

Intro. Res. No. 1902-2016  
Introduced by Presiding Officer, on request of the County Executive

Laid on Table 10/5/2016

**RESOLUTION NO. 984 -2016, AUTHORIZING CONSTRUCTION FOR THE SCULLY ESTATE SALT MARSH RESTORATION PROJECT WITHIN THE TOWN OF ISLIP, USING THE NEW ENHANCED SUFFOLK COUNTY WATER QUALITY PROTECTION PROGRAM FUNDS (CP 8733)**

**WHEREAS**, Local Law No. 31-2014, a Charter Law Amending the ¼% Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program (DWPP) for Enhanced Water Quality Protection, Wastewater Infrastructure and General Fund Property Tax Relief for Suffolk County, created the 2014 Enhanced Suffolk County Water Quality Protection Program, codified in Suffolk County Charter Article XIA; and

**WHEREAS**, Local Law No. 31-2014 was approved at a referendum in November of 2014, by Suffolk County voters; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2016 Adopted Capital Budget contains three water quality protection 2014 referendum capital projects totaling \$29.4 million: CP 8732 for land purchases (\$20.0 million), CP 8733 for water quality projects (\$4.7 million), CP 8734 for sewer improvement projects (\$4.7 million); and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature has determined that the Drinking Water Protection Program is essential to the well-being of the County's drinking water supply, and it is in the best interest of the County's residents to preserve the sanctity of the Program and to secure significant environmental and public health benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 437-2016 appropriated \$4.7 million in serial bond proceeds for water quality protection and restoration program and land stewardship initiatives projects as set forth in the Enhanced Suffolk County Water Quality Protection Program; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 471-1994 as revised by Resolution No. 461-2006, established the use of a priority ranking system, implemented in the Adopted 2016 Capital Budget as the basis for funding capital projects such as this project; and

**WHEREAS**, funding is requested for this project through the New Enhanced Suffolk County Water Quality Protection Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning has requested funding that will enable the Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation to implement the Scully Estate Salt Marsh Restoration Project at the Suffolk County Scully Preserve; and

**WHEREAS**, the Suffolk County Water Quality Review Committee at its October 8, 2015 meeting, pursuant to Article XII of the Suffolk County Charter, has recommended funding for the Scully Estate Salt Marsh Restoration Project at the Suffolk County Scully Preserve as an appropriate use of Suffolk County Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program and Land Stewardship funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the Scully Estate Salt Marsh Restoration Project is to restore 30 acres of estuarine-salt marsh habitat at Suffolk County's Scully Estate in the Hamlet of Islip; and

**WHEREAS**, the Scully Estate's salt marsh acreage was once contiguous with federally-owned marshland on the adjacent Seatuck National Wildlife Refuge. The two marsh segments remain hydrologically connected with the Scully marsh receiving all of its tidal flow from the Refuge through culverts under South Bay Ave; and

**WHEREAS**, this project proposes to the restoration of the Scully Estate salt marsh through an Integrated Marsh Management approach in order to improve natural hydrology to the marsh, improve tidal connectivity within the marsh and the tidal channels, and improve habitat conditions for local species of economic and environmental significance; and

**WHEREAS**, restoring the Scully Estate salt marsh will benefit the public by improving resiliency to storms and buffering flooding as well as reducing mosquito production; and

**WHEREAS**, this project will supplement the \$3.5 million post-Sandy restoration project that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service commenced earlier this year at the adjacent Seatuck National Wildlife Refuge; and

**WHEREAS**, South Bay Avenue is a Town of Islip owned road and the Town has agreed to support and facilitate the proposed project; and

**WHEREAS**, the requested funding will be used to implement the Scully Estate Salt Marsh Restoration Project, with the remaining Phase II work to be conducted by Suffolk County Vector Control following the completion of Phase I; and

**WHEREAS**, this project's salt marsh restoration work falls under the Suffolk County Vector Control and Wetlands Management Long Term Plan's identified Wetlands Best Management Practices 1 through 4; and

**WHEREAS**, State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA"), was completed for the Suffolk County Vector Control and Wetlands Management Plan and its identified Best Management Practices 1 through 4 by Suffolk County Resolution No. 285-2007; and

**WHEREAS**, the project will be initiated within one year of the date of adoption of this Resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the project will be completed within three years of the adoption of this resolution; now, therefore be it

**1<sup>st</sup>** **RESOLVED**, that it is hereby determined that this project, with a priority ranking of sixty-nine (69), is eligible for approval in accordance with the provisions of Resolution No. 471-1994 as revised by Resolution No. 461-2006; and be it further

**2<sup>nd</sup>** **RESOLVED**, pursuant to the new Article XIA of the Suffolk County Charter, CP 8733.310 funding shall be used for water quality protection and restoration program and land stewardship initiatives projects as set forth in Section C12-2(B) of the Suffolk County Charter, exclusive of Suffolk County personnel costs; and be it further

**3<sup>rd</sup>**           **RESOLVED**, that the County Comptroller is hereby authorized to reserve and to pay \$250,000 from the appropriated fund in Capital Project 525-CAP-8733.310 for the New Enhanced Suffolk County Water Quality Protection Program – 2014 Referendum, Water Quality Projects component, Section C12-2(B) of the Suffolk County Charter, for this water quality restoration project, and be it further

**4<sup>th</sup>**           **RESOLVED**, that this Legislature, being the lead agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”), Environmental Conservation Law Article 8, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action, pursuant to Section 617.5 (C) (18) (20) and (21) of Title 6 of the NYCRR and within the meaning of Section 8-0109 (2) of the New York Environmental Conservation Law as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and Legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: November 22, 2016

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone  
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: November 29, 2016