it, but I wish I could take credit for it and say it was one of my initiatives that I instituted when I became CEO. Fortunately, for all of our customers, that policy has been in place for longer than my 17 years as CEO. But it's a good thing and we do that because we are always constantly testing and looking for possible threats. We're looking to see what's out there, what's in the drinking water, that we may want to treat and remove before it gets to any of your faucets.

A significant challenge that we've been dealing with the last several years is PFOS and PFOA, they're prechlorinated organic chemicals. There are the classic chemical compounds known as PFOS. Some of these chemicals have been in commercial use for 80 years or

so. They're helpful in making products resist oil, stains and water and heat. They're used to treat and protect carpets, clothing, furniture, fabrics, personal care products. They're also found in fire fighting foam.

PFOS has gotten a tremendous amount of attention, not just here in Suffolk County, New York, but across the nation. There's a class action lawsuit about PFOS and how it impacts folks and there's -- this is something that we are nationally addressing and certainly removing from drinking water.

We've been at the forefront. So when you think about PFOS, you're thinking about, you know, what position we're in and the position of our customers. We're proud to say that we began testing in 2013. New York State Department of Health approved new standards

for PFOS and PFOA at 10 parts per trillion in 2020. PFOS and PFOA are removed, fortunately, through granular activated carbon. I see that carbon over there, it looks like -- sometimes if you have a filter in your home, a Brita, even a Brita filter or a filter that's used in your refrigerator, you might see those little black -- little -- what are they called, Joe?

MR. POKORNY: Particles.

MR. SZABO: Particles. And then you also have up on top, those are carbon filters that you would typically see at some of our locations. But carbon is very effective in removing that from drinking water; two-thirds of our wells have no filtration at all. The US EPA is trying to one-up New York State. So New York State said, Water providers, do not let

any PFOS, right, into the system that exceeds ten parts per trillion. The Feds are now lowering it to four parts per trillion, that takes effect in 2031. The good news is our policy is to remove it to non-detection and we're meeting that standard today. Again, something that's good for all of our customers.

We do have challenges, we have, certainly, challenges on the North Fork supplying water, it's not easy. We have 60 small wells at about -- on or about 18 well fields spread across the Township of Southold. We serve about just under 10,000 customers. Projected peak demand is about 12,000 gallons per minute, that's in 2026, but we always stay under that, right? That's sort of the approved allowable use, but because of our own internal standards and because

of restrictions imposed by the State DEC, we don't come close to that, that 12,000 -- 12,666.

There is also significant issues in Southold related to the Upper Glacial Aquifer. Virtually all the wells on the North Fork are Upper Glacial. It's a very -- it's a very thin aquifer, there's not a lot of water, and that's a key difference between this part of Suffolk County and sections in Western Suffolk where we have aquifers that's very deep. And there's plenty of water here in the coastal communities and then the shore in Southold overall, there just isn't enough water to come from the aquifer to meet existing demand today.

We're also faced with some significant issues related to pesticides and herbicides. And of course, we have treatment on our

wells to remove them before they get to your home and your tap.

Chlorides further limit operational capacity. All of the wells on the North Fork are threatened by lateral and vertical saltwater intrusion. That's something that we, obviously, monitor and we're very concerned about, because if there's an impact that exceeds the maximum contaminant level with chlorides, the well could be essentially put out of service and it would be potentially permanent.

What we see is chloride levels rise when we pump a lot of water in the spring and the summer, and then when the wells are taken out of commission and the irrigation stops and use goes down in the fall and the winter, chlorides levels decrease and that's a perpetual cycle.

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Important key fact; the highest detections of PFOS -- that compound that we just talked about that's widely spread, that the Federal government is regulating down to four parts per trillion -- the highest detections of PFOS in the entire County have been found in private wells in multiple hamlets in Southold.

So what are our challenges. We talked a little bit about contamination, we talked a little bit about chlorides. Certainly, peak demand is something that we're very concerned about. What does peak demand mean? Peak demand is early-morning hours, right; all of our wells are running, all 600 wells are running across the system. All of our 65 plus, Joe, elevator storage tanks are draining. Why are the tanks draining? Irrigation.

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LEGISLATOR DOROSKI: Residential lawn irrigation.

MR. SZABO: Right, residential lawn irrigation. People are getting up, they're getting ready for work, showers, right, that's happening. But you also have most irrigation systems run in those early-morning hours and what you're seeing is all the wells are running, all of our elevated tanks are lowering trying to meet that demand.

Our ability to drill additional wells is limited in Southold, unlike other parts of our service territory. And as I mentioned, you know, we're very concerned about chloride levels, they're on the rise and that could be extremely detrimental to what we serve.

Demand. Current demand is outstripping capacity. Demand in

Southold continues to increase. The number of customers that SCWA serves, it's expanded, you know. You can see from this chart here, right, from 20 -- 2002 to 2024, it continues to increase. On average, I'd say just over a hundred, basically, a year, maybe a little bit more, 110 or so on average; not tremendous growth, but it is -- it's growth.

We talked about this a little bit, difficulties, like what's the difference between Southold and some other sections of our service territory, geology, the regulators and the cost, right. The cost of drilling wells and then treatment on wells, it's significant.

This is a really interesting sort of slide on chlorides levels. We talked about how it sort of fluctuates depending on the time of

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year, right, and what we're pumping and use. So, the trend continues to go up, but you can see the spikes are up. Again, that's seasonal use, that's when we're using the wells to ensure that we can meet that demand, and then as it drops off and the seasons change it decreases and then we'll pick back up again in the spring.

So what are we doing, right? What is the -- these are all issues that we've known about, right, significant problems, concerns. We've been very, very aggressive. This isn't something new. You know, it's 2026, we haven't just come to sort of a realization that we need to bring water from where we have it to where we need it. We've taken steps. We worked very, very hard for six years now, we adopted a two-tier rate structure to promote conservation. We,

better than anyone else, believe in conservation and believe, fundamentally, that we need to better engage our customers, not just for a year or a month or a season, but for many years. We need to have generational conversations with our customers to educate them on the importance of conservation.

And my Board, fortunately, we back it up financially and we instituted a tier rate structure. We also, in 2020, banned Open-Loop Geothermal Systems that use a tremendous amount of water. In January, 2023, we instituted a Comprehensive Water Conservation Plan. We adopted an odd/even lawn watering policy -- odd/even, you know, based on your address and your home number -- to limit the daily watering. We have enhanced rebates and literally have given

back to customers hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars for purchasing a solar pool cover, a smart irrigation controller, rain sensor, EPA authorized low-flow shower heads. All of those things, we keep expanding that program and giving back to customers to reduce that demand.

We have also been very active and having pro -- a proactive ad campaign to inform customers about conservation. And this isn't one year, it's not seasonal, this is now the sixth, at least the sixth year where they -- the Board has authorized hundreds of thousands of dollars; it's radio, it's social media, it's all types of -- it's print ads, you name it. We continue to sort of spread the message about what we do and the need to conserve.

We also have sought the help

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of municipalities. We don't have enforcement power. The Authority, right, the Authority does not have the authority to prevent people from watering. We do not issue a fine or a summons, a levy, you know, a penalty on folks. So, many years ago -- it's got to be, probably, four, five or six, probably four or five -- we drafted -- John Milazzo, one of our attorneys, where is he, he drafted a bill at my request. We then circulated that legislation to the County and to the different towns and to villages asking them to work with us, to partner with us to promote conservation. None of them agreed to do that.

Legislator Al Krupski, now Town Supervisor, he was a big proponent of what we do and believed in water conservation. And looking at the aquifer

wholistically with your support for the Long Island Commission for Aquifer Protection, as a County Legislator, he introduced a similar version of what we had first proposed and was a tremendous advocate for getting it through the Legislature but, unfortunately, he didn't have the votes. Eighteen members of the Legislature, I forget how many supported it, but it didn't get out of committee, unfortunately, six.

As Town Supervisor now, Supervisor Krupski and his team have been very supportive and have now approved a conservation plan. The first few steps they're taking, which we support and we look forward to partnering with them in the future. I will say this, we continue to be advocates for that, for working with other jurisdictions and getting them to

hear our message and then to take the next steps. We've had -- I won't say who, but we've had conversations with other townships and villages trying to answer their questions about how something like that could work.

Despite all of this, right, all the money we spent and our conversations with residents in other jurisdictions, tank levels continue to reach new lows and we're seeing the impacts every single day. During the summer, SCWA storage tanks, they decrease, they go from 30-feet down to six-feet, three-feet, a couple of feet in the morning; that's almost every single morning during the summer months. This means pressure drops, customers -- for customers when they lack the reserve capacity to fight fires and for emergencies.

Conservation is necessary,

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but the problem's only getting worse and it's not a long-term viable solution. We need a sustainable source of water for the North Fork. The solution is the North Fork Water Main Project.

MR. MILAZZO: Jeff, that was the Moore's Lane Tank, right?

MR. SZABO: Yes. So that is -- we brought this up last night, we were at the hearing in Westhampton, and I should have mentioned that, John, thank you. But that is -- that's the Moore's Lane, Greenport water tank. That is -- Joe is our Chief of Operations, he's a certified water operator and the Chief Deputy, and every morning we get reports about the pumpage from across our entire system. Don't we love waking up to those messages, don't we? But we have a 24/7, they monitor everything, all of the wells,

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all of the alarms from all the elevated tanks. Every morning that's -- that is the location that we lose sleep over, that we're most concerned about, the Moore's Lane tank in Greenport.

As I mentioned, the solution is the pipeline. I just wanted to back up for a minute and just talk about sort of the process a little bit and the SEQRA process and what we've done so far. Again, this is -- these are new conversations, right, and the thought in the plans for a pipeline, we started having these conversations back in 2022, the Southold Town Board. In August of '23, we had a round-table discussion with elected officials in Riverhead and we had folks from the State Assembly, various levels of government there, you know, talking about what we were doing. At that point we had committed to

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this open and transparent process, right. This is what we're doing here and what we did last year under the scoping sessions we had in the three different towns. This is why SEQRA works. We heard you, we heard you, we made adjustments, we came back. Now we have the environmental analysis that's -- you'll hear about it in a couple of minutes from Carrie O'Farrell and from Mary Anne Taylor, but the system worked. Now we're here back to tell you what the results are.

We hired Nelson Pope Voorhis, we've CDM-Smith, three public scoping sessions were held in June of 2025. The SCWA Board has accepted and released a Draft Environmental Statement July, 2026. And the feedback, like I said, it worked. We had the route, it was a map of our area over in Flanders where we'll make the connection at

Route 24, we'll then head north over 104/105 and it'll go from where we initially had it on Sound Avenue, the proposed pipeline. Now it's moving to Main Road to State Road and there's going to be a booster station right at the corner of -- where is that, Joe? Is that -- what is it?

MR. POKORNY: Main Road, 105.

MR. SZABO: Main Road and 105, and just as you enter the Township of Southold.

The new route has several important benefits. Construction on the narrow Sound Avenue corridor is avoided, right. We heard that repeatedly from many folks in this room; Don't go to Sound Avenue, it's historic, it's too narrow, it'll be disruptive. We moved it, it's no longer on Sound Avenue. The route now is more direct, it

reduces the overall length by over a mile. And that -- obviously, that calls for -- it's a little bit of a shorter water main installation.

The analysis also shows that the new route is hydraulically beneficial, so we've eliminated the need for an additional booster station; we have one booster station.

Well, I should have ended on a higher note. Yesterday's seemed to flow so well. What did I do different? Anyway, thank you. This is my portion. I'm going to turn it over to Joe.

MR. POKORNY: Good evening, everybody. Thank you very much for coming tonight. This is a great show up, showing, folks.

My name is Joe Pokorny, I'm the Deputy CEO of Operations at the Water Authority, so I'm responsible

for the distribution system and its maintenance and construction of, and then our wells, our production system. So all of our 600 wells, when we build new wells, when we take wells out of service for maintenance, the group I manage takes care of all of that. So it's everywhere from source to tap.

So I want to talk with you a little bit about the project itself. So as Jeff had shown you on the map, the route that we now have as the preferred alternative starts in Flanders where we have a 36-inch connection available for us. It moves up to Cross River Drive up to the Peconic River. And at the Peconic River, what we're going to do is we're going to directionally drill under the river and we're going to do that under the river beds. So we're not going through the aquatic environment,

we're going, probably, 30 to feet below the river bed, and that's a technique that we've used in many, many places. We've done larger crossings than this one, but this is an environmentally great way to get across a river without disturbing the river body.

We're going to come up on the other side by the Indian Island Golf Course, we're going to head up 105. We have to cross under Hubbards, Hubbards Avenue there where the train is, so we're going to directionally drill under that also.

We're going to continue to the north up 105 to Main Road, we're going to drill under Main Road and get to the north side of Main Road and then we're going to head east and we're going to stay on the north side of Main Road until we get out to the Southold

border and we're going to tie in over at Franklinville where we have some large-diameter pipes. So that's the extent of the project.

The other part of the project that Jeff mentioned is that there'll be a booster station and that booster station is going to be located right at the corner of Main Road and 105. We have a piece of property on the southeast corner of the -- of that intersection and there we will install a 6,000 gallon booster system, and that booster system is designed to push water out to the North Fork.

This is unit directional pipeline. Water is not coming from the North Fork back, it's only going out. And that booster station has a series of boosters in it, they've run on what are called variable speed drives and we can modulate the flow because the flow

throughout any particular period is going to go up and down. During a peak it's going to be much higher, during the off-peak periods it'll be much lower, okay.

So technically, when we're talking about doing an installation like this -- again, this is a 24" inch ductile iron pipe. It's going to be done mostly through open cut, except for those areas that I talked about where we're going to directionally drill. So open cut means that you go down the road and you have a backhoe and you open up the street, usually about a three-foot wide trench is opened up and we will -- typically, the crews that do this work -- and we do this work every day, Ladies and Gentlemen, this is nothing new for the Suffolk County Water Authority. But we put in about 300; in this case we'll probably put three to

five, maybe on a good day 600 feet, of pipe. It all depends on ground conditions, weather conditions, traffic, the crews that we have that day, but that's what we intend to do.

And when we do this work, we just work on one area at a time. So I know when we look at this whole project, a lot of people look at that and they say, Oh, my Lord, you're going to have all of this opened up and this is going to be inconveniencing everybody along the route the entire time of the project. No, we're only going to be in one particular area at a time and we move, you know, three to 500 feet a day. And when we're done at the end of the day, we close it back up, we put a temporary black-top patch over it, all the equipment and material gets moved to the side and the road is open

for the rest of the evening and the next, you know, early morning.

But again, all this type of work is done in consideration of the community. Our contractors are very community-focused folks, they understand that we -- you know, when we do work like this we have to coordinate with people, homeowners along the route that might be inconvenienced with their driveways being blocked. We'll reach out to them and we'll work with them to make sure that we don't impose an imposition to them.

The work. We figure that this job is probably going to take between 12 and 18 months. So if we get started next year, in 2027, we'll be finished by 2028 some time. And again, like I said, this is the type of work that the Water Authority does every day. In a typical year, the Water Authority

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will install about 20 miles of pipe. So we're very, very confident and very confident of doing this work.

So a lot of people have asked, Where is the water coming from, right? We know where it's going to, but where is it coming from? So the water is coming from what's called our South Shore Low Zone, and our South Shore Low Zone actually spreads all the way from Westhampton and Quogue all the way to the west, to the County line, so it's a very, very large zone.

But the water that will go to the North Fork will come from the eastern part of the zone, and that's this area of Westhampton. You can see East Quogue, Remsenburg, this general area here. There are about 33 wells there and there are 33 large-capacity wells, they're nothing like the wells on

the North Fork. Where the wells on the North Fork can be like a hundred gallons a minute or some of them smaller than that, most of these wells are a thousand gallons, okay, or in that general area.

So the reason for that is because in this area of Long Island and the aquifer, we can put in larger capacity wells. The aquifer is much thicker here, there's much more water to be had, we don't have the salt water interface problems that we have on the North Fork, so you can pump more water out of here. There's more land surface so there's much more recharge, so there's a much more robust aquifer here. And of to note here, we don't need to drill any additional wells in order to produce this water. The wells that we already have, these 33 wells that were already permitted for 24/7

operation, there's a lot of fat in those comments right now. So we'll be able to use the extra water in those permits in order to pump out water to the North Fork.

Most of the people also ask, you know, what aquifer do these come from, okay. In this area, we've got a mix of Glacial wells and Magothy wells, so you're going to get water from both of those aquifers that goes out to the North Fork.

And again, I can't stress the difference. This is like a night and day difference between the aquifer here and the aquifer on the North Fork. And the water quality here, incidentally, is exceptional; very, very good water quality here. This is really the heart of the Pine Barrens in a lot of ways.

So the benefits of this

project, okay. So, one of the most important things, and Jeff touched on it before, is that we have this chloride problem. We have wells on the North Fork now that are impacted by chlorides.

As the season goes on -- and when I say the season, the summer season -- the chloride levels in the wells tends to increase, and you saw those charts that Jeff presented showing the levels increasing. And typically, when we get to the end of the season, the wells that are impacted the most, you will shut them down early in the season and give them time to relax; and when I say relax, what that means is more fresh water. As we get more recharge during the off-season, water recharges those wells and it pushes back the salt so that we can use it again the next year.

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The problem, though, is that over time, they never really go back to where they were the previous year, and that's why you saw those general increases and trends in chlorides and those wells. We can't continue on like that, all right. Eventually, you get to the point where there's an actual drinking water standard for chlorides where you cannot serve that water to customers. And the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation requires us to keep the limits down; they like to keep the limits down to 60 milligram per liter, and the drinking water standard is 250. So those wells need to relax.

So as part of this plan, we're going to be able to take wells that are severely impacted by chlorides and shut them down, all right? And they will be able to

sit and, over time, those wells should recover, and that's what our experience is.

Other wells that are not as impacted as badly, what we'll do is we'll just reduce their pumpage and we'll say to them we'll cut them back by, say, 25 or 30 percent, and that will give them a little bit more headroom so that they can recover and they won't be as impacted by chlorides.

So its management of this chloride issue that this pipeline will help us to do. So the data, the pipeline goes into the service, those wells will come out of service, or the wells will go under restricted operation.

The other benefit here is that importing water from outside the Southold hydrogeological cycle will provide this additional water. This actually -- this water that

comes in from the outside will look like additional rain, so it'll look like additional recharge to the aquifer in Southold. So what is that going to do? It's going to provide more fresh water into the Southold aquifer and it's going to help to restore that aquifer.

Now, there's another factor not -- besides bringing the water in, now you're pumping less water out, right, because we've taken some of those wells out of service. So you're getting a two-fold benefit, you're bringing in some fresh water and you're not pumping the water out of the ground. And what that's going to do is that's actually going to help our agricultural industry on the North Fork, right, because we're not -- they're going to have more fresh water to pump to irrigate their crops.

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Finally, and this goes to that last picture that Jeff showed of the Moore's Lane tank, the thing that keeps me up at night, is that when that tank level is down low, not only does that mean low water pressure, but that means there's less water available for emergencies.

That water that's in that tank is there because if there's a fire of some kind, you can draw out the water very quickly, you can have a large volume of water. The tank at Moore's Lane is a 300,000 gallon tank, so when it's down to a couple of feet, there's really not a lot of water left in it at that point. So if you had a very serious fire, you could be in a situation where you don't have enough water to fight the fire.

We've seen that, actually, go on in different parts of the

country recently where there were bad fires and water wasn't available, and that has drastic consequences. So we don't want that to happen here on the North Fork.

So let's talk about the project cost. So you've heard a lot of different costs overtime and as we've refined this route and got a better understanding of what we're doing, we've got a better handle of what the cost is, so our estimate for this project, including the booster, is around $22 million. It all has to be competitively bid, so it's subject to the bidding environment at the time we did it. But the project, you should understand, is fully budgeted. We're not -- we -- the Water Authority spends about a hundred million dollars every year enhancing its facilities, so that

means new wells, new filtration systems, replacement of aging pipe, installation of new pipe. So we have a $100 million capital program, that money is going to come out of that program, all right? So the money is available, it's not going to create a special surcharge of anything, on any additional customers for this project.

We will look for grant funding. So when this DEIS effort is done and we get to a final environmental review, we will be able to apply for grants. And we will do that, we'll apply to the State for grants and the Water Authority has been very successful; right, Jeff? The Water Authority has received, I think, over $60 million in grants just over the past 10 years or so, and we use that money for a variety of

different projects. This would be a good project to get a grant for.

And the other thing to know is that through that length of pipeline between Flanders and Southold, there are no connections there for anybody else. So we're not making connections for Riverhead or any other customers, we're not picking up customers as part of this. This is basically -- this pipeline is to serve the existing customers in Southold; with one exception, possibly, and that's Phase 1.

We've talked about Phase 1, which is what I showed you, and a lot of people have asked about this, this is called Phase 2. This is Orient, I'm sure you all are familiar with it. That area that you see highlighted there in orange, that is what's referred to as the Suffolk County Health

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Department survey area and the Suffolk County Health Department has created the survey areas of many different locations in Suffolk County and they -- what they do is they prioritize this area for public drinking water because the County Health Department is concerned about the quality of the water that people are drinking out of their private wells. So they've created this already and we felt that it would only be transparent and open to include this in the project. So it's included in the DEIS, it's called Phase 2. We have no plans of doing this, but we know reality and we know the world that we've been working in where the County has asked us to bring water to these areas that are impacted by, in this case, PFOA and PFOS. In fact, this area has some of the highest levels of PFOA and PFOS in

the County.

So, we're including this because we don't want to be accused of segmenting the project. In other words, Hey, you put this pipeline into the Southold area and now you're going to extend it after you got permission to do it or after you went ahead and did it, now you're going to do more.

We're including both Phase 1 and Phase 2, again, in the spirit of being open and transparent and letting people know. And again, we don't have plans, right, to do it, we're just including it in the environmental review.

Another thing to note about this. And if you look in the environmental review documents, you'll see that we assume that this would -- the water consumed by this potential extension would take place way out in 2000 -- I think

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2034. But the thing to understand about an extension like that is that this is different than the pipeline itself. The way this would happen, and the reason why we assume 2034, is because in order to do this, this is an extension for what would be new customers. And under our rules and regulations, when we do an extension for new customers, the customers have to pay for it, okay. Now, that doesn't mean that government can't come along and provide a grant of some kind to help pay for it, but under our regulations someone has to pay for this.

So the process of getting the money to pay for this, this is not going to come out of our construction budget like the other part of a project like Phase 1 will. So just the logistics of obtaining the money and getting the

people on board to pay for this, we figure, at the very best, it would be somewhere out in the 2030s before it would be done. So again, we have no plans to do it, but we're thinking about it and we're including it as part of the review.

I think that's everything. So I want to introduce Carrie O'Farrell from Nelson Pope and Voorhis and Mary Anne Taylor from CDM-Smith.

Carrie has been heading up the -- preparing the DEIS, and Mary Anne is our groundwater consultant, she should be a familiar face. Thank you.

MS. O'FARRELL: Okay. All right, good evening. I am Carrie O'Farrell, I am a senior partner with the firm of Nelson Pope Voorhis. We are an environmental and planning firm that is located in Melville and we

specialize in doing complex environmental review throughout Long Island and have done lots of different environmental impact statements for projects throughout the Island.

We work for the Town of Southampton, the Town of Southold, Town of Riverhead over the years on environmental review projects. And I'll let Mary Anne give just a really brief introduction in her own way.

MS. TAYLOR: Thank you. Can you hear me? It's working, all right. My name is Mary Anne Taylor and I have about 45 years of water resource --

UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: Louder, please.

MS. TAYLOR: Sorry. My name is Mary Anne Taylor, I have 45 years of water resource management projects. I can say for the last

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40 years my colleagues and I at CDM-Smith have done a lot of water resource projects on Long Island. Many of them include the use of groundwater models to better understand the impacts of changing things that affect groundwater and surface water quality and quantity. That includes the Nassau County and Suffolk County Water Resources Management plans, the New York State Department of Health Salt Water Assessment Program, the Suffolk County Sub-Watersheds Management Plan. We've recently worked with the Orient Association to better understand their aquifer.

We've spent a lot of time on the North Fork, specifically with the Suffolk County Water Resources Management Plan, because the Suffolk County project manager lived on the North Fork and it was particularly interesting to him.

So we spent a lot of time evaluating the quantity and quality of groundwater.

One of my colleagues did the same -- used the models here to evaluate the impacts of water supply for more pumping on the South Shore low pressure zone and then the impacts of shutting off the wells in Southold.

MS. O'FARRELL: Okay. So the environmental review process, the County -- Suffolk County Water Authority, rather, was determined to be the lead agency that would run the environmental review process. And as -- in making a determination on how to run that process to determine that a full environmental impact statement would be necessary back in May, 2025; that's the most detailed review you can do under the State law.

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It is a comprehensive, multi-step process. We are, I would say, step number two in releasing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. And what a Draft Environmental Impact Statement is, is it identifies all the environmental conditions of the proposed project; it looks at potential environmental impacts; considers project alternatives; and then, most importantly, identifies ways to prevent or suitably mitigate potential impacts as much as possible.

The content of the environmental impact statement was determined through those scoping meetings that Jeff mentioned. There were three meetings and a written comment period last June. And the document, most importantly, can be accessed on the Suffolk County Water Authority website.

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It's a screen shot of it, there's a little bit of a project review, if you haven't seen it yet. Some background, scroll down and once you get towards the bottom you'll see where you can click on and view the document.

There is a -- a very comprehensive Executive Summary, if you don't want to get into the full monster document. But I highly recommend, you know, you take a look at that and there are some detailed figures that'll help you understand the project pretty quickly.

So what's in the document. There is a requirement through the environmental review process that you evaluate both environmental and human resources. So it includes soils and topography; water resources including wetlands, surface waters and groundwater;

ecological resources; land use zoning and aerial land use plans; historic and cultural resources; traffic; construction-related impacts; noise, both from a construction and an operational standpoint; cumulative impacts including a build-out analysis --

MR. MILAZZO: Is there a problem, sir? Sir, can you hear her? You're good?

UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: No, I'm --

MR. MILAZZO: I just want to make sure you can hear her.

UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: No, I wasn't -- I was talking to my wife.

MR. MILAZZO: Oh, okay. No, I just want to make sure you can hear. Okay.

MS. O'FARRELL: We're good? Okay. Growth-inducing and secondary impacts, and then the

project alternatives that were considered which we've kind of talked about. There was the original proposal that took the main all the way north to Sound Avenue, that was the -- what was considered a proposed action in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Then we reviewed a no action alternative, which is required which means you don't do anything what happens. The preferred alternative, which was determined through additional study by the Water Authority and that hydrogeologic analysis that runs through Main Road, and then we did a southern route along Peconic Bay Boulevard which was dismissed.

MS. TAYLOR: Okay. So we used the existing main body flow model to evaluate the impacts of pumping just a little bit more from

a number of wells in the South Shore pressure zone; evaluated the impacts of both water levels and stream base flows. It was -- as you expect, you only see a very minor impact from pumping and withdrawing a little bit more water.

And we used the North Fork model to access the impact of shutting off about eight wells and reducing the pumpage from the others and then adding the additional water from -- that's pumped in and recharging your aquifer through septic systems.

Again, very small impact. As you would expect, you see a little rebound in the area where the wells are being shut off, but it's all within the range of natural historical variability that's been documented by the USGS and the Water Authority.

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MS. O'FARRELL: So one of the most important parts of an environmental impact statement is identifying appropriate mitigation measures, and what that means are what are we going to do to try and avoid or reduce impacts.

So, I know this is a very long list and there's another slide that has a long list, but -- and this does not include all the mitigation measures that are included in the document. But I wanted to bring to your attention the things that are important about construction of this project that will be done to minimize impact on the community.

So, we already talked about the main installation being, you know, 300 to a maximum of 600 feet per day, so it will inch along. It will be scheduled to avoid the summer peak and the fall seasonal

traffic which is, you know, obviously a problem out here. The trenches each day will be backfilled and temporarily patched so the road is usable on a daily basis.

There will be daily coordination with the land owner so that the -- you know, the current 300 -- the 600 feet that are under construction today, the guys that'll be impacted throughout the week will be made aware of it, you know, in terms of the scheduling throughout the upcoming days. We will be using trained flag people, cones, you know, professionals directing traffic to make sure that we are disruptive to traffic as little as possible.

Within the area, along the road which has a number of historic resources, we will be using road milling and full-depth diamond-cut

saw cutting as a way to reduce vibration, and it also helps with noise, just as an aside, in close proximity to any historic home. So, that was a recommendation through the review process with the State Historic Preservation Office.

The roads at the end of the project will be fully repaved, so you end up with a brand new beautifully-paved roadway after this is done. Use of seven-minute erosion controls along the length of the route; implementation of the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, if you're familiar with those plans, but those are construction plans that are made to make sure that our waterways are not impacted; strict soil and equipment management protocols.

Adherence to all wetland permit conditions. There are a number of wetland crossings which,

again, Suffolk County Water Authority, this is an Island, we build near, you know, waterways all the time, so there is a set of standard protocols for ensuring that there aren't impacts on wetlands. The use of the directional drilling below the wetlands and at major intersections; use of native plant species for revegetation, both at the booster station and for areas along the shoulders that are disturbed.

In the event -- there was a noise study that was completed, and in the event of any night-time work that may be required through DOT permitting on Main Road, they will use movable sound abatement barriers.

Compliance with the New York State Department of Transportation permit requirements and Suffolk

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County Department of Public Works roadway requirements; sorry, the permit requirements for opening the roadway.

And then, just again, there is a laundry list of additional mitigation measures that are throughout the document that you are welcome to breeze through.

So this is a repeat slide, just a reminder for tonight. We are here to listen. There is the opportunity for you to speak tonight. All the comments are treated the same, whether you voice them tonight or you submit them at a later point in writing, they're all taken together and answered in the final environmental impact statement which will be available on the Suffolk County Water Authority's website.

You don't -- if you hear someone make a comment, you don't

necessarily need to repeat it; you're welcome to say I agree with that person.

And just to try and keep things moving, we're looking for -- you know, trying to keep it to three minutes, if possible.

So to make comments in writing, you can use the QR code or just go the Suffolk County Water Authority North Fork Pipeline comments. These are the other hearing dates; we've got one more next week available in Riverhead, but you can click there to provide written comments. And again, through September 11th and an extension, too, we will definitely update the website with the extension date once that's determined. That's all I have.

MR. SZABO: Thank you. Thank you, Carrie. Thank you, Mary Anne. I appreciate that.

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I also -- I forgot to do this at the beginning of the meeting, but I want to thank Supervisor Krupski for -- and his team for allowing us to be here today in a town facility. Thank you very much for that. It's a great room, we were here during the public scoping sessions, so --

LEGISLATOR DOROSKI: We have AC tonight.

MR. SZABO: What was that?

LEGISLATOR DOROSKI: I said we have AC today, not like yesterday.

MR. SZABO: Yes. Yes, last night it was warm. So we will go into -- I have several cards here from those attending tonight. I'm going to, again, ask folks that they stick to three minutes. The first person I have up is Legislator Greg Doroski. Please come up.

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LEGISLATOR DOROSKI: I think everyone could probably hear me, right? I won't use a microphone --

MR. SZABO: We want to make sure the stenographer can hear you.

MS. O'FARRELL: You do have a good inside voice, though.

LEGISLATOR DOROSKI: Thank you. And I will spare you all the eleven questions that I asked last night. But I did want to maybe put a finer point on one of them, just based on what we all know, that 70 percent of the water that the Suffolk County Water Authority pumps goes to residential lawn irrigation and, by some estimates, 50 percent of that water is wasted.

Jeff and I had a follow-up discussion after the meeting with Herb Stroebel, who's a farmer in Riverhead who has a lot of experience with water, and we got into talking about

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pricing as a tool to manage demand. And Suffolk County Water Authority did put in a two-tier pricing structure in 2020. But if you look at what's been applied in other areas, it looks like we could go much, much further; rather, you could go much further.

Our two-tiered pricing structure to your pricing structure, there's a 15 percent difference between the regular rate and the conservation rate, it's called. If you look at a place like Santa Fe, their base rate compared to their conservation rate, the highest rate is three times the amount, and they actually saw a percent decrease in water demand there with a percent increase in population.

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So looking at the contention in the draft EIS that water conservation alone is not enough to

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meet the demand that's in the community, leaving aside that that's not quantified in the Draft EIS, which I asked to actually be quantified in the final.

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Looking at what the potential savings of water conservation could be, if we actually really looked at a true market-based solution to conserve water. Drilling into some of the academic research technological solutions like smart gauges and sensors, behavioral changes like education, really only have a one to five percent potential in savings, but market-based solutions consistently showed 20 percent savings. And really urging the Water Authority not to merely look at themselves as a supplier of water to the community, which you do a very, very good job at, but really being stewards who

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prioritize conservation of a very, very limited resource. Because that's -- as pointed out last night, in Suffolk County, our water is undervalued for how valuable that resource is. So, please look at a market-based solution, please quantify what exactly conservation savings could look at, and really consider looking at a more aggressive market-based solution. So, thank you.

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MR. SZABO: Thank you very much. We appreciate your comments.

LEGISLATOR DOROSKI: Thank you.

MR. SZABO: Next up we have Supervisor Al Krupski.

SUPERVISOR KRUPSKI: Thank you. And thank you for coming to Peconic. This is a very important topic and we're glad that you come out here to address the questions.

We appreciated the scoping

session last year. We also appreciated the time that we were given in addition. And, you know, we were presented with this Draft Environmental Impact Statement, about a 335-page document. So I -- and I agree.

So Greg, thank you for your leadership, Greg Doroski. You wrote the draft of that letter that we signed asking for more time to fully review that, and I'm not asking for a 2034, but -- but more than a week I think would be helpful. I've got a lot of staff working on comments, taking a look at some of the finer points of it, and so I think that's something that Greg, of course, did very well mention that extra conservation efforts.

Thank you, also, for acknowledging Southold for passing the water conservation law. By the

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way, it wasn't unanimous because it's hard to get people to understand that this is a resource that's really a shared resource that we all need to protect. And when you see we get three inches of rain and people are -- still have the automatic systems watering, it's a little disconcerting. So, thank you for acknowledging that.

I just want to acknowledge there's other elected officials here: Councilman Mealy, Councilwoman Suess, Councilwoman Smith on our Town Board, Town Assessor Bill Flinter, Town Trustee Nick Krupski. Oh, Town Trustee Eric Sepenoski; thank you. So we have a number of elected officials here because this is, of course, of great importance to us. I see other elected officials from other towns and villages; I would hope they're going to also speak.

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So I'm not going to address my whole list here. The proposal to put in the public water at Orient in 2034, you know, we've had discussions about airing the power lines and I think that is a conversation that needs to continue with any part of that proposal, because that would be an important component that should be addressed, I think, at the same time.

Carrie mentioned the mitigation by New York State DOT and I hope that -- and I haven't gone through the document completely. I hope that they will address the historical drainage issues at the same time when they're doing the restoration of the road. That's a good opportunity for them to do that, or just pave it and then start to dig it up to do the drainage; either way is fine.

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I didn't see any mention of road salt contribution because that is a real thing. I didn't see any mention of the confining clay unit that's under the hold of Southold Town that does help protect us from salt water.

I just -- so one of the things that Greg probably mentioned last night and didn't mention is USGS is working, as you all well know, on the groundwater study. They have been active in the North Fork, we've met with them, they've come out to our Water Advisory Committee and our Ag Advisory Committee and our CAC, we had a joint meeting and he presented to us. And I think that groundwater study will be really critical in helping us all understand the impacts of this and understanding the impacts of our water use here in Southold. So it would be

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helpful for the residents and for this project if we had the results from that study before we made any -- any final decisions.

So, again, thank you for coming, because this is an important meeting.

MR. SZABO: Thank you very much. We always appreciate hearing from you. Next up we have Councilman Brian Mealy.

COUNCILMAN MEALY: I'm just glad that the beloved community is here because this is a big decision and we have to get it right and there's so many facets of the community here. We highlighted some of the elected officials and that's just a sign that this is such an important subject matter that it affects all of us, no matter what township we live in and at many levels of government.

So, I'm just glad that our

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local media is here covering this because there's a national story that local media is not present. So we can't say that in Southold and Riverhead and all the nice towns that we have, Greenport Village; we're well covered and I appreciate that.

A lot has been said so I'll try to move on with some of the things that have been said. But just in my mindset, I just want to make sure that we understand that long-term water conservation should trump short-term pump capacity goals. And in some ways, when you put short-term pump capacity goals ahead, that's putting the cart in front of the water horse.

I want to make sure that the water horse comes first and we understand what long-term water conservation means, and that can mean a lot. And that means that we

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have education in our community, that whatever house you have, whether you're a second homeowner or you're renting, that you turn the sprinkler off when it's raining, and we're still trying to get our arms around that.

And I'm proud, as a Southolder, just as an engaged citizen, that Southold did pass the water legislation and we have members of our water committee here that work hard to work with our vendors to make sure that they have education, to make sure what it means when the water is running when it's raining and we shouldn't do that. And we believe that water is our most precious resource, that we have to do better and Southold Town should not be the only municipality that has a water conservation law? That's ridiculous.

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So I'm just glad that we have advocates like Legislator Doroski and Al's previous work at the Legislature; he tried to do that in the County, it was not successful. And I think for political reasons that's wrong, for something to be political in the wrong way. It should be political in the other way that we all say that we should do that.

So I just wanted, especially the community, but also, what is the value to that to the Suffolk County Water Authority? You guys did a very snazzy ad campaign that was bombarding our communities. It was probably one of the best ad campaigns, so you owe your ad person a lot for my -- I'm going to shift it. I'm going to shift it and say how much of your budget was used for that ad campaign. And I just want to make a challenge to

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you, as Suffolk County Water Authority leaders, that you channel that same monetary amount, and even more, for conservation efforts. And I know you are doing conservation and I know you can't force municipalities to do things, but I just want to make sure that you have that goal, like just as an engaged community.

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And you guys are, like, the smartest people I've ever heard; every time I come to a meeting I learn something new. But I want to use your smarts to better our society, and for me that means that other municipalities should have water conservation.

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So I just appreciate that this is important, I want to make sure we get this right. And I have a general concern, when you take water from other communities, what does that mean? And we talk about

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the Pine Barrens? When I think of the Pine Barrens, I hear Badalbayli Symphony playing in my mind, I see deer and I see squirrels and I see the habitat at many different levels. So we're taking that precious resource from the Pine Barrens and shifting it other places? What does that mean? And we have to understand what that means. Thank you.

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MR. SZABO: Thank you very much. I appreciate you coming.

Next up, we have Trustee Nick Krupski.

TRUSTEE KRUPSKI: Thank you for coming out. I just prepared a brief statement to read as a Trustee of Southold Town, with regards to the Suffolk County Water Authority's North Fork Water Main Project and Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

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The Trustees of Southold

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Town authorities derive from the address patterns of 1676, charging the Town proceeds with the administration of all activity within a hundred feet of our wetlands and beaches, including lands held in common such as the underwater lands in the Peconic Bay.

This is why we're concerned that the town -- that Southold Town is only listed as an interested agency on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement rather than as an involved agency. As it stands, Southold Town and the Trustees would only be notified of work done within 150 feet of Town wetlands, implying that the Suffolk County Water Authority would not seek a wetlands permit through Town Trustees.

This is particularly troubling, since you received

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H2NK-2
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road-opening permits from the Suffolk County Department of Public Works and coordinating with New York State DOT as involved agencies yet treat the Town wetlands jurisdiction of the very same project as notification only.

Sixty-seven acres of wetlands identified in the United States Fish & Wildlife Services exists within the buffer zone of the projects in the Phase 2 portion of the project alone. We request that the Trustees of Southold Town be considered an involved agency. Doing so will allow the Trustees to work to protect this vital habitat and uphold the authority granted 350 years ago to the Town of Southold.

We look forward to working together to ensure Southold Town residents have access to clean drinking water and hearing from you

H2NK-2
Section 2.18

H2NK-3
Section 2.18

H2NK-4
Section 2.6.5

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soon. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this project further with the Water Authority. Thank you.

MR. SZABO: Thank you very much.

Next up we have Trustee, I believe it's Eric Sepenoski?

TRUSTEE SEPENOSKI: Good job on the name; thank you.

Nick Krupski, a colleague on the Board of Trustees, has summarized one of the points I like to make, just the involved agency aspect. It's important that our Board of Trustees gets involved with this.

And secondly, I think one of the arguments that typically gets attention is the town didn't plan for development. It's not really the job of a water provider to plan for increased development when the water pipeline comes due. I just

H2NK-4
Section 2.6.5

H2ES-1
Section 2.6.5

H2ES-2
Section 2.15

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want to confront that with you all this evening because when that pipeline proposed for Orient, should it go through, you're going to see increased development because the incentives that brought the motivations are there.

You're going to see increased water usage on the waterfront as people install sod lawns and irrigate them and then treat them, fertilize them. And that is something that we fight very hard against on the Town Trustees, to prevent nitrification of our surface waters, to prevent runoff into our surface waters that damages our nationally-recognized estuary.

So I want the Suffolk County Water Authority to think about how it's going to plan to prevent development alongside Southold Town in that precious place that I grew

H2ES-2
Section 2.15

H2ES-3
Section 2.6.5

H2ES-4
Section 2.15

H2ES-4
Section 2.15

up in, Orient. Thank you.

MR. SZABO: Thank you.

Next, we have Mayor Kevin Stuessi. Mayor, welcome.

MAYOR STUESSI: Good evening, everybody. I'm next up in the parade of elected officials. There's a number of us here this evening. I want to thank everybody from Southold Town, Deputy Mayor Patrick Brennan who I know will be speaking on behalf of the Village as well. And I also see Supervisor Jerry Halpin from the Town of Riverhead.

I would like to provide a little bit different perspective. I went to a conference last year that was led by former Vice-President Al Gore that also included a significant number of classes. Pardon me, I also see Trustee Lily Dougherty-Johnson from the Village of Greenport back

there, too.

If we had done what the former Vice-President had recommended many decades ago, we'd likely find ourselves in a much better place. I personally do not believe we have the time to wait on this very important issue, as it relates to bringing needed, clean water out to the North Fork.

H2KS-1
Section 2.1

As Mayor of the Village of Greenport, I represent approximately 2400 people, along with my fellow Board of Trustees. We are one single customer on that list of customers from the Suffolk County Water Authority; keep that in mind. Every single one of the people that lives in our village is not represented on that list by a large number, but just the number one.

Within the one-mile confines of the Village, we are a

H2KS-2
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historic-working waterfront community with houses on average that are approximately a hundred years old. We have a multitude of commercial buildings on the water fronts which are all of significant age, too. And all these buildings are close together; I could stick my hand out the window and my neighbor, Jean Cooper, can stick her hand out and we could pass sugar across the fence if we want to. This is the same thing in virtually every part of the Village.

H2KS-2
Section 2.1

One of the most significant needs of water isn't just to take a shower, bathe your dog, drink some water; it's also for emergency services. And as Village Mayor, the Greenport Village Fire Department records up into our Board. When I see that tower that you guys had up on the screen a

H2KS-3
Section 2.1

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little earlier and know that there are times where there's only five feet or two feet worth of water in it, that is an emergency we cannot afford to delay.

By delaying this decision, you are putting at risk every single one of the volunteer firefighters who are employ -- not employed, they volunteer for the Village of Greenport and the larger east/west fire districts.

We have a number of hotels. Tourism has gone crazy, we all know this, on the entirety of the North Fork. Every hotel that's been built, remodeled, Silver Sand, Hotel Moraine, the Menhaden Hotel, The Greenporter's getting rebuilt right now. All of this is growing exponentially.

You also look at our aging population which is over Peconic Landing; Peconic Landing is looking

H2KS-3
Section 2.1

H2KS-4
Section 2.1

H2KS-5
Section 2.1

H2KS-6
Section 2.1

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to expand right now. You have an Eastern Long Island Hospital within the Village of Greenport; all of our emergency services, and when there's an emergency, people are going over to that hospital.

Just about two months ago there was a small issue with their water line going into the hospital and you wouldn't believe what we had to do, working with the hospital, in order to try and solve for just having water down for a couple of hours over at that hospital.

H2KS-6
Section 2.1

I was born and raised in the Santa Clara Valley of California in what is the largest Superfund site in the entire United States. I'm likely sick because of some water issues that happened there. We have water issues in a number of wells throughout the North Fork, we all know this. We don't talk about

H2KS-7
Section 2.1

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it enough. There are private wells in Mattituck that are failing, there are numerous wells in Orient that are failing, and we run the risk of having even more problems.

The Village of Greenport used to own all of its own wells and they were sold some three decades ago to the Water Authority and a number of those have failed over time.

The salt water inundation is growing exponentially. There is a USGS survey -- a slightly different one than the one that was referenced earlier -- that was specific to the Village of Greenport looking at this issue. While that survey has not officially been published yet, a university presentation last year was published and we shared that with a number of folks in the community and it is frightening to

H2KS-7 Section 2.1

H2KS-8 Section 2.1

H2KS-9 Section 2.1

H2KS-10 Section 2.1

see what is happening with salt water.

I, as Village Mayor, would rather be on the side of caution and planning and see this pipeline get built and know that we have this as a resource. And I very much hope Supervisor Halpin and the Town of Riverhead will work with all of us to solve for this because, frankly, our fire department and the rest of us who need to take care if any number of issues can't afford not to.

Conservation, we all need to do a hell of a lot better. I don't know that the answer is going to be even/odd days. You look at what's been done out west where I was born and raised, the only things that seem to work is telling people you can't lay out turf or you have to start ripping it up and incentivizing them to pull it out,

H2KS-10
Section 2.1

H2KS-11
Section 2.1

H2KS-12
Section 2.6.5

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but.

I appreciate everybody's time and I hope everybody will give this very strong consideration, because this is an enormous need that we cannot delay. Thank you.

MR. SZABO: Thank you, Mayor. I appreciate your comments.

Greenport Deputy Mayor Patrick Brennan.

DEPUTY MAYOR BRENNAN: Hi, everyone. Patrick Brennan, I'm the Deputy Mayor in the Village of Greenport. This is the second time I've heard this presentation. I appreciate you all being here.

It's not clear to me, at the end of the day, that this is going to provide increased capacity for the North Fork. But I do believe that this proposal is going to provide a layer of robustness to the quantify and the quality of the water that can be delivered to the

H2KS-13
Section 2.1

H2PB-1
Section 2.6.2

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North Fork.

As the Mayor mentioned, the Village of Greenport operates a water system. As a Trustee, I'm responsible for making sure that my customers, my residents, my ratepayers are receiving adequate supply both in quantity and quality of water.

It's my obligation to make sure that we are creating and maintaining the correct infrastructure so that we can continue to serve our ratepayers.

It's also my obligation as a Trustee to make sure our fire department, our volunteers, our residents, our visitors are safe. And this was very alarming to hear about the water tower at Moore's Lane. We need to make sure that our firefighters have adequate resources to fight fires.

I believe that this proposal

H2PB-1
Section 2.6.2

H2PB-2
Section 2.6.2

H2PB-3
Section 2.6.2

H2PB-4
Section 2.6.2

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supports my community's needs. Greenport is also a pro-sensible development community. And when I say that, I mean that we are interested in supporting a robust downtown business district and we have specific housing codes. So we have long-term -- we have current needs and we have long-term goals, and I think this is necessary to support our community's goals.

Now, all that said, this is clearly a short-term measure. Other officials spoke about this, we need conservation long-term. As a community leader, I will do what I can do to support conservation. I hope the Water Authority will do what they can do to incentivize conservation and dis-incentivize waste. We spoke about this when you all visited us in Greenport and I would encourage you to work on that and I would like to learn more

H2PB-4
Section 2.6.2

H2PB-5
Section 2.6.2

H2PB-6
Section 2.6.5

about how that can happen. Thank you.

MR. SZABO: Thank you, Deputy Mayor Brennan.

Next up, in no particular order, I believe resident Anne Murray. Is Anne with us? Hello. Welcome.

ANNE MURRAY: Thank you. I'm Anne Murray, I'm a resident of East Marion and I'm also the Southold Land Use Coordinator for the North Fork Environmental Council and I'm speaking on behalf of NFEC.

I just had two quick questions for you. We're going to be submitting written comments, but I haven't finished reading through the entire document yet, though. So, just off the top of my head, two things.

Please explain, in the final EIS, why the Water Authority is not

H2PB-6
Section 2.6.5

H2AM-1
Section 2.6.2

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willing to wait for the completion of the Long Island Aquifer Study being done currently by you -- well, actually it's finished, but it's in final review. It hasn't been released yet and that will determine the actual state of the aquifer due to scientific measurements, which I think this is the first time that's been done. So it may give you additional information on the actual state of the aquifer under the North Fork.

H2AM-1
Section 2.6.2

And also, please explain in your going over the causeway part to Orient of the pipeline, that proposal. Explain how rising sea levels, climate change and possible devastating storms will affect the pipe going over the causeway. I realize it's going to be under the causeway, but how can you mitigate the risk of the pipe being destroyed? We know that the

H2AM-2
Section 2.12

causeway has been -- you know, Orient's been cut off from the mainland many, many times over the years. So, what will you do to mitigate that risk? Thank you.

H2AM-2
Section 2.12

MR. SZABO: Thank you very much. I apologize, I can't make the first name; Megan or Maryann Cadnus?

UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: I think she left.

MR. SZABO: She left? Okay. All right, we'll set that aside and we'll move on to -- I should have brought my glasses. Mary Dalecki?

MS. MURRAY: I think she left.

MR. SZABO: Joel Klein.

MR. KLEIN: All right, thank you. I anticipate submitting pretty extensive comments on what I see as inadequacies in the DEIS. So I'm going to keep myself and the transcript short.

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I just want to read something that your Chairman, Mr. Lefkowitz, wrote in an editorial published in the Riverhead paper four days ago; "The environmental review must conclude before a final route can be established." Well, that seems to run contrary to the entire DEIS process.

Just as an example of some of the problems I see. Mr. Lefkowitz says that you'll do a detailed pre -- environmental review and construction plan, which is typical for projects. But even the basic thing, like how many businesses in Riverhead are going to have their access restricted, even if it's only for a day. And what are the economic impacts of that? A simple count of driveways, a pretty basic component of this type of construction, should have been in the DEIS.

H2JK-1
Section 2.17.1

H2JK-2
Section 2.16.4

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I noticed on the slide that went up, the Sound Avenue route wasn't even mentioned as one of the project alternatives, yet the entire DEIS is predicated on the original EIS for the Sound Avenue project. And the differences between that route and the current route are dealt with in, I'd say, not more than 20 percent of the total DEIS. It relies almost entirely on the DEIS for the draft environmental -- for the original Sound Avenue route.

H2JK-3
Section 2.16.4

Regarding Phase 2 of the project. The idea that you're including Phase 2 because of a segmentation issue is just unsustainable. You've admitted today you have no plans to build it. It's like any water line that you might plan to construct in the future would also be considered segmentation. The mere fact that

H2JK-4
Section 2.17.1

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it's connected to the project in Phase 1 is not a basis for calling Phase 2 part of this project.

You don't know -- you hadn't indicated a timeline for when Phase 2 might be constructed. Is it five years, three years, 10 years in the future? And can you honestly say the environmental impacts five years from now, along the Phase 2 route, would be the same as they are today? I don't think you can, and typically given the cumulative impacts and the rate of development on the North Fork. Traffic is going to change, economic conditions are going to change, water levels are going to change, as somebody mentioned here tonight.

So I think you really need to be considering whether Phase 2, as much as it might be needed in the future, should be considered as part of this DEIS. All you're

H2JK-4
Section 2.17.1

H2JK-5
Section 2.17.1

H2JK-6
Section 2.17.1

doing is setting up a situation where you can avoid going through an environmental review process should you ever choose to build Phase 2, because you can say, Oh, we did that five years ago. Thank you.

MR. SZABO: Thank you, Mr. Klein.

Next we have Richard and Sonia Morabito.

Are the Morabitos with us?

MR. MORABITO: Hello. My question is, first of all, I have a well that's not working anymore. We cannot get drinking water, we have to buy it. We cannot wash our clothes because we have a lot of pine and magazines. So I don't want to hold up people, but afterwards I would like to find the name of a well driller. I'd like to find how somebody can determine the power of the water coming out

H2JK-6
Section 2.17.1

of the well, because we are literally without water. I don't want to waste anybody's time, but I need to get this information and I'm hoping somebody's there that's going to provide it. Thank you for your time.

MR. SZABO: Sure. We can certainly speak after the hearing. You may want to call the Suffolk County Health Department, they could probably provide. If you haven't done that already, we can put you in contact with the folks over there. Thank you for --

MR. MORABITO: I appreciate that.

MR. SZABO: Yeah, thank you for coming. I have Nancy Reinerstein?

MS. DePAS REINERTSEN: Oh, man. Nope.

MR. SZABO: Nancy --

MS. DePAS REINERTSEN: DePas

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Reinertsen.

MR. SZABO: I'm sorry; give me that again.

MS. DePAS REINERTSEN: DePas Reinertsen.

MR. SZABO: Hello, I apologize.

MS. DePAS REINERTSEN: It's okay. Hi. This is my husband Ralph who is a member of a civics of the North Fork, some of the many civics. I notice that a lot of our elected officials were honored and recognized and named, so there are a lot of the civics that were here; in fact, we just saw some people.

And I'm also here as -- we are Chairs of Re-Wild Long Island, North Fork, and we want to recognize the fact that there are so many environmental organizations here. North Fork Environmental and the CAC, Water Authority, Peconic Bay keeper; we're here.

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We're -- and I'm listening to this. I'm sorry, guys, it sounds like it's a done deal. It seems like you did part of the work and you've already made your decision because you need the water because, hey, we've got to water our lawns, don't we? We've got to water those sod lawns and those exotic plants.

And it sounds, also, that you put in thousands of dollars to -- thousands and thousands of dollars giving people rain gauges and shower sensors, but it was kind of dismissive. Let's work with organizations, environmental organizations so that people will think about putting in the native plants, not only the hundred feet, again, from the water that our Trustees work with, but a lot more.

And Re-Wild was started in Port Washington with the Port

H2DR-1
Section 2.17.1

H2DR-2
Section 2.6.5

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Washington Water Authority six years ago. That's how this board, this organization got started, and they're making big changes.

MR. DePAS REINERTSEN: What I thought she was going to say, or I wouldn't have gotten up here. No, is that nowhere in the presentation did you mention that you were going to work with people who are the conservation leaders in the community. The agencies that she mentioned in addition to the town, which has done a magnificent job, but there are groups that you could actually speak to that have started the work and might offer suggestions to you.

H2RR-1
Section 2.7.1

MS. DePAS REINERTSEN: Thank you.

MR. SZABO: Thank you. I will -- you know, just to make a point. We do -- we work with all agencies and all organizations and

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I'm very proud of our track record of engaging organizations at the community level, the hamlet level. We've been out here on numerous occasions meeting with individuals, talking about conservation and talking about what we do, any issues that are facing the aquifer. So I'll put our record up against anybody when it comes to public engagement.

MR. DePAS REINERTSEN: Well, I've been here since five o'clock and in none of the presentations was anything of that mentioned.

MR. SZABO: Give me a call.

MR. DePAS REINERTSEN: Okay.

MR. SZABO: Next up we have Alexa Annunziata.

ALEXA ANNUNZIATA: You're getting the names better. Hi. Good evening, everybody. My name's Alexa Annunziata, I'm the Director of Outreach for Peconic Bay Keeper,

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a Southold resident and also on the Southold Conservation Advisory Council, sorry.

Thank you for your presentation tonight. I would like to raise concerns about maintenance, what maintenance looks like on this pipeline. As well as when you guys dig down that 30, 50 feet, what comes out before you put the pipe in? I'm concerned about contaminants and what happens with that, you know, spoils, would you say; where that goes, how it gets tested.

And yeah, what does maintenance look like and how does that, you know, further disrupt? Because obviously if this is going in, you know, outside of our maintenance, maybe five years, maybe even 10 years, and what does that going to look like? What does that cost look like? Does that

H2AA-1
Section 2.12

H2AA-2
Section 2.12

H2AA-3
Section 2.12

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cost then incur upon customers or is that part of the construction cost? Yeah, thank you.

MR. SZABO: Thank you. Thank you very much.

So I don't have any additional cards. Is there anyone else here who would like to address us or have any public comments?

Yes. Please just state your name and your address.

MS. DeCRUZ: No one else gave their address.

MR. SZABO: Well, we have them here.

MS. DeCRUZ: Oh. All right, my name is -- I live in Greenport, my name's Margaret De Cruz. I'm also on the Board of North Fork Environmental Council. I appreciate your presentation.

I also have the feeling that you really want to do this. And even though you say and you have

H2AA-3
Section 2.12

H2MDC-1
Section 2.6.5

done a lot of things focusing on conservation, just last week was the first time I heard a really good ad on the radio from you guys. Other than that, I really haven't heard much.

So, in my opinion, so much has to do with conservation, like that picture of the Greenport water thing. It seemed to me you were saying in the morning that's what it looks like, but that's because everybody's watering their lawns. And we are so -- I am so anti-lawn at this point and if people could not do lawns and do native plantings, you know, we would recharge the aquifiers (sic) -- aquifers, however you say it -- much better. And I know we're not recharging because people are just using it like crazy.

H2DMC-1
Section 2.6.5

And if that's the reason we won't have enough water for fires,

H2DMC-2
Section 2.6.5

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than it's a simple explanation and it is -- what you're doing is a short-term, you know, what do you call that? Because you're going to be draining the aquifier (sic) from the deeper aquifiers (sic) if we keep doing the same ole thing.

The other thing, I'm not sure if you guys have ever considered doing research on gray water infrastructure instead of just using our clean water, our drinking water to water the lawns and all of that. I mean, grey water infrastructure does happen in Europe and other places, you know. So, that's one of the other ideas.

And then the nitrification that is coming from people watering their lawns and using pesticides and all of that, that's not going to change if we keep doing what we're doing and people think there's so much water they don't

H2DMC-2
Section 2.6.5

H2DMC-3
Section 2.6.5

H2DMC-4
Section 2.6.4

have to conserve.

We're going to keep destroying our water and then we're not going to be able to swim or have fish, and who's going to come to Long Island? You know? I mean, anyway, thank you.

MR. SZABO: Thank you very much. I'm holding in my hand the last card.

Nobody remembers that joke? Johnny Carson? All right, I'm old. Valerie Virgone?

MS. VIRGONA: Virgona. Thank you.

MR. SZABO: Virgona.

MS. VIRGONA: Yes. I would suggest if anybody else wants to speak please do, while we're here.

My name is Valerie Virgona, I work for Peconic Estuary Partnership. We will be submitting more formal comments, but I did feel compelled to speak today.

H2DMC-4
Section 2.6.4

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As was mentioned in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the new group was not explored sufficiently, we don't feel.

I don't know if Suffolk County Water Authority is aware that there's a wetland restoration project right on Main Road at Meeting House Creek, over $2.2 million. Many stakeholders, many contributors, a really big deal for this area for both flooding issues, water quality for the surrounding impaired water bodies.

This area, we're assuming, will have to be dewatered, the road completely ripped up. This is a major impact on a very new project which will just be -- plans will just be being established over the next couple of years; don't feel that that was very much explored.

Additionally, the staging

H2VV-1
Section 2.6.1

H2VV-2
Section 2.2.1

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station in Southampton is in a wetland area. We would love to know more about the staging station, the effect it will have on the wetland area which is obviously extremely important.

H2VV-2
Section 2.2.1

If you do know anything about the East End, we're very much exploring natural shore lines. It's a huge issue for us here on the East End, so those shore lines that are still natural that we do have natural wetlands, those are extremely valuable to us. You cannot put a dollar value on that. So we would love to hear more about that as well.

And I just can't state enough that if 70 percent of this water is being used for watering lawns, what is to stop 70 percent of the new flow of water that we have coming in from just being used on a Glacial Estates? That's our

H2VV-3
Section 2.6.5

personal cost. Thank you so much.

MR. SZABO: Thank you very much.

It is 6:37. I'll ask one more time if there is anybody from the public that wishes to address us with a public comment. If you do, please stand up or raise your hand. Yes, please, state your name.

MS. GATES: Hello. I'm Caroline Gates and I am a resident of Southold and I sit on the Water Advisory Committee. I have a background in geology.

I will be submitting more formal comments. But I wanted to bring to, perhaps, everyone's attention because maybe people would be interested in knowing this in the hydrogeologic investigation and in the evaluation of alternatives.

In the evaluation of

H2VV-3
Section 2.6.5

H2CG-1
Section 2.16.4

alternatives and looking at wells, possible siting of other wells within the Town of Southold, the actual siting study discounted preserved farmland from a potential well site because -- so there were numerous criteria that were used.

And I'm not sure that -- I understand why you did it, but I'm not sure, working with the Town, working with the DEC, which is technically the manager of our aquifer, that we couldn't come to an agreement to look at preserved farmland for potential new well sites.

H2CG-1
Section 2.16.4

And as we wait for the New York State DEC's report showing the confining unit for the North Fork Aquifer, there may be some good water beneath preserved farmland. Now, I know that the site -- the siting plan identified two potential sites, one has been in

reserve, one has been put into use, but there may be other sites out there. And I will stop now and finish with more comments later. Thank you very much for your time.

MR. SZABO: Thank you very much.

We are going to be reading the comments. I want to thank everybody, once again, before we close the hearing. It's 6:39. You have -- sir?

SUPERVISOR KRUPSKI: I decline.

MR. SZABO: You exceeded your three minutes.

SUPERVISOR KRUPSKI: I think I left.

LEGISLATOR DOROSKI: Well, if he's talking again I'm talking again.

MAYOR STUESSI: I want to go again, too.

SUPERVISOR KRUPSKI: I just

H2CG-1
Section 2.16.4

want to say, it's very encouraging. Because I've gotten a lot of comments from residents and from Town staff. It's so encouraging to have everyone here really take an interest in this.

One thing, though, a new thing that hasn't been mentioned, and I thank Caroline for bringing up those points that you just made. It's Section 272, it's the total number of hook-ups assuming steady growth and final build-out, barring no further regulations or land preservation.

But it should acknowledge that Southold's Land Preservation Program is still really continuing and it's still really successful. Just today we closed on 30 acres of farmland that's building on a big block of about 500 preserve neighbors.

And so I think that -- I

think that that should be acknowledged in there, that as the water use you're concerned about is for lawn irrigation. The land preservation efforts are going to mitigate a lot of that over time, as they have in the past. So, I just wanted to put that in there.

MR. SZABO: Thank you again. Very good point. We appreciate those comments and we look forward to hearing additional comments before the public comment period ends at some point after September 11th.

We have one more scheduled hearing, that is next Wednesday; 4:30, John? 4:30 p.m. at the Riverhead Library. I look forward to seeing our friends from Riverhead there and anyone else who would like to attend.

We will then compile all of the comments and we will answer the

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questions and then we will issue those answers. It'll be publicly available on the Water Authority's website.

And just to Supervisor Krupski's point. Thank you all for coming. This is -- the SEQRA process, right, what we've been through with the public scoping sessions in June of 2025, working on the report, revising it, working with experts like Nelson Pope Voorhis and CDM-Smith and all of you, it makes the findings -- it makes the report better, right? We need input in order to adjust the plan and to modify the plan so that we can ensure that we're inclusive of everyone's thoughts and we're as thorough and as transparent as we possibly can be that we're seeing that.

And I want to thank you for again coming out tonight on this

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Thursday evening. Thank you. Have a good night. The public hearing is closed.

(WHEREUPON, the session concluded at 6:42 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, ALISON MAHONEY, Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of New York, do hereby certify:

THAT the within transcript was prepared by me and is a true and accurate record of this hearing to the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am not related, either by blood or marriage, to any of the parties in this action; and

THAT I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 1st day of September, 2026.

Alison Mahoney

ALISON MAHONEY

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APPENDIX A-3
PUBLIC HEARING TRANSCRIPT

Riverhead Public Library, Town of Riverhead, August 26, 2026

In the Matter Of:

SUFFOLK COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NORTH FORK WATER MAIN PROJECT

August 26, 2026



ACRS

Accurate Court Reporting Services, Inc.
www.accuratecorp.com
631-331-3753

SUFFOLK COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NORTH FORK WATER MAIN PROJECT

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Public Hearing

August 26, 2026

4:33 p.m.

Riverhead

ACCURATE COURT REPORTING SERVICE, INC.
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MR. SZABO: Good evening, everybody. Can you hear me?

It's 4:33 and we want to start the Public Hearing.

Thank you all for joining us tonight.

I'm going to try to stand in a way that you can actually see the screen. Does this work and can you see this screen? I think most of you can see the screen, I hope. Nod, please, somebody.

UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

MR. SZABO: Thank you. Thank you, thank you.

My name is Jeff Szabo, I'm the Chief Executive Officer of the Suffolk County Water Authority, and we're here to discuss the North Fork Water Main Project. This is the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and this is the third of three Public Hearings.

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So the guideline for tonight's hearing, the purpose is to receive public comment and for you to express your concerns, recommendations, express any issues you may have on the draft DEIS. The public comments will be responded to in writing. We've decided to extend the written comment period two weeks, so we now have until September 25th at 5 p.m. to submit any written comments, which I think was good. A couple of elected officials had asked if we would extend it a week or two and we did.

All substantive comments, whether received in writing or verbally during tonight's meeting, will be in the final EIS, as we had in the initial draft. It'll all be posted on the Water Authority's website.

Tonight -- and I want to be

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very clear about this: Tonight, it's not a back and forth, it's not a Q and A. This is a public hearing, we're following the rules of a public hearing where we present information and then you're able to speak.

I would ask, if you haven't done so already, if you plan to address myself and the other folks that are joining me up here tonight, please fill out a card with your name and address. I'll be given the cards and then once the presentation is done, I'll call through those who wish to speak and to address the members. We are limiting the speakers to three minutes, thereabout. So we ask that you also please take that into consideration.

Before we begin, I want to talk a little bit about the Suffolk County Water Authority, who we are

and what we do.

The Suffolk County Water Authority is one of the largest groundwater suppliers in the nation. We've been at the cutting edge of the drinking water industry for over 75 years. This year we'll celebrating our fifth -- 75th anniversary of being in operation and providing safe drinking water.

We are a not-for-profit public benefit corporation operating under New York State Public Authorities Law; right? Established by the State Legislature many, many years ago; I believe, actually, 1937. We operate a system that's throughout all 10 towns. We serve about one point two million Suffolk County residents and have about 400,000 accounts.

We operate in a way that so that we can provide drinking water

benefits on a regional basis. So we don't have the restraints of operating in a township, in one township or another or a village; we have the legal ability to operate across our entire service territory which is all of Suffolk County.

SCWA serves any Suffolk resident located outside of a municipal water district, okay. So anyone not in an existing municipal water district is considered a customer of the Suffolk County Water Authority.

We have about 600 employees. Our professionals handle nearly every aspect of our operations, from engineering, laboratory scientists, the customer service reps, IT, construction and maintenance, communications. Our workforce, every day, ensures that we have reliable, high quality

water. About two-thirds of our team are blue collar workers and about a third are white collar.

We are not -- this is important. We're not a branch of Suffolk County government. Very confusing; people often think that we're a department within the County; we are not. We also do not create or enforce drinking water standards, but we are responsible for following the regulations set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency and the New York State Department of Health.

SCWA does not control land use or development. That's also a very common misconception we hear. That power is reserved for the local municipalities, including the townships and the villages.

We're a little different than other places, too; this is important. We get all of our

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drinking water from our sole source aquifer located beneath our feet.

In many parts of the country, drinking water is sourced from rivers and surface waters, lakes and reservoirs. Like New York City, for example, they get their water from Upstate, New York, from the reservoirs and they're pumped down through tunnels and provided to the residents of the city.

One hundred percent of our water comes from the sole source aquifer. It's composed of three principal layers; the Upper Glacial, the Magothy and the Lloyd. Collectively, they contain over a trillion gallons of groundwater; 65,000 trillion gallons. We maintain more than 600 public supplies -- public supply wells at about 240 different locations. So at one particular well field we may

have three, four wells. We have about 240 of them from Melville to Montauk.

I want to talk a little bit about our laboratory. We're very proud of the work that our laboratory staff and the good things that they do. It's a state-of-the-art laboratory. It's one of the largest groundwater supply -- laboratories in the country. Tests samples are taken at various locations. So we test at the well head at various stages of treatment and within the distribution system for bacteria and a wide range of organic and inorganic. So we test out in the distribution system, we test pre-treatment at the well and post-treatment at the well.

We analyze almost a hundred thousand samples a year generating almost 200,000 test results. We

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test for almost 400 compounds, 400; we're only required to test -- I'm sorry, that's 231 more than we are required to.

Folks would ask why do we do that, right? I'm sure that's a question we all have. We're not required to. We do that because we think you should know -- not you folks, because most of you are from Riverhead, but our customers in our service territory should know what's in their drinking water.

And we participate in the unregulated contaminant monitoring rule where we test for unregulated compounds. We test to see if it's in drinking water. We don't just do it, many other large suppliers across the country like us do that, so that the EPA can decide whether they want to set a regulation for an unregulated compound. We provide all the data to the Federal

government, they then will decide whether a Federal standard should be set. As we do that, over the years we continue to accumulate compounds that we test for. That's why that number is so high.

We also test at a higher frequency than required by the Suffolk County Department of Health. Our in-house standards for water quality are often tougher than State or Federal regulations. And our scientists -- we're very proud of this. Our scientists in our laboratory, they've developed new testing methods for emerging compounds. We are developing, in our laboratory, methods that other drinking water suppliers across the country are not doing.

We also -- I want to point out, this is -- you know, people ask about challenges and things that are of concern. Certainly,

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many of you have heard about PFOS and PFOA; we began testing for them in 2013. The United States Environmental Protection Agency has proposed a national drinking water standard of four parts for PFOS and PFOA four parts. SCWA already meets that Federal standard. That standard is taking effect in 2031. So other drinking water suppliers have several years before they comply with that new one; we're already meeting it and exceeding it.

We know that SCWA -- you know that SCWA serves impacted communities, including ones right here in Riverhead. Riverhead, along River Road here, we work with the Town of Riverhead in having an agreement so that we could do a water main extension project. So folks who are on private wells, not connected to the Water Authority or

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to the Riverhead Water District, there's a significant issue. We work with the Town and the residents so that we can do water main extensions and get them connected to public water. We're really proud of that fact. And over the years, believe it or not, we have worked cooperatively when needed.

You can tell by this map here, there are several areas. The red lines are all water main extension projects; people who are on private wells, not connected to a system, that had significant detections of PFOS and PFOA that exceeded the State and Federal standards. Projects in Southampton, certainly this entire area up here in Riverhead and then a lot in Brookhaven, River Road, South River Road, Halsey Manor Road, Star Boulevard. All of these

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projects are underway or have been completed to connect these folks to safe drinking water. And this doesn't just end here. We've done these types of projects across our entire service territory working with the Suffolk County Department of Health and other levels of jurisdiction.

This is something -- I became CEO 17, eight -- 17 years ago, I think. I never would have imagined I would have spent this much time -- right -- trying to connect these people to these unregulated compounds. Right? Strategic planning, ensuring that we have, you know, staff, competent staff drilling new wells, adequate supply -- you know, I'm thinking of capital projects and things like that. A tremendous amount of our time is spent working with people who now, because detection levels

are so low, were able to work with the regulators in the Health Department to detect PFOS and then to come up with plans to get these folks safe drinking water. It's something I'm really proud of. Of course, it's not just me, it's all of our staff here at the Water Authority.

We do have challenges on the North Fork. Supplying water is a significant issue. We do have 60 wells, 60 shallow, small-capacity wells at 18 different well fields in the Township of Southold. We serve just under 10,000 customers. Peak demand is about 12,664 gallons per minute. However, usable capacity is significantly less than that, so we don't pump that much water, even though we're permitted to.

There are some restrictions imposed by the New York State

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Department of Environmental Conservation and then we have our own internal restrictions which allow -- which requires to sort of pull up that -- pull below that number a little bit. Some of that is looking out for chlorides and making sure that we're not working the well too hard, pumping the well too hard.

Virtually all of the wells on the North Fork draw from the Upper Glacial Aquifer, because it's the only part of the aquifer that we can draw from in this area. If you go western Suffolk and to areas -- I live in the Village of Babylon -- right -- we have very deep wells. We don't have, really, significant issues with PFOS, PFOA. We have iron, iron filtration, we have some of that, but here -- and we have multiple levels of the aquifer that we can pull from,

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Magothy, Upper Glacial. Here we just have the Upper Glacial. It's shallower and, of course, the surface conditions can impact water quality.

Approximately 25 wells require treatment for pesticides and herbicides, and chlorides further limit operational capacities of our wells. All of the wells on the North Fork are threatened by lateral and -- lateral salt water intrusion because they sit above salt water.

A very important point I want to remind folks of. The highest detections of PFOS in the entire County are in multiple hamlets located in the Township of Southold.

We talked about some of the challenges we face; peak demand -- right -- that's the early-morning hours. All of our wells are

running, all of our storage tanks. We have 65-plus ground and elevated storage tanks. All of those tanks are draining because everyone has, what? What's happening at 5:00, 6:00 a.m. in the morning?

LEGISLATOR DOROSKI: Residential lawn irrigation.

MR. SZABO: Lawn irrigation. Folks are getting up -- right -- in the beginning of their day, activities are starting to happen. So those two factors certainly impact our ability to provide, you know, adequate pressure in some places and high demand.

Our capacity to drill additional wells is limited in this area. For many years we would always -- our answer would be if we need more capacity we'll drill another well. That's not an answer in Southold. It's not possible anymore. There just isn't enough

water in Southold to do that. That's a problem.

Also, like I mentioned, chloride levels are on the rise, so making it necessary to cut back on the use of several wells. The current demand is outstripping capacity. Demand in Southold continues to increase. The number of customers that SCWA serves has risen over the years, not quite at the level of other areas, but as a result, consumption is outstripping supply. This problem will only get worse with time. You can see, on average, from the chart, since 2002 -- right -- the number of customers increased. On average, it's about a hundred, 110 a year, and that's just folks who are coming off private wells or from very limited new development, but we've served just under 10,000 as of today.

As I mentioned, it's

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difficult to drill new wells on the North Fork. Geology, very fresh water aquifers are limited by the surrounding salt water, restricting well depth and capacity. Pumping of these wells risk permanent salt water intrusion, therefore permanently destroying the well making it unusable.

Regulators -- right -- several wells have DEC permits but they're limited because of chloride monitoring. There are a few viable locations remaining for any major wells in the Township of Southold. Also the cost -- right -- capital cost for a well, we're talking about several million dollars in well field property, treatment. So these are all things that we factor in when we're looking at adequate -- we're providing adequate supply.

Another chart -- I just want to show our chloride levels. This

is Sound Avenue; well three and Islands End well, 7a. You see the fluctuation? This is during pump -- this matches pumpage; the more you pump the higher the chlorides. When you take a well out of service or reduce pumping, chloride levels go down. In many instances we need to pull off the use of the well so that those levels go down to acceptable levels.

We've been trying -- right -- we've been trying for a number of years now to engage the public and to promote conservation. We have literally spent millions of dollars promoting smart irrigation controllers, rain sensors, EPA water sense low-flow shower heads, faucet heads, pool covers that are solar pool covers and smart leak detections and all this stuff. Over $700,000 has been given back to customers in rebates.

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In 2020 we adopted a tier grade structure, tiered rates, so that those who use more water would pay for their water use. We think that that's a good thing and that certainly has helped.

In 2020, SCWA also banned the use of Open Loop Geothermal Systems which use a tremendous amount of water.

In January of 2023, SCWA instituted a new Comprehensive Water Conservation Plan. Some of the key elements are odd/even watering -- right. We passed a resolution, my Board, odd/even watering. We passed another resolution that prohibited watering between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. I mentioned some of the rebates that we've been giving out to customers.

We also have spent literally hundreds of thousands of dollars annually in a proactive messaging

campaign, social media ads, public meetings, radio spots, you name it, to try to get -- teach folks the importance of water, the value of water and how we are all stewards of the aquifer.

We have a lot of water, there's no doubt about it. The aquifer is 65 trillion gallons, but that doesn't mean that we, this generation of folks, should just abuse it; right? We have to know the value of water so that it's there for future generations.

Despite this -- right -- despite all of these efforts tank levels reach load levels and we're seeing its impacts. This time of year, it's late August, it's very hot. We've had a drought -- right -- folks have heard all summer about the drought that the State has declared.

SCWA, during the summer, our

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tanks -- this is the one in Greenport -- this is a 250,000 gallon tank, 30-feet high. But during the early morning hours, when all of the sprinklers are running and everyone's getting up and getting ready for work, this tank will drop; this tank level will drop down to just a few feet.

My concern and Joe Pokorny's concern, our Deputy Chief of Operations, and Brendan Warner, our Construction Director, our concern is we will run out of water in one of these tanks. We just don't have the capacity to keep these tanks full and have adequate pressure and have enough water in case there's a medical emergency or a fire or something like that. This is a real concern.

We get these reports every morning in the summer; this is what makes us lose sleep, texts like

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this. Pressure drops, customers, we don't have the reserved capacity to fight fires. Conservation is helping, but it will never be enough, right. The problem is getting worse and there'll never be enough.

We need a long-term solution to provide adequate water to Southold and we've come up with it.

I want to a back up a little bit and just talk a little bit about why we're here and some of the things that we've done under the SEQRA process.

We first publicly discussed the idea of this type of project back at the Southold Town Board in 2022.

In August of 2023, we had a round-table discussion held with elected officials to discuss the project conceptually. SCWA, we, at that time, committed to holding

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public scoping sessions and engaging the public and having conversations like this. In fact, some of the folks in this room were at that meeting with many elected officials and folks from Riverhead hosted it and we had very open, frank conversations about the need for a reliable water source in Southold.

SCWA, they hired Nelson, Pope, Voorhis to conduct environmental review; we then retained CDM-Smith, they were hired to do the environmental analysis. Two well-respected firms that do a lot of business with, all government agencies -- towns, counties, state -- across the entire area.

We held three public scoping sessions last June in 2025 and I think the important thing about the process is, under SEQRA,

it worked, right? I'm really proud to stand here before you to say the SEQRA process worked. This is how it was intended to work. You have a plan, you put the project out there, you engage the public, you talk to elected officials, you get feedback. You compile all of the comments, you then answer questions, you then meet and come up with a better plan, and that's what we've done.

So we have a map here of the area. We plan to take water from Flanders where we have it, we have surplus water that we plan to move over 104, 105 through Flanders Road and Whitebrook Drive and Flanders up to Cross River Drive.

Originally, we had proposed Sound Avenue as the first route, that would be an option. Since then, after that first round of public hearings, we have now

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shifted the plan and we're now looking to propose using Main Road, and there are several benefits. It's a shorter route. It's about a mile shorter. It's less expensive, by an estimated $10 million or so; we require one booster station and not two. And these are all -- this is feedback that was -- that we heard from folks who made public comment: Stay off Sound Avenue, it's narrow, it's historic, we can't have a water main project disrupting commerce and the folks up there. So we heard you. We understand your concerns and we agree that we think the State road is a much better way to go.

I just stole my thunder from the slide, I'm sorry.

So the new route has several benefits, like I said: Traffic Concerns, safety concerns, it's more direct, miles shorter, less

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water main, and it's also hydraulically beneficial.

I'm going to turn it over to Brendan Warner who's going to talk. He's our Director of Construction. He'll talk specifically about the path and then he'll introduce Carrie O'Farrell who will talk about the Draft EIS.

Brendan? Thank you.

MR. WARNER: Thanks, Jeff.

Good afternoon, everyone. As Jeff said, I'm Brendan Warner, Director of Construction Maintenance.

So the department I oversee maintains our distribution system throughout the County, so that's about 6,000 miles of water main, just to give you an idea. So I'll go through some of the details of the route, some of the construction impacts that we're expecting with this route.

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So as Jeff kind of highlighted, the water main extension itself is seven point five miles of 24 inch ductal iron water main. It's going to go from Flanders, where we have the water, to the Southold Town line where we need the water. It will include two directional drills as well as a booster station.

So the route itself -- it's kind of tough to see here. We're going to tie into our existing distribution system at Flanders Road and Cross River Drive. And so from there we'll then proceed north along 105, up in the shoulder until we've reached the Peconic River; there we'll do a directional drill. So the directional drill is an installation method that we use when there's an obstruction on the surface that we can't open and cut. So that could be a river, it could

be a railroad crossing, some other conflict on the surface.

So we'll directionally drill under the Peconic River. From there, follow on 105, again, heading north, we'll do another directional drill beneath the Long Island Railroad and continue up until we reach the Water Authority's property that's at the corner of 105 and Main Road; that's where a booster station will be located.

So the booster station will allow us to move the necessary water from one end of the pipe to the other. And the booster station itself will consist of multiple pumps that will allow us to throttle that volume up and down, depending on daily demands or seasonal demands. Obviously less water needs in the colder months.

So from the booster station,

we'll then proceed with a directional drill under Main Road. And then, basically, we start heading east along the north side of Main Road and we continue along that way until the Southold Town line, and then we'll tie into our existing distribution system which is just past the town line.

So, as I had mentioned, the water main installation will be accomplished through open cut installation as well as directional drills. The directional drills, as I mentioned, it's something we do regularly, whether it be waterways or if we have a railroad crossing, things like that. So it's a technology that we're well versed in. And then the open cut installation. That's how we're installing most of the water main in our system. And what's involved in that is, basically, you excavate

a trench, install the water main. It gets backfilled and then temporarily restored and the roadway is opened up. The bulk of this project will be installed through open cut installation, but we do use that directional drill when we need to.

Typically, open cut trenching, we get production of about 300 feet a day, so that's kind of -- the project progresses 300 feet every day. That's going to depend on ground conditions, other utilities that we have to coordinate our work with. All of those things can impact that. If we're on a grassy shoulder and there's no other conflicts, we've seen that number as high as 700 feet a day.

And then in consideration of the community, we're going to avoid the road opening, traffic

interruptions during the busy fall season. That's another piece of feedback that we've heard through these public hearings.

As with any of our water main installation projects, we get road opening permits, we work with the municipality who owns the roadway to determine when that work should occur. So whether it's a County Road or a State road, they'll stipulate, you know, what are the work hours that we're able to, and obviously we comply with that, and then also work with them on the final restoration details. We're currently expecting to complete this project by 2028.

And then the last bullet we have, SCWA, we regularly install over 20 miles of water main a year. So that seven point five miles of new water main, it sounds like a lot, but in terms of the routine

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capital work that we do between our in-house staff who are designing and overseeing the projects or our contractors who are working with us on a daily basis, it's work that we're comfortable designing, planning and completing successfully.

As with any of these projects, there are always impacts with businesses, homeowners, other utilities and we coordinate that work all together with them to minimize the impact as best we can. While it's seven point five miles, it's not as though we're opening a trench that long for the duration of the project. It's really kind of a rolling project as it moves along.

So that's kind of the details of, like, how we're going to move the water. And so where is the water coming from. So we're

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not planning to drill any new wells for water to supply this project. We're going to utilize existing capacity in Southampton and we're going to pump the wells within our currently permitted capacity.

So we've identified 33 separate wells in our South Shore load zone. So this is a pressure zone. Each of those black dots is one of our pump stations where some of these wells are located. What's not shown on the map is all the water main that interconnects all these different wells all the way up to Flanders.

The wells draw from a mix of the Upper Glacial and Magothy aquifers. Southampton is geologically different than the North Fork, that's why we're able to produce the water here where we can necessarily do it on the North Fork. It has a deep water aquifer

and it's less prone to salt water intrusion; this way that fresh water lens is much thicker in this portion of the Island.

So what are the project benefits. So one with less resilience on the Southold wells, we'll be able to cut back the use and possibly retire wells impacted by salt water intrusion as wells emerging contaminants. In our engineering report we've identified, you know, kind of top-candidate wells that we'd like to cut back on the production of.

Importing water from outside the Southold hydrogeological cycle will provide additional recharge to help restore the thin aquifer. Again, we'll be pumping less so it will give the aquifer, basically, more opportunity to recover.

Additionally, with the SCWA pumping less water from Southold,

the agriculture industry can pump water for irrigation with less risk of salt water intrusion. Sometimes people forget that the Water Authority, we're not the only ones with wells. Obviously, there's a large agricultural sector on the North Fork, so it's a benefit for them as well.

And then lastly, as Jeff mentioned, more water mains improve pressure and supply for fire safety and emergencies.

So the project cost, what's this all going to cost. So what we're calling Phase 1, the preferred alternative, we're currently estimating it at about $22 million. The project itself is fully budgeted and we're going to integrate it into our existing $100 million capital improvement budget. So just like we have budgeted for water main replacement, system

improvements, this just becomes another project that we need to take on to make sure that we're providing our customers the service they deserve.

So potential grant funding may be available to offset project costs after the EIS is complete. So one of the requirements, before we can even apply for any grants, is completing the EIS. So as we do with any of our other capital projects -- whether they be new treatment systems, new wells, water main extensions -- we always seek to offset that with grant funding whenever possible.

And then the other note is that there are no customer connections in Riverhead along the route. So as Jeff had mentioned previously, we only serve customers that are outside existing municipal water districts.

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And then Phase 2 of the project is the Orient assessment area. So as Jeff had highlighted earlier, the Suffolk County Department of Health does these private well assessments where, in certain instances, they've been able to identify emerging contaminants in people's private wells, they're not on public water and basically, the Health Department goes out and begins testing people's private wells. So they identified one of these areas out in Orient, it's one of the highest detections of emerging contaminants that they've seen in the County.

And in the past, these survey areas or assessment areas have become candidates for grant projects or for water main extensions. So -- and oftentimes it takes years to, you know,

actually complete the project from first being identified. But -- so that's why we included it in this environmental assessment.

We're not currently planning to extend water main to Orient at this time. But the extension is being considered in the environmental review to be transparent and to incorporate the possible extension in the future. Failing to do so, as part of the environmental review, could be considered segmentation which, under SEQRA rules, is prohibited.

So with that, I will bring up Carrie O'Farrell with Nelson, Pope, Voorhis.

MS. O'FARRELL: Good afternoon. I'm Carrie O'Farrell, I'm a Senior Partner with the firm of Nelson Pope Voorhis. We were the primary preparers of the Environmental Impact Statement for

the project.

Our firm is an environmental planning firm that has assisted the Towns of Southampton, Southold, Riverhead and environmental review projects. We work on complex environmental reviews all over Long Island and in the upper Hudson Valley as well. So this is something that we've worked with the Water Authority on -- as Jeff mentioned -- since 2003.

The Water Authority was declared the lead agency in the environmental review; that is a role that means that they are responsible for not only the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement, but also this public engagement process through the completion of what's called the finding statement which is the final document in the environmental review process.

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We're using the term EIS, that is Environmental Impact Statement. That is the most comprehensive process for environmental review under State law, so the Water Authority has taken this to the most extensive review process possible. That process involves identifying the environment conditions along the route, determining potential environmental impacts, considering project alternatives and identifying ways to prevent or suitably mitigate potential impacts, "as much as to the maximum extent practical" is the language directly from the law.

The content of the EIS was determined last June -- really last summer -- through a series of public scoping meetings -- there were three. And we had a written comment period as well, which we

got a lot of comments, and we integrated that into an overall outline to make sure that we covered everything that the public had indicated was of concern.

And the Draft Environmental Impact Statement has now been released and is available on the Suffolk County Water Authority website -- oh, sorry, I wanted to use that later. But it's at the website below, and in case you haven't seen it yet, the web page does have some project information.

First, you just scroll down towards the bottom and you can see the repeat EIS and that's how you access the document, in case haven't seen it.

MR. MILAZZO: Carrie, it's also upstairs.

MS. O'FARRELL: Oh, yes, there are hard copies available in several locations. Each of the

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libraries -- Riverhead, Southampton and the -- oh, sorry, Southold, and the Suffolk County Water Authority office in Westhampton have hard copies as well as the office in Oakdale.

There are extensive plans -- there's one outside, too -- and figures and, you know, there's quite a bit to look through. The Executive Summary is something I highly recommend, that's, I think, a 50-something page document, but it does really cover the meat of what's included in the document.

Just an overview, quickly, of what is included. We did an analysis of topography and soils; water resources including wetlands, surface waters and groundwater; ecological resources, land use zoning and area land use plans; historic and cultural resources; traffic; construction-related

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impacts; noise, including construction and operational noise; cumulative impacts including a build-out analysis; growth-inducing and secondary impacts; and then we evaluated the project alternatives.

So just going back to the different routes, the Environmental Impact Statement looks at that original route that goes along Sound Avenue and then these additional routes, including a no action alternative which means we don't do anything, what happens.

The preferred alternative, which is that routing that would head along Main Road is emphasized and evaluated in a lot of detail in the Environmental Impact Statement because that was the route that showed to be preferred based on, again, the environmental impacts and the engineering report that was completed.

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And we also looked at Peconic Bay Boulevard as a southern route, and that route was dismissed for a number of environmental reasons.

I'm going to pass it over to Dan really quickly to talk about CDM's analysis.

MR. O'ROURKE: Thank you.

Hi, everyone. Good afternoon.

My name's Dan O'Rourke, I'm with CDM-Smith. CDM-Smith's been doing groundwater modeling in Suffolk County for over 30 years now. Very well versed in applying the models to various applications, one of which was the Sub-Watershed's Management Plan we did for the Suffolk County Department of Health Services; we finished that up about six years ago. That involved very highly discretized groundwater flow

models, so the note spacing is super tight on those flow models, and we used those flow models for this evaluation here for the Water Authority.

As Brendan said before, you know, you're pulling water out of, you know, the wells on the South Shore and then you're adding water to Southold -- right. So we wanted to look at what the resulting change in the water table is on both those instances, looking at the drawdown for many increased pumping and then looking at any water table mounting that would result as adding new customers over time.

We run a transit groundwater model for 50 years. What the results show is basically that the groundwater mounding in Southold is very minimal, the water table drawdowns even less in the

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Westhampton area. So we're talking like a couple of inches, like at each, so really no impact. No detrimental impact, shall I say, to either drawdown or mounding. It's generally within the seasonal fluctuations that we see within the water table. We also looked at the impact of stream flow with the base flow to the streamings on the South Shore. Again, I think it was on the order of 500 of the CFS, so well within the normal flow pattern of all of those creeks. So at the end of the day, it was really a positive outcome showing that the impact is negligible.

Next slide.

MS. O'FARRELL: One thing I'll note, just to add to that. In environmental review, you look at worse case scenario, so you're considering the Water Authority looked at what additional customers

would come on-line, how much additional water would be released into the system; we looked at that over a 50-year build-out kind of scenario. So it is a -- again, the worst -- well, the reasonable worst case scenario is what we evaluated.

The more important part was identifying mitigation measures. So these are -- there is a lengthy list of mitigation measures that is included in the environmental impact statement. These are just a few, but they're very relevant to folks in Riverhead that will be -- that would be along the construction route.

So as mentioned before, the installation of the main is at a rate of 300 to 600 feet a day. So that means the road is opened, they do the work and they backfill and repave, temporarily pave it within the same day. And then the

equipment gets put to the side of the road and they come back the next day and 300 feet further down the line they do the same thing. So it is a rolling construction that does not have significant traffic delays associated with it or significant areas of roadway shutdown.

To the extent possible, the main is being installed either within the roadbed itself or on the shoulder. So it is, again, trying -- they took a look at all the different options, making sure that they could keep a lane open at all times and that traffic controls, which I'll talk about in a minute. All the work would be scheduled to avoid those peak summer and fall seasonal traffic and special events. As I mentioned, traffic -- oh, sorry. Trenches, rather, would be backfilled and temporarily

black-topped each day.

The Water Authority has a detailed coordination with land owners, so that those along the route know what's coming and when, so that they can plan what -- you know, that there would be disruption and how long that would be. They work with the land owners to make sure that they can have access, if needed, during the day. They use train -- trained flag people, traffic signage, clone -- traffic cones and detours as needed to manage traffic safely through the route.

Use of road milling and full-depth, diamond-cut saw cutting is a mitigation measure in close proximity to any of the sensitive historic structures along Main Road. That's a way to reduce vibration and it also helps with noise.

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They will fully repave the affected roadway upon completion of the project, so that is a bonus for those along the route. There will be erosion and sediment controls along the entire length of the route, implementation of a storm water pollution prevention plan to make sure that there's no discharges, construction discharges into the surface waters.

There's protocols for strict soil and equipment management. Adherence to all wetland permit conditions, use of the horizontal directional drill below wetlands and major intersections.

And just a point that I want to make, in crossing the Peconic, that directional drill goes below the bed of the Peconic, so it is not disrupting the waterway at all.

Plant innovative species for the proposed booster station and

the landscaped areas that are disturbed along the route. We did get some comments about a -- along Main Road near Church, there was a recent wetland restoration project and we took a look at that and the route is on the north side of the road in the road bed. There's no proposed disturbance that would be anywhere near the area that was recently completed as part of that wetland restoration.

There was a noise study that was completed and there are recommendations that would be adhered to for that, including the use of sound abatement measures during construction for any work that's done out -- if required by the State, they may have to work outside of normal business hours. So if your -- if that has to take place, they will use eco-barrier -- echo barriers, sorry, removable

sound barriers which help significantly with noise reduction.

They will comply with all the applicable requirements and permit conditions from the Department of Transportation for work along Main Road and with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works for work along Cross River Drive. And again, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement has a number of additional mitigation measures that I invite you to look at.

As Jeff mentioned, tonight -- the purpose of tonight is for us to hear your comments and input on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The written comment period has been extended until September 25th and comments that we hear tonight are treated the same way as comments that we receive in writing. All comments, we have a

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-- the hearing is being transcribed; we will write them all down and get them into a final Environmental Impact Statement which will be available on the website. And again, we ask you to try and keep your comments the three minutes tonight.

This is just, again, where you can access the document.

There's a QR code, if you would like to use that we'll leave that up, and this is the third of our Public Hearings tonight.

So we are now going to turn it over to get your comments.

MR. SZABO: Thank you, Carrie. Thank you very much. And Brendan, thank you, too, and Dan.

We have several cards. I'll start by just thanking you all for attending again tonight, we do appreciate it. I will do my best to keep you to three minutes.

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The first card is from Frank Mancini.

MR. MANCINI: Thanks, Jeff. I'm Frank Mancini, the Superintendent of Riverhead Water District.

When I first saw the new plans -- I saw it Monday morning, I was surprised to see that it seems like your intention is to run this large transmission main as close as possible to the existing 12-inch water main that serves our customers on Main Road. It shows a number of direct conflicts where your pipe passes right through ours. This represents a problem for the Riverhead Water District.

First, we know that disturbing the ground around an existing water main causes the ground to settle for years and that causes failures. The main cause there is the over pipe. This

H3FM-1
Section 2.12

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problem has actually been a problem for Suffolk County water when the Southwest Sewer District was installed, and they installed their piping in your service area. That led to decades of litigation between the two agencies and I'd like to try and avoid that.

The second problem is installing new service on our main will become much more complicated and expensive for our users on Main Road, because now we need to offset the big services around your pipe. In order to offset them, the main will be at least 10 feet away so I can have the ability to move the big pipe up and around your -- or under it. This is an additional cost and so it is not fair to our ratepayers, you know.

So I'm hoping we can work out something, whether we move it 10 feet away to give us a little

H3FM-1
Section 2.12

H3FM-2
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space, or maybe a bond that, if failures do occur in the future, you guys take those -- responsibility for those. But as it stands now, I don't think this is particularly fair to us.

MR. SZABO: Joyce Novak.

MS. NOVAK: Hi. I'm Joyce Novak, I am the Director of the Peconic Bay National Estuary Program.

So, a couple of things. We very much are happy to see, you know, clean water for everybody, always. You've devoted millions of dollars and a decade of outreach with little to no success in getting homeowners to reduce the use of your water for irrigation.

We would very much like to facilitate conversations between the Water Authority and the County Department of Health and New York State to have this line, when it's

H3FM-2
Section 2.12

H3JN-1
Section 2.6.5

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run, only be for drinking water; and find solutions to allow people to use the existing wells that go off-line to irrigate their properties as one of many possible solutions that we can have.

The second thing I would like to draw attention to that I hope is addressed; two things. In the full EIS, the USGS is not finished with their work with looking at the aquifer on the East End of Long Island; they have completed Nassau County, they are still completing Suffolk. I'm wondering if you're coordinating with them through this process. They will have much more precise data, just by the nature of the years they've had to collect data, for their modeling. When you talk about salt water intrusion and the model that CDM-Smith is running for Southampton reductions. You have

H3JN-1
Section 2.6.5

H3JN-2
Section 2.6.2

H3JN-3
Section 2.6.2

H3JN-4
Section 2.2.1

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kettle halls, you have rental pools, you have lots of things in that area.

Lastly, the area on the Southampton side, where you will stage the directional drilling, will have pretty severe impact. So I'm hoping that the final EIS will address that specific portion of the project, you're right in salt marsh and protected lands there where you stage the directional drilling.

H3JN-4
Section 2.2.1

H3MF-1
Section 2.16

Thank you.

MR. SZABO: Thank you.

Mike Folet? Is there a Mike Folet?

MR. FOLEY: Or is it Mike Foley?

MR. SZABO: Foley? I'm sorry.

MR. FOLEY: My name is Mike Foley from Reeves Park. I don't need that mic, though.

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I'm here because, you know, to Denise Civiletti is one of the people that keep us informed of things. And she had a great article about an interview that you had, Jeff, with her and mentioned a number of different things, how Sound Avenue stopped because you listen to the people. You know, I'd like to call BS on that to start. All right? You stopped it because it wasn't a sound plan to begin with. It was the wrong direction that wasn't going to provide adequate pressure. So for whatever the reason, all of your experts couldn't figure it out.

At the scoping session, I heard Fred Mancini say it, so you guys just didn't want to listen. Now, maybe that's because you get paid a lot of money. You know, I took a look at your salary in 2024, it was about three hundred grand.

H3MF-1
Section 2.16

H3MF-2
Section 2.16

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You have six staff people, that rounded it off to about a million bucks.

You charge more money for your customers than Riverhead charges; Riverhead charges less to do it. So I guess, you know, sometimes things have to make sense to me. I'm a high school graduate, but I've got a pretty decent sense of what's right and what's wrong. And I need somebody to explain to me how you have a monopoly on expanding water to the East End of Long Island when Riverhead, who can do the job for 25 percent of what you are, sits ready, willing and able to do that. How do you come in and get this contract? How do you end up with the monopoly? How does Suffolk County Water determine the prices and where you're going to send your pipes? Enough is enough. The people have had

H3MF-2
Section 2.16

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enough.

And we're on to you, Jeff. You're really a part of it, but far as planning and implementation is concerned, I think your bush league.

Thank you.

MR. SZABO: Thank you, Mr. Foley.

Kathleen --

MS. COURTNEY: Courtney?

MR. SZABO: (Continuing) -- Courtney.

MS. COURTNEY: Can I say it from here or do I need to go to the mic?

MR. SZABO: We just want to make sure that --

MS. COURTNEY: Can you hear me, everybody?

MR. SZABO: (Continuing) -- Alison can hear you okay.

MR. POKORNY: No, we need it for the record.

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MS. COURTNEY: Is this okay? Good? Okay. I'm happy about your commitment to conservation, and if I lived in Southold I'd probably be thrilled. But I don't, I live in Aquebogue off of West Lane with a -- with an historic cemetery at the base of the hill on Main Road.

The Monroe determination was based on the earlier Sound Avenue route and it shouldn't merely be incorporated into the revision. A fresh determination may show similar reasons to not use the Main Road.

In describing the switch to the Main Road plan, I see a lot of indeterminate language without timelines describing all the disruption that will result from this project. I know that you have to break a few egg shells to make an omelette, but can there please be another way to do this? You're

H3KC-1
Section 2.18

H3KC-2
Section 2.16.1

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going to wreck a community.

Thank you.

MR. SZABO: Barbara Blass.

MS. BLASS: Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen. My name is Barbara Blass and I live in Jamesport.

A change in project during SEQRA is completely acceptable, but what is not acceptable is that for almost a year-and-a-half all the SEQRA documents, assessment forms, narrative attachments, Draft and Final Scope, public meetings, ENB notices and the Monroe tests all pertain to a different action.

For almost a year and-a-half, we have been focusing on discussing the proposed action that could not function without building a second pump station somewhere or a 50 percent increase in the size of the pipe. The proposed action was not suitably

H3KC-2
Section 2.16.1

H3BB-1
Section 2.16.3

H3BB-2
Section 2.16.3

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designed to adequately meet the goals of the project, according to the hydrogeological analysis contained in the DEIS. This change of plan was not a case of "We heard you," it's more like, "Oakdale, we have a problem."

The SEQRA record is less than sound. We scoped a site-specific action that doesn't work and commented on impacts along a different route. Page seven -- S-14 of the DEIS, we read that the proposed action, the Sound Avenue route, is, "The subject of the bulk of this assessment." The DEIS is devoted primarily to the Sound Avenue route. This begs the question whether this DEIS provides enough accurate, detailed information for a balanced evaluation to support a finding statement.

The Main Road route is now

H3BB-2
Section 2.16.3

H3BB-3
Section 2.16.3

H3BB-4
Section 2.16.3

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the preferred action, and while both Sound Avenue and Main Road share some of the same impacts, shifting the route changes impact intensity and shifts the location of the impacts to a different setting.

The DOT, an involved agency, said in it's correspondence that, "The original route, Sound Avenue, has less impact on the public and traffic." There are significantly more established businesses and residences which will be impacted by the Main Road route. This is not surprising since this route traverses eight Zoning Use Districts including five Business Districts.

There is no substantive traffic information in this DEIS, no traffic counts, patterns, seasonal fluctuation, etcetera. The Town has received more detailed

H3BB-4
Section 2.16.3

H3BB-5
Section 2.11

H3BB-6
Section 2.16.3

H3BB-7
Section 2.11

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traffic information on a 15-lot subdivision than you've provided in this document.

You mentioned traffic safety protocols around the Oyster Pond School which has a student population of 90, and that's noteworthy except that the school is in Orient and this phase of the project will not be built any time soon, if at all.

H3BB-7
Section 2.11

There is no specific mention of the Aquebogue Elementary School located directly on the preferred route with an enrollment of close to 450 students. How will construction along Route 25 impact the daily school bus activity to this school and others in the district? Bus stops along the construction zone may not have alternate mobile roads to utilize. The FES -- the FEIS fails to adequately -- the DEIS fails to

H3BB-8
Section 2.11

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adequately address this.

The DEIS contains several references to the Water Authority's indisputable immunity from local zoning. Unfortunately, that matter is the subject of litigation brought by the Suffolk County Water Authority, the lead agency, against the Town of Riverhead. And until it is decided by the Court, any statement about the Authority's immunity is premature and speculative. The FEIS must be based on factual, not speculative information.

H3BB-8
Section 2.11

H3BB-9
Section 2.18

And the issue of immunity is separate and distinct from SEQRA review. Nevertheless, you decided to include what is described as your Monroe Test determination in the appendix -- Appendix C of the DEIS. The document reads like an official resolution but it's on plain, white

H3BB-10
Section 2.18

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paper, is undated and lacks a recorded vote.

You have received relevant and pertinent information from the Town of Riverhead regarding its Monroe Balancing Test which comes to a different conclusion. You, as lead agency, made an arbitrary decision to include your resolution in the document and exclude Riverhead's. This action by the lead agency is unacceptable and taints the SEQRA record. I'm almost done.

MR. SZABO: Okay.

MS. BLASS: The DEIS describes the protocol for excavating activity within 100-feet of any regulated DEC fresh water wetland or 300 feet of tidal wetlands. Riverhead's wetland jurisdictions are 450 and 350 feet, respectively. The protocol described activities including

H3BB-10
Section 2.18

H3BB-11
Section 2.18

H3BB-12
Section 2.6.1

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excavation and staging outside of the DEC regulated wetlands areas, "To prevent inadvertent disturbance and ensure effective separation from sensitive wetland resources."

H3BB-12
Section 2.6.1

As the lead agency and project sponsor, the Authority cannot hide behind a cloak of Monroe Immunity and ignore potential impacts to portions of existing wetlands because they are within the jurisdiction of a local municipality. The lead agency must take the requisite hard look, the FEIS must clearly identify the boundaries of the wetlands and the regulated area, according to Chapter 295 of the Riverhead Town Code, and seek a permit if any -- if any activity is to occur within.

H3BB-13
Section 2.6.1

I have one last paragraph.

Finally, to mitigate noise, as was mentioned this evening, and reduce vibration impacts, the DEIS

H3BB-14
Section 2.10

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describes a specific construction plan within 90-feet of all listed and eligible historic structures. This mitigation should also be employed in the vicinity of other noise and vibration sensitive receptors such as schools, churches and day-care centers.

H3BB-14
Section 2.10

H3BS-1
Section 2.6.2

I thank you very much for your time and attention. How far over was I?

MR. SZABO: You were two minutes 15 seconds, roughly, over.

All right, thank you very much, Ms. Blass.

It looks like -- and I apologize if I mix the names up, I don't have my glasses and some of the handwriting is difficult to read. This looks like Benji Schwartz?

MR. SCHWARTZ: No, Benja.

MR. SZABO: Benja, I'm sorry. Hello, Benja.

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MR. SCHWARTZ: I was born about less than years after the Suffolk County Water Authority started, but I've been around for a while in Cutchogue and I now work as an office manager for a nephrology office; some people say the wetlands of the Earth's kidneys.

So, thank you for presenting this idea, but I've always had a little problem with Suffolk County Water Authority not really being part of Suffolk County government, although it sounds like it, and also not really a water authority.

Specifically in relation to this project, the Water Authority is talking about what it does; supplies fresh water. But it's also not talking about what it doesn't but will be necessary to be done if this project goes through is dispose of the used wastewater.

H3BS-1
Section 2.6.2

H3BS-2
Section 2.6.2

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Even if there are no new homes constructed, the existing homes will have greater capacity and will use greater water.

H3BS-2
Section 2.6.2

Someone rented the house next to me last -- two weeks ago and the well ran dry, they're going to have to put a new well in.

H3BS-3
Section 2.6.2

I live on Fleets Neck in Cutchogue in the heart of the Peconic Estuary in the oldest house on Fleets Neck, right on the water. I overlook the creeks and Fisherman's Beach. Fisherman's Beach is a small peninsula, about a thousand feet long, but there's a lot of parallels between that small peninsula and the North Fork.

The water on Fisherman's Beach was coming from Nassau Point, which is about four miles long. But, again, another peninsula with a challenge-stream water supply. The idea that we have the sole

H3BS-4
Section 2.16.4

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source aquifer on Long Island is ridiculous. As you know very well, there are many aquifers, but we don't know how many aquifers there are on the North Fork. There are many, many small aquifers that will all be impacted by the importation of water across the boundary of the watershed. So you're talking about the aquifer boundaries, but you need to also address the watershed boundaries, where the water goes after it's used.

H3BS-4
Section 2.16.4

The idea of the Riverhead water department supplying some water for the North Fork is good; I don't know if that's included as an alternative in the Environmental Impact Statement.

H3BS-5
Section 2.6.2

In closing, I would like to just say that this project does raise political questions and there's arguments between the municipality and the non-profit

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corporation, economies and politics. But the environmental facts, the real science provides us with what we all know, the more water we use the more waste water there'll be.

One last example. The project that is being processed by the Southold Town Planning Board for site plan review, Rejuvenate Farms. It's a start-up farm on property that hasn't been used in 50 years and their plans include connecting to Suffolk County Water Authority for the sole source of water for their farm.

The Suffolk County Water Authority has not appeared in that site plan review, they haven't said anything, so the Planning Board hasn't asked, hasn't contacted the Water Authority. Many of the citizens have contacted the Water Authority and the Water Authority

H3BS-5
Section 2.6.2

H3BS-6
Section 2.16.4

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is waiting for the Town to ask it.

The Town has asked the applicant, does Suffolk County Water Authority have enough water to supply the farm, and he assures us yes, yes, yes. Well, of course he would say that, but we have no facts, no proof.

And this process is not unique. This is going on every day, every single development, and there's so many things that Suffolk County Water Authority could do to make a positive difference. In my humble opinion, this pipeline is not one of them, but if you're going to do it, I trust that you will take these comments that are provided tonight and respond to them in meaningful ways.

H3KR-1
Section 2.19

Thank you.

MR. SZABO: Thank you.

Ken Rothwell.

COUNCILMAN ROTHWELL: Good

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evening. For the record, I am Riverhead Town Councilman Ken Rothwell.

During the Suffolk County Water Authority Monroe Hearings on October 9th, I noted that -- other than Jeff Szabo, CEO of Suffolk County Water Authority and Suffolk County Water Authority representatives attorneys -- the full SCWA Board of Directors was absent from the Monroe Hearing and I questioned the validity.

Suffolk County Water Authority's Board of Directors physically conducted the Monroe Hearing. There was no Suffolk County Water Authority Board forum present at the hearings. Nevertheless, the Board, lead agency, somehow passed the Suffolk County Water Authority resolution finding itself immune from all local land use regulations.

H3KR-1
Section 2.19

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What I stated, and this is included in the Suffolk County Water Authority transcript, "To witness the lack of attendance and participation by the Suffolk County Water Authority Board requires me to question and ask under what and whose authority is the perpetuated or prudent Monroe Hearing taking place. And is this a singular decision or one of the Suffolk County Water Authority that is notably absent?"

The observation here is that the Suffolk County Water Authority Board of Directors -- Charles Lefkowitz, Elizabeth Mercado, John Porchia, John Rose and William Davidson -- were noted as all absent. A quorum of the Suffolk County Water Authority Board was not present during any of the Monroe Hearings held on October 7th, 8th and 9th.

H3KR-2
Section 2.18

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It is my understanding a Monroe Balance Test Hearing is an official public proceeding held by a local government board -- such as a Town Board, a governmental authority or a zoning board -- to weigh competing public interest and decide if a public project is immune from local zoning tools. This is precisely why a quorum of the Riverhead Town Board was present during its Monroe Hearing Test Public Hearing and we were all there as official proceedings.

I also note an authority's board cannot allow other employees to hold or execute official board proceedings without a Board quorum present. Without a quorum, a governing body lacks the legal authority to transact business, hold formal hearings or pass binding resolutions. Any official decisions, votes or formal

H3KR-2
Section 2.18

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proceedings undertaken without a quorum are legally invalid.

While a Board can delegate day-to-day administration tasks or fact-findings to staff or committees, the core official proceedings and final finding actions of the Board itself require a valid quorum to initiate or ratify. In the absence of a quorum, attendance can only fix the time to adjourn, recess and take steps to gather a quorum.

H3KR-2
Section 2.18

Based on observations and research, the Suffolk County Water Authority Monroe Test appears to be a severely flawed process and, therefore, not legally binding.

As an elected representative of the people of Riverhead, it is my responsibility and the duties of all my colleagues and elected officials to preserve and protect the public and environmental

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welfare and the safety of the town.

I do not support the Suffolk County Water Authority's Monroe Test outcome and find no reasons why the Authority would so strongly resist compliance with our land use regulations which are designated to protect the public and our natural resources.

H3MW-1
Section 2.16

Furthermore, Suffolk County Water Authority, as lead agency, specifically identified the Monroe Balancing Test as within its SEQRA review and the DEIS preparation rather than separating the two proceedings and reviews as typically recommended. If the Suffolk County Water Authority Monroe Test was severely flawed or unlawful, then only the Riverhead Monroe Test should be presented in the DEIS as factual.

H3MW-2
Section 2.1

Thank you.

MR. SZABO: Mark Woolley?

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MR. WOOLLEY: Good afternoon. First of all, it's good to see Joe, it's good to see Jeff, and if Charlie was here I'd wish him a happy birthday, he's gotten a year older.

I'm here today to -- one, I heard what Frank Mancini had to say. And, of course, because of is professionalism and his expertise, I do defer what Frank had to say and I would not even question what he has to say to his concerns.

Nonetheless, it's the inherent right of people to have clean, potable water, just like you have the air to breath, right? And the work that I've done over the years for the Federal government, I believe that working with the Suffolk County Water Authority, I've seen your work. I've seen your work on the South Shore, I've seen your work with the North

H3MW-2
Section 2.1

H3MW-3
Section 2.16.1

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Shore.

More importantly, I think you have the folks outside the fence line at EpCal were here today when the Suffolk County Water Authority came in, and provided clean, potable water to them after all these years when they had none and they were drinking out of bottled water, that they would be here to say thank you and let's -- and support what you're doing here today.

H3MW-3
Section 2.16.1

I support your proposal, I support the project, I support what you're trying to do. What you've done is you came in with a project, you held hearings, you heard the people, you adjusted your project, you reduced the cost, you reduced the time and now you're moving it down the Main Road to connect to Southold.

H3MW-4
Section 2.18

Southold has concerns, and

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I've heard this and a lot of times I've heard it as far as -- well, maybe the -- the result will be increased development, over development. Some of that is smoke and mirrors. What you have in Southold, like you have in older municipalities, is elected officials at the Town Board level, the Planning Board and the Zoning Board; they have the job to go ahead and decide which projects move forward and which ones don't and which ones fit and which ones don't.

H3MW-4
Section 2.18

Greenport now is having issues out there with water. Greenport needs tap water. Orient has issues now with the plume; eventually that's something that will have to be addressed. Right now you have a transfer station in Cutchogue, but there's a plume; you may need to address that as well.

H3MW-5
Section 2.6.3

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All in all, what you've done is taken the time -- what you're supposed to do, which is your job -- to listen to people and understand that if it doesn't work and they don't like what you're doing, then make the -- fine tune it and make your adjustments.

If it wasn't for the work that you've done over the past in providing clean water, as you have to various areas that have been hit with forever chemicals and all these other contaminants that are out there, I would be concerned about wanting to have Suffolk County Water Authority come in as well. But you've done the job. You were professional and you've -- in working with you, and I'm happy to say that, is everything you've done has provided the water and met the needs of the people that have not had what everybody else has

H3MW-5
Section 2.6.3

H3MW-6
Section 2.6.3

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which is potable water, and what you're trying to do is bring that out to Southold.

You've gone ahead and you talked about the environmental issues, you talked about -- as far as -- you know, actually doing what everybody else is supposed to do and the conservation. And that's something that, you know, we are doing here in Riverhead, Southold has to do it, Greenport has to do it. You've incorporated that, those are concerns.

So, I don't think you've missed anything. I think you're here to go ahead and continue to listen and kudos to you for doing that. Maybe there'll be further adjustments, I don't know.

My real concern right now is the fact that we have this hanging over us, litigation between the Suffolk County Water Authority and

H3MW-7
Section 2.18

H3MW-8
Section 2.18

H3MW-9
Section 2.18

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Riverhead. Unfortunately, we have had to, as in many times, had to rely on outside counsel, folks who are obviously more well equipped to handle such issues. But unfortunately, what happens is we have to go ahead, as taxpayers, and pay for that outside counsel, so the burden falls on us; and I know, I live in Riverhead, I have to pay that.

My -- if I had a wish, if I had a hope, it would be that the litigation between Riverhead and the Suffolk County Water Authority finds a way to end and that those costs are somehow worked out so that the burden doesn't fall on the taxpayers of Riverhead.

All in all, though, I think that you're on the right track. So, continue to listen to folks as you are; I wouldn't see that you wouldn't do anything otherwise.

H3KK-1
Section 2.6.5

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Thank you.

MR. SZABO: Thank you.

Kathy Kruel.

MS. KRUEL: Good evening.

I'm Kathy Kruel, I live in Flanders.

My concern is that you're taking it from the area that we live in where every summer we get notified to stop using watering, stop doing this, stop -- because of the water, because of the water pressure.

H3KK-1
Section 2.6.5

Now you're going to take this from what we thought was to Southold, and what I'm hearing here is now it's going to end up in Phase 2, probably going out to Orient. So that means even more water coming out of our community.

H3KK-2
Section 2.6.5

H3KK-3
Section 2.6.3

Riverside is in the process of revitalizing the whole area. When they revitalize it, one of the things they're talking about

H3KK-4
Section 2.6.3

H3KK-5
Section 2.6.3

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putting in is a 40-apartment complex, plus other businesses. They're putting houses in there. If we're having problems now, during the summer, with water pressure, what's going to happen when we revitalize Riverside and a lot of our water is being sent all the way out to Southold? That's a big problem to me because that takes us personally. And I don't understand why it's coming from our area instead of someplace that's closer to bring it in. And when we discussed this at a community meeting, we were told the people in Southold don't even want it, now we're being told that there's a farm that someone wants to start up again and they're going to be using it for their water.

So what's going to happen to the water for us, in our community, when things get revitalized? And

H3KK-5
Section 2.6.3

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we have people building and we have a lot of houses coming in in the Flanders, Riverside and North Hampton area. What's going to happen to all of us when the water is taken from our community and being sent someplace else and now we need more? Thank you.

MR. SZABO: Thank you very much.

Jeff Seeman.

MR. SEEMAN: I had asked to go last, if that's all right. Perhaps the Supervisor can go first?

MR. SZABO: I have other cards, we can --

MR. SEEMAN: I can wait.

MR. SZABO: Bob Mouzer?

MR. POKORNY: Mozer.

MR. SZABO: Mozer?

MR. MOZER: Hello. I'll reserve my comments for public comment period. I was here to

H3GD-1
Section 2.6.2

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learn.

MR. SZABO: Okay.

MR. MOZER: So I don't have any comments right now.

MR. SZABO: Thank you.

Greg Doroski.

LEGISLATOR DOROSKI: Thank you. And I will save you from the 12 other comments, questions that I had at previous meetings. I have a few more.

To start by clarifying, I did want to state that the letter that Legislator Ann Welker, myself, Supervisor Halpin and Supervisor Krupski sent you requested a delay until the USGS completed their final report and not just one or two weeks, so that was some additional time that we had requested.

H3GD-1
Section 2.6.2

H3GD-2
Section 2.6.1

In terms of questions, though, Riverhead Town is served entirely by its own public water

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district which does a great job of providing good, clean water to its town residents without Suffolk County Water Authority involvement. This project delivers no service connections to Riverhead residents while running the construction, the road disruption and potential wetlands risk through the town for its full length.

H3GD-2
Section 2.6.1

What specific benefits is Suffolk County Water Authority potentially going to offer Riverhead to justify hosting this infrastructure within the town that it gets no service or benefits from?

Just some things that come to mind, and this was regarding the Orient Point section. Supervisor Krupski suggested the potential of burying utilities; but again, this really should be a discussion between the Riverhead Town Board

H3GD-3
Section 2.6.1

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and the Suffolk County Water Authority. And the Suffolk County Water Authority really needs to do a better job of reestablishing that relationship with the Riverhead Town Board to discuss this.

Another question; the route crosses the Meeting House Creek area, which I actually, in error, referred to as the Mill Creek area in my previous questions so, please, just note that error; take that as a correction.

H3GD-3
Section 2.6.1

This tidal wetlands is within the Riverhead Town's wetlands jurisdiction. Suffolk County Authority is already treating Riverhead's wetlands authority as notification-only rather than seeking a town permit. Again, given that Riverhead receives no benefit from this project and this Meeting House Creek project -- which they

H3GD-4
Section 2.6.5

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completed with the help of Peconic Estuary Partnership and DEC for two point two million dollars -- it is particularly sensitive in that the plans will just be getting reestablished and any disruption in the area could be negative.

What added protections will the Suffolk County Water Authority commit to there and why, really, should Riverhead Town accept this notification-only status on its own wetlands for a project that it gains nothing from?

H3GD-4
Section 2.6.5

And then last, at the last meeting there was a lot of discussion, particularly with Greenport Village, related to their additional water needs and the need for water conservation. This got me thinking about how Greenport Village and Riverhead Town treat their sewer water differently.

H3GD-5
Section 2.6.5

Riverhead Town has done some

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pretty revolutionary work recharging their aquifer under the leadership of former Sewer District Superintendent Michael Reichel. This is another important conservation effort that the Suffolk County Water Authority should be pursuing with the municipalities.

H3GD-5
Section 2.6.5

So I'd ask that the Suffolk County Water Authority look at supporting this, particularly in Greenport Village, as it looks at quantifying what the actual water needs are and the previous questions I asked about market-based solutions and tier rate structures regarding what the real water conservation savings could be in the town if they went through with it. So, thank you.

H3GD-6
Section 2.6.5

MR. SZABO: Thank you.

Joann Waski?

UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: I

think she left.

MR. SZABO: Rob Summerline.

Summerlin?

MR. SUMMERLIN: Good evening.

I'm not a layman at what you're trying to do, but my biggest question is that if Riverhead has a municipality, you're going to run the pipe down State road, correct? So I heard tonight that no developer can tap into the Riverhead area to use the Suffolk County Water Authority pipe.

H3RS-1
Section 2.1

My question is are you doing this to gain customers or are you doing this to provide a service? Because a 24-inch pipe down to a 12-inch pipe, I'm wondering why you need such a large pipe to run seven point five miles. And if any developers that have bought property along 25 in the Town of Southold, will they tap into this

H3RS-2
Section 2.3

H3RS-3
Section 2.6.3

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water source?

So I'm believing that this whole circumstance of building this pipe is to provide water to developers and add more customers.

I'm confused, because I heard Riverhead say that they have a municipality pipe that runs all the way out to Southold. How come the Town of Southold and Riverhead aren't working this out through them? Why do you have to build a pipe seven point five miles to provide water to a tower that you said will supply water to Southold, when Riverhead already has a pipe to that end of the town. And if they were to tap into that, they would be able to provide that service, as the gentleman said earlier, possibly at a lesser fee than what you would charge.

But my biggest concern is that you're actually supplying

H3RS-2
Section 2.3

H3RS-3
Section 2.6.3

H3RS-4
Section 2.6.3

H3RS-5
Section 2.6.5

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water to developers on the North Shore, where a lot of land, farmland has been purchased, but because of herbicides and the fertilizers used by farmers, they can't use the aquifer or the wells that are there.

So my question is really simple; are you providing the service to the Town of Southold, to the people of Southold, or are you providing service to the developers that want to develop in Southold and further as Phase 1. Now you say there's Phase 2 going all the way out to Orient.

And as Kathy said, if you tell us to only water on alternate days, or that we're using too much water to water our lawns or take showers in the morning, whatever, how are you going to supply water seven point five miles out to Southold if you're telling us to

H3RS-5
Section 2.6.5

H3RS-6
Section 2.6.5

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conserve here further west from Southold?

Thank you

MR. SZABO: Thank you.

I have two -- I have two cards left. I have Jerry Halpin and Jeff Seeman; who wants to go next? Take your pick. Those are the last two.

SUPERVISOR HALPIN: I'm Supervisor Halpin from the Town of Riverhead. Thank you all.

H3RS-6
Section 2.6.5

And I just want to say, as a person, as a human who has dug wells in foreign countries and healthy, clean water, I'm always for clean water for people. That is not the point of this.

My questions tonight -- and I want to reiterate what Legislator Doroski said that, you know, we asked for more time after a study is done, not just to push the date. So I do appreciate the extension,

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but I ask again that you wait for that study to come back in the findings.

The Draft Environmental Impact Study states that the Sound Avenue route is still viable. And the DEIS also states that the route selection of Sound Avenue or Route 25 will be determined at the conclusion of your SEQRA once a finding statement is prepared.

Suffolk County Water Authority has filed a lawsuit against Riverhead, sadly, on our Monroe determination, which is currently under review by the New York State Supreme Court. The outcome of the civil action is currently on note, as was stated before, which has a direct effect on our taxpayers' quality of life.

We ask that you sit down with us, we ask that you adhere to those things. And because the

H3JH-1
Section 2.6.2

H3JH-2
Section 2.16.1

H3JH-3
Section 2.18

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Suffolk County Water Authority estimates the project will take 12 to 18 months, completely disturbing our sidewalks, our town businesses, our schools and our farms. I understand, as up-Islanders, you may think there's still an off-season, but there is no off season to Riverhead because we are a fully-functioning, year-round, explosive town that is doing great things. And we ask again that you not impede the business or the findings of our town.

We ask that you work with us to bring clean water to the East End. And we ask what are the expected traffic implications and specific mitigation along Route 25 in proximity, as mentioned before, to the Aquebogue Elementary school.

How will construct impact the schedules for buses, parent drop-offs, pick-ups, teachers,

H3JH-3
Section 2.18

H3JH-4
Section 2.1

H3JH-5
Section 2.4

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staff arrivals and departures? If cold-patch asphalt is used and temporary pavement restoration is anticipated, how will snow plowing potentially change and damage restoration and when will full restoration begin? We'll go back and start over and then, once again, we'll have traffic slowing down, all of our tourists -- we are a tourist town, we are -- we depend on that for our economics.

H3JH-5
Section 2.4

H3JH-6
Section 2.11

And how can Suffolk County Water Authority truthfully state, as mentioned before, that the DEIS that is undisputedly immune from local municipal jurisdiction, while the Suffolk County Water Authority is before New York State Supreme Court where the dispute is being heard and challenged, very much so are the undisputed immunity from the local municipality jurisdiction.

H3JH-7
Section 2.18

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The preferred alternate route passes through several Riverhead zoning districts, as mentioned before, and those zoning districts are designed specifically to preserve and protect our rural character in our community of Jamesport and Aquebogue and the families and the business that live there.

The repetitive statements by the DEIS, by Suffolk County Water Authority, that you're undisputedly immune from local municipality zoning land regulations is a self-declared immunity and not actually a real thing.

The Town will continue to support its position that the Suffolk County Water Authority is not immune from Town Code requirements or agency reviews, because it's obvious that without a second booster pump station from

H3JH-8
Section 2.18

H3JH-9
Section 2.18

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the proposed action, the project would not achieve your intended goals. And without municipal reviews, how can the pump station receive a Certificate of Occupancy or be accurately taxed by our assessors or how to know that we can mitigate emergencies through our fire management or safety protocols.

And what is the potential risk for public safety? The DEIS fails to provide detailed information for the wetlands assessment that's been mentioned by many of my colleagues.

In the applications for Riverhead's Conservation Advisory Council, the jurisdiction is up to 150 feet of our freshwaters. So we ask that you go back and you make an application to them to identify accurately the potential to the wetlands. Because as mentioned,

H3JH-9 Section 2.18

H3JH-10 Section 2.6.1

H3JH-11 Section 2.6.1

H3JH-12 Section 2.17.1

H3JH-13 Section 2.17.1

H3JH-14 Section 2.17.1

H3JH-15 Section 2.6.1

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two point two million dollars has been poured into our town because where water falls water should stay. Which, again, is a big proponent to our Route 25 and Church Lane where they're constructing a huge major storm water mitigation project to approve water quality at Meeting House Creek, including the reconstruction of a fresh water wetland.

H3JH-15
Section 2.6.1

H3JH-16
Section 2.1

Let's work together, let's bring fresh water to the East End. But again, work with us and please adhere to our thanks.

Thank you.

MR. SZABO: Jeff Seeman?

MR. SEEMAN: Hello. Thank you. Happy to be last because I think many of the topics I would cover have already been discussed, but I would like to reinforce and maybe add a few of my own comments.

So, in the EIS, as I think

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Ms. Blass mentioned, there are no traffic outs. There's no way to justify an off-season of traffic and look at mitigation when no volumes of traffic on any of the roadways that are a part of this study -- Peconic Bay Boulevard, Sound Avenue and Main Road -- haven't -- you've collected no data. So you can't really justify either a seasonal or even a daily peak traffic assessment in order to evaluate what type of mitigation is for -- even what impact is going to be expected from the project. I find that troubling because the finding -- the -- I'm sorry. The final scope specified that you would provide that information in the EIS and it's missing.

Also, I think you've heard a lot about the wetland delineation issue. While Riverhead has jurisdiction within 150 feet of a

H3JS-1
Section 2.11

H3JS-2
Section 2.11

H3JS-3
Section 2.6.1

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wetland, whatever that activity may be, there's no delineation, there was no field work performed. And using maps from national wetland inventories and DEC is great for generic EIS, but it's not appropriate for a site-specific project, especially one that started on a completely different route running down Sound Avenue.

H3JS-3
Section 2.6.1

H3JS-4
Section 2.16.1

And I have to ask, how many people who might have been on Main Road thinking that was only an alternative route, which very often in an EIS is not selected, they may have just stayed home. So while you're suggesting that you've heard from us, you might not have heard from them, certainly not until tonight, because they really had no opportunity to weigh in on the project on what I think is your route.

H3JS-5
Section 2.16.1

The EIS is a little

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confusing. It says that each route is viable, but it may be more viable to take Main Road. I think it would be to everyone's advantage at this point to make a decision as to which route you're going to take so the impacts can be more clearly evaluated and mitigation put together in a stronger way.

H3JS-6
Section 2.16.1

H3JS-7
Section 2.11

For example, you can take -- you can take a vehicle of 80,000 pounds and put it on a DOT road. In Riverhead, the weight limit is closer to 8,000 to 10,000 pounds. So as you re-route some of this commercial traffic around your construction area, if you selected Main Road, it's going to have to cross into other roadways that can't handle that weight. And that's not an exaggeration, that 80,000 pounds could be found in most 40-yard sand and gravel trucks, probably for shrubs, trees,

H3JS-8
Section 2.11

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etcetera, moving out of a nursery, 50,000 pounds to 70,000 pounds. So there are some real sticking facts that need to be more clearly evaluated.

H3JS-8
Section 2.11

Lastly, and I'd say it's one of the big topics, is Monroe. I certainly agree that you're going to have difficulty reaching a finding statement until all litigation is finalized. You placed Monroe as a key topic in the Environmental Impact Statement, and in order for you to get to a true finding statement, you'll have to address that issue. And until the Courts are done resolving it on your behalf, I don't think the lead agency will have a defensible finding statement until that work is done. Thank you.

H3JS-9
Section 2.18

H3JS-10
Section 2.18

MR. SZABO: Thank you.

So, it's 6:07. Are there any other comments? Does anybody

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else wish to address and make a public comment for the record at this point?

Okay. Alison, it's 6:07, we're going to close the hearing. Thank you all again. Oh, 6:08. Thank you all again for coming. We appreciate your comments and your attendance tonight.

(WHEREUPON, the session concluded at 6:08 p.m.)

* * * *

NORTH FORK WATER MAIN PROJECT - 8/26/26

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, ALISON MAHONEY, Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of New York, do hereby certify:

THAT the within transcript was prepared by me and is a true and accurate record of this hearing to the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am not related, either by blood or marriage, to any of the parties in this action; and

THAT I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 2nd day of September, 2026.

Alison Mahoney

ALISON MAHONEY

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