



TOWN OF RIVERHEAD

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April 16, 2021

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
Congressman for New York 1st District
31 Oak Street
Suite 20
Patchogue, NY 11772

Re: Request for Member Community Project Funding for the Town of Riverhead to Provide Clean Safe Drinking Water to eliminate impacts of PFOS & PFOA for Residents South and East of the former Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant in Calverton (“NWIRP”, now commonly referred to as Enterprise Park at Calverton “EPCAL”).

Dear Congressman Zeldin:

Kindly let this letter and its accompanying documents serve as the Town of Riverhead’s request for funding to assisting in providing clean, safe drinking water for residents living South and East of the former Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant in Calverton (“NWIRP”, now commonly referred to as Enterprise Park at Calverton “EPCAL”).

As recited in the New York State Constitution Article 9 §2 (c) 10 and as recited in Municipal Home Rule Law §10 (1)(a) (12), the Town Board, as legislative body for the Town of Riverhead and as the sole governing body of the Riverhead Water District, has the responsibility to protect for the health, safety, and welfare of persons and property with the Town of Riverhead. For more than two decades, the Town, including members of the Town Board, Riverhead Water Superintendent, and Community Development Agency Director have monitored and studied groundwater contamination and remediation requirements related to the EPCAL property to address same, with some members actively participating as members of the United States Navy Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). In 2019 and 2020, the issue regarding groundwater contamination of PFOS/PFOA and other chemical contaminants found prevalent and consistent with the former uses of the EPCAL were detected in high levels along the fence line and with evidence of PFOS/PFOA in private residential wells south and, with groundwater flow traveling south and east of the EPCAL site, potential compromise of private residential wells east of the EPCAL site caused great concern to the Town. The Town, in late 2019 and early 2020, communicated with several federal officials, including your office, and state representatives, to assist the Town in demanding additional testing (depth and distance), upholding state drinking water standards, and



with former uses at the EPCAL site and support the Town's efforts to secure the funding necessary to expand water facilities and infrastructure of the Riverhead Water District to provide clean safe drinking water for these residents. The Town, on its own initiative, invested substantial sums and time in creating a maps and plans to extend the Riverhead Water District to serve the Riverhead residents and taxpayers in this area with the intention of acquiring the funding needed to implement the project.

While the Fiscal Year 2022 Member Project Request Guide provided for review to the Town makes clear that "State and local government entities...are encouraged to [be] the primary grantees to oversee the completion of the project", the Town was made aware in our telephone meeting with your staff on April 8, 2021, that the Suffolk County Water Authority (SCWA), in its capacity as a public authority, is seeking funding to extend its service to residences located south of the former NWIRP facility, not only in the Town of Brookhaven but including a number of residences located within the Town of Riverhead and excluding and omitting 26 residential homes located east of the EPCAL site. Notwithstanding the application of the Suffolk County Water Authority's (and it should be noted that same was made without notice or copy to the Town of Riverhead) and as will be addressed below, the Town is such a local government entity described in the Project Request Guide and makes application with a commitment to oversee completion of the project, experience to oversee the project and work with SCWA for the protection and betterment of Riverhead residents served by Riverhead Water District and Brookhaven residents served by SCWA.

To expound on the Town of Riverhead's commitment and the qualification and experience of the Riverhead Water District to oversee and coordinate effects with SCWA and demonstration of past cooperative efforts, the Town insures that the Riverhead Water District not only provides clean potable water to residents and businesses in Riverhead, the Riverhead Water District also supplies wholesale water service to the Suffolk County Water Authority and vice versa. For example, in 2017, 2018 and 2019 the Riverhead Water District supplied far more water to Suffolk County Water Authority than that provided by Suffolk County Water Authority to the Riverhead Water District: 2017- 29.4% ;2018-58.8%; and, 2019- 34.5%. The Riverhead Water District and Suffolk County Water Authority currently share four interconnections and these shared interconnections are critical tools to address emergencies and provide supplemental supply. In addition, both Riverhead Water District and Suffolk County Water Authority have recently added large ground storage tanks in critical areas that have increased resiliency to meet peak demand pumping and the coordination related to filling of these tanks between the agencies ensures that no unnecessary stresses to either systems.



most paramount to the Town, assistance to fund a Riverhead Water District project to provide clean safe drinking to the residents south and east of the EPCAL site. In February of 2020 and continuing thereafter to the present, the Town committed financial resources to develop a map & plan, including detailing necessary infrastructure work and cost analysis. The Town has expressed its commitment and goal to serve all residents of the Town with clean, safe, drinking water to you during numerous telephone calls, telephone conference calls and most recently in our March 4, 2021 letter.

The Town of Riverhead would be remiss to fail to report and advise that there are residences with private wells similarly impacted and deserving of clean safe drinking water located in the Town of Brookhaven. The Supervisor of the Town of Brookhaven, Edward Romaine, communicated in writing with your office and Riverhead Supervisor Aguiar pledged his support for Town of Riverhead's efforts to secure funding necessary to provide clean, safe drinking water and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Riverhead to address the residences impacted and deserving of funding and clean, safe, drinking water within the boundaries of the Town of Brookhaven.

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to all applicable provisions of law and initiated by petition of residents of the Town of Riverhead, in 1914, the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead established and created the Riverhead Water District. The purpose and establishment of the Riverhead Water District was to provide clean, potable water to its residents. The Riverhead Water District has extended its district throughout the decades to provide its population of approximately 35,000 residents through 12,328 residential and commercial services in the Riverhead, Aquebogue, Jamesport, Baiting Hollow, Calverton, Northville, Wading River and portions of Manorville areas throughout the Town of Riverhead with clean safe drinking water.

As stated above, for years, the Town of Riverhead has monitored, studied and advocated the United States Navy, federal government and representatives, state officials address the issues related to contamination of groundwater and threat of contamination, including but not limited to PFOS/PFOA in the areas south and east of EPCAL. Town representatives have actively participated as members of the United States Navy Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), official representative of the legislative body, and also simply as interested members of the community to address the concerns related to the health, safety and welfare of residents. As your office is aware, in 2019 to the present, the Town has actively attempted to secure federal and state support to address the groundwater contamination found prevalent and consistent



In addition to the above and as further evidence of Riverhead Water District's ability and willingness to work with Suffolk County Water Authority, on or about 1997, the Town of Riverhead, with funding through the United States Department of Energy, worked with Suffolk County Water Authority to install water mains and provide water to the Schultz Road properties with Riverhead Water District serving its Riverhead residents. The Schultz Road project highlights the sole jurisdiction of the Riverhead Water District within the Town of Riverhead and was completed and currently operates in partnership with the Suffolk County Water Authority, which Authority serves parcels outside the Town of Riverhead in Brookhaven Town. The Town of Riverhead and Town of Brookhaven, together with the Riverhead Water District and SCWA have in the past and will continue in the future to work together to provide clean safe drinking water.

FUNDING REQUEST – \$15,328,050.00

TOWN OF RIVERHEAD

(detailed funding request for properties within boundary of the Town of Riverhead)
Riverhead Water District Proposed Extension No. 94-South Manorville 64 parcels
\$5,848,000.00, Map & Plan Fee \$9500.00

Riverhead Water District Proposed Extension No. 95-River Road, Calverton 26
parcels \$3,150,000.00, Map & Plan Fee \$9500.00

TOWN OF RIVERHEAD \$9,017,000.00

TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN

(funding request for properties within boundary of the Town of Brookhaven)
Based upon SCWA proposal in part reflecting funding for properties within boundary
of Town of Brookhaven 64 parcels \$6,311,050.00

TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN \$6,311,050.00

Total Funding Request: The Town is making the above request which will allow the Towns of Riverhead and Brookhaven to provide clean, safe drinking water to eliminate impacts of PFOS & PFOA and other contaminants for residents south and east of the former Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant in Calverton ("NWIRP", now commonly referred to as Enterprise Park at Calverton "EPCAL") with Riverhead Water District to service residents/properties within the boundary of the Town of Riverhead and SCWA to serve residents within the boundary of the Town of Riverhead. As stated herein, the Town of Riverhead and the Town of Brookhaven



would enter into a Memorandum of Understanding related to serving residents/parcels within their respective town boundaries, each responsibility of its pledge, commitment and responsibility for match funds and related to all such other and necessary aspects of this project. The Town of Riverhead is ready, willing and able to provide the 20% match of \$1,803,400.00 to cover the cost of the project within the Town of Riverhead. As and for the Town of Brookhaven's support of project and 20% match, Brookhaven Supervisor did communicate your office to express and pledge support and desire to enter into an Memorandum of Understanding. The Town of Riverhead's match will be paid either through bonding or through funds provided through the ARPA or CARES Act.

SUBSTANTIATION OF COSTS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

As you can see from the attached press articles, which include a press release from your office, there is broad support for this project from all elected community leaders. This support is further reflected in the resolutions adopted by the Riverhead Town Board wherein in the Town Board – in its capacity as the governing body of the Riverhead Water District - undertook (at a cost of \$19,000.00) to complete a draft maps and plans which provides the data necessary to assess the cost of the project within the boundaries of Riverhead Town. Specifically, the proposed project involves the extension of 37,000 feet of water main within the Town of Riverhead and the connection of 92 properties in the Town of Riverhead. There are 64 similarly situated properties located in Brookhaven Town which could be connected through an intermunicipal agreement with Brookhaven Town. The properties are all located in the vicinity, along or on River Road, Old River Road, Horton Court, Wading River Manor Road, Oakwood Drive, Line Road and Grumman Boulevard. The properties in question currently obtain potable water through individual private wells. These wells have historically been impacted by naturally occurring inorganic compounds such as iron and manganese. Within the past few years, some of these private wells, in particular in the vicinity of Oakwood Road, were impacted by methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE), a volatile organic compound associated with gasoline. More recently, as New York State began consideration of regulating emerging contaminants, certain perfluorinated compounds; most notably perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) have been discovered. In some cases, the contaminant level of these detections exceeds regulatory standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH).

In order to provide service to all the homes within Riverhead's boundary (including the homes omitted by the SCWA) the Town has already completed the following actions each of which are identified below and attached hereto for your ready reference in the following order:



1. Map and Plan with Cost Estimates for Area South of EPCAK
2. Map and Plan Details with Cost Estimates for Area East of EPCAL
3. Diagram Showing EPCAL and General Area by Groundwater Contamination
4. H2M- Cost, Map and Plan for South of EPCAL
5. H2M – Cost, Map and Plan for East of EPCAL
6. Town Board Resolution for South of EPCAL (64 homes)
7. Town Board Resolution for East of EPCAL (28 homes)

Further attached are the following documents that reflect broad and nonpartisan public and elected official support the award of this funding.

1. Newsday article dated 12.28.2020
2. Riverhead Local article dated 2.4.20
3. Riverhead News Review Article 12.19.20
3. Congressman Zeldin Press Release 1.25.21
4. Petition of Residents 2021

Thank you very much for offering this assistance. The residents of Riverhead are indebted to you for your service to our community.

Very truly yours,

Yvette M. Aguiar
YVETTE M. AGUIAR, Supervisor

Tim Hubbard by *CS*
TIM HUBBARD, Councilman

Catherine Kent
CATHERINE KENT, Councilwoman

Frank Beyrodt by *CS*
FRANK BEYRODT, Councilman

Ken Rothwell by *CS*
KEN ROTHWELL, Councilman