



Environmental Facilities Corporation

For Immediate Release: April 9, 2015

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\$72 Million for New, Clean-Water Projects in Suffolk County, Erie County, North Country & Penn Yan Approved by EFC

\$59 Million for Suffolk County's Bergen Point Wastewater Treatment Plant Will Strengthen Coastal Resiliency on Long Island

The New York State Environmental Facilities Corp. today approved \$59 million in zero-interest and low-interest loans to expand the Bergen Point Wastewater Treatment Plant to provide sewer service to more than 7,000 homes and businesses now using septic systems in Suffolk County. At its monthly meeting, the EFC Board of Directors also approved an additional \$13.5 million in low-cost financing for infrastructure projects in Erie County, the Town of Champion in Jefferson County and the Village of Penn Yan in Yates County.

The project will expand the Bergen Point plant by one third, helping to accommodate an estimated 6,600 parcels in North Babylon and West Babylon, along with 500 parcels in Great River, to be connected to the Southwest Sewer District and the Bergen Point treatment plant. Removing septic systems from these areas will address nitrogen and pathogen pollution in the Great South Bay, along with the Carlls River, the Connetquot River and Nicoll Bay.

"With the loans approved today for Suffolk County, New York State is helping to dramatically reduce nitrogen pollution to restore and make Long Island's coastline more resilient," said EFC President and CEO Matthew Driscoll. "By moving forward, with this project, we can restore natural barriers that will protect Long Island from future severe storms."

"Protecting our surface and groundwater from excess nitrogen and restoring our coastal vegetation for storm defense continues to be my administration's highest priority," Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone said. "We must continue to invest in wastewater infrastructure and technology in order to protect the future of our region. I thank Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Environmental Facilities Corp. for this critical assistance to help stem the tide of nitrogen pollution in Suffolk County so that we can rebuild our coastal resiliency."

The financing approved today to expand the Bergen Point treatment plant builds upon Governor Cuomo's commitment of \$383 million in state and federal funding for Suffolk County announced last October for sewer projects. The improvements to Bergen Point and the additional sewer systems will allow Suffolk County to bolster coastal resiliency against future storms by reducing harmful nitrogen pollution. By removing thousands of homes and businesses from older, often-failing, septic systems, Suffolk County will reduce the amount of nitrogen pollution that has degraded its coastal wetlands and marshes, eroding its coastline and threatening to harm the quality of the county's groundwater supply.

Half of the \$59 million Clean Water loan will be interest-free and the other half will be provided at an interest rate below 0.4 percent. Overall, the loan from EFC will offer the county more than \$590,000 in short-term savings over the cost of borrowing on its own. Greater savings are expected when this loan is refinanced with a 30-year loan from EFC.

Infrastructure Financing Approved – Page Two

“Expanding the Bergen Point treatment plant will ultimately lead to sewer service for thousands of homeowners and businesses who now rely on private septic systems,” Driscoll said. “Under Governor Cuomo’s leadership, the New York’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund is making this important project more affordable as Suffolk County works to protect public health and improve the environment.”

EFC’s Board of Directors today also approved nearly \$7.7 million in low-cost financing for Erie County to replace a pump station in the Town of Lancaster with a gravity sewer. Eliminating the Aurora North Pump Station will save money, along with savings provided by the interest-free and low-cost financing approved today.

Nearly \$2 million in interest-free financing was also approved for the Town of Champion to repair sewer mains and to extend municipal sewer service to areas now relying on private septic systems. The Jefferson County community previously received a \$30,000 Engineering Planning Grant through the North Country Regional Economic Development Council that enabled Champion to develop plans for this project.

“These no-interest or low-interest loans provide a cost-effective tool for communities to upgrade wastewater systems and bring dependable, quality service to thousands of New York taxpayers,” said Joe Martens, Commissioner of the New York State department of Environmental Conservation and chairman of EFC’s Board of Directors. “The result of this will be cleaner discharges of treated wastewater that will help improve and protect Suffolk County’s irreplaceable water resources.”

Town of Champion Supervisor Terry Buckley said, “Without this money from EFC, this project would not have gone forward. This is a very important project for this area.”

Jefferson County Legislator John Peck said, “This is a phenomenal thing for the state to help a local municipality with infrastructure improvements. This is an old piece of infrastructure that the town of Champion acquired from the school district and it’s a vital piece for both the school district and the residents of Champion.”

EFC also refinanced a \$3 million, short-term loan previously approved for improvements to the Village of Penn Yan’s wastewater treatment plant. This new 30-year loan will also be interest-free, saving the village an estimated \$2.2 million over the cost of borrowing on its own.

“The savings is substantial,” said Penn Yan Mayor Leigh MacKerchar. If we weren’t able to get this type of financing, I’m not sure we would have been able to go forward with this project. And this is not only benefitting us (in Penn Yan), but we also have agreements to serve the Town of Milo and the Town of Jerusalem.”

Dr. Timothy Dennis, Chairman of the Yates County Legislature, said, “This is pretty essential both for water quality and for the savings that will help with the village’s cash flow. Penn Yan is the county seat so what’s good for the village is good for everybody here in Yates County.”

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