

RESOLUTION NO. 707 -2014, MAKING A SEQRA DETERMINATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED INDIAN ISLAND/TERRY'S CREEK TIDAL WETLAND RESTORATION, TOWN OF RIVERHEAD

WHEREAS, the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has reviewed a project designated as the "Proposed Indian Island/Terry's Creek Tidal Wetland Restoration, Town of Riverhead", pursuant to Section 6 of Local Law No. 22-1985 which project involves a NYSDEC Water Quality Improvement Grant funded project to restore approximately 10 acres of salt marsh which was used in the 1960-1970's as a disposal site for material dredged from Terry Creek; and

WHEREAS, said project seeks to remove spoil and dispose of it off-site at a NYSDEC approved facility, install tidal channels (the main tidal channel will require the placement of a bridge and road crossing), stabilize areas and plant suitable saltmarsh vegetation and reduce/eliminate need for mosquito control through habitat modification of known historic mosquito breeding areas; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project is a modification to a 2011 reviewed tidal wetland restoration project which included the creation of two ponds and the removal of a larger amount of material from the project site; and

WHEREAS, the 2011 Indian Island/Terry's Creek restoration project was reviewed by the CEQ and the Suffolk County Legislature and received a SEQRA determination of non-significance as indicated in Suffolk County Resolution No. 152-2011; and

WHEREAS, an Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) was prepared and submitted to the CEQ office by the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning and subsequently sent out to all concerned parties; and

WHEREAS, at its July 16, 2014 meeting, the CEQ reviewed the EAF and information submitted by the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning; and

WHEREAS, the CEQ recommended that the above activity be considered a Type I action, pursuant to the provisions of Title 6 NYCRR, Part 617 and Chapter 450 of the Suffolk County Code; and

WHEREAS, the CEQ has advised the County Legislature and the County Executive by memo dated July 21, 2014 of said recommendations; and

WHEREAS, Section 450-5(H) of the SUFFOLK COUNTY CODE requires the Presiding Officer to introduce legislation for an appropriate SEQRA determination; and

WHEREAS, the Suffolk County Legislature has reviewed the EAF and the CEQ recommendations; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that based on the information received and presented, a quorum of the CEQ hereby recommends to the Suffolk County Legislature and County Executive that the

proposed activity be classified as a Type I action under the provision of Title 6 NYCRR Part 617.4(b)(6)(i) and Chapter 450 of the Suffolk County Code in that the action involves the physical alteration of more than 10 acres of land; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that this Legislature hereby determines that the Proposed Indian Island/Terry's Creek Tidal Wetland Restoration, Town of Riverhead constitutes a Type I action, pursuant to the provisions of Title 6 NYCRR, Part 617 and Chapter 450 of the Suffolk County Code which project will not have significant adverse impacts on the environment for the following reasons:

1. The proposed action will not exceed any of the criteria set forth in Title 6 NYCRR, Part 617.7, which sets forth thresholds for determining significant effect on the environment, as demonstrated in the Environmental Assessment Form;
2. The proposed action will restore highly productive estuarine salt marsh habitat;
3. The proposed action will result in improvements to nursery and spawning ground for estuarine species;
4. The proposed action will result in improvements to water quality and nutrient cycling;
5. The proposed action is expected to reduce the need for larviciding to control mosquitoes;
6. The proposed action is expected to provide suitable land for marsh adaptation toward sea level rise; and
7. The proposed action will result in enhanced recreational and educational enjoyment of the County park;

and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be filed with the Suffolk County Clerk, the initiating unit of said project, and with the CEQ; and be it further

4th RESOLVED, that in accordance with Section C1-4(1)(d) of the SUFFOLK COUNTY CHARTER and Section 450-5(C)(4) of the SUFFOLK COUNTY CODE, the CEQ is hereby directed to prepare and circulate a SEQRA notice of determination of non-significance in accordance with this Resolution.

DATED: September 9, 2014

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: September 24, 2014