

RESOLUTION NO. 254 -2015, AMENDING THE ADOPTED 2015 OPERATING BUDGET TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM FUND 477 WATER QUALITY PROTECTION, AMENDING THE 2015 CAPITAL BUDGET AND PROGRAM, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN CONNECTION WITH A PECONIC ESTUARY KELP AQUACULTURE FEASIBILITY STUDY (CP 8710.145)

WHEREAS, there are sufficient funds within the Reserved Fund Balance of Fund 477 for the purpose of Water Quality Protection; and

WHEREAS, the Suffolk County Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program Review Committee, pursuant to Article XII of the SUFFOLK COUNTY CHARTER has recommended funding this study at its March 13, 2015 meeting as an appropriate use of Suffolk County Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program and Land Stewardship Initiative funds; and

WHEREAS, the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning will sponsor the development of a report by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County for a study regarding the feasibility of developing a kelp aquaculture initiative; and

WHEREAS, Seaweed aquaculture is an emerging “green industry” that offers considerable environmental and economic benefits to the region. This project aims to evaluate the potential of this new industry in Suffolk County to improve water quality via bioextraction of water column nitrogen and carbon, while producing a high-demand, renewable product; and

WHEREAS, the techniques and methodology needed to be successful in this initiative have been developed and will be refined, adapted and implemented by Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) scientists at several sites within the Peconic Estuary in consultation with scientists at the University of Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, recent work in Long Island Sound has demonstrated that seaweeds can be grown to produce a viable commodity used for food, pharmaceuticals, soil amendments and/or biofuels, while sequestering nitrogen and carbon from the water column; and

WHEREAS, once established, this sustainable seaweed aquaculture industry could play an important role in our marine environment by removing excess nutrients, especially dissolved nitrogen, while creating new sustainable green jobs; and

WHEREAS, the project is consistent with the recommendations of both the Peconic Estuary Program Comprehensive Management Plan in accordance with the requirements of Article XII of the SUFFOLK COUNTY CHARTER by providing habitat restoration in the Peconic Estuary; and

WHEREAS, Cornell Cooperative Extension will commit to provide matching project funds to be no less than either \$80,750 or one half the cost of the project, whichever is less; and

WHEREAS, the project be initiated within three-years of the date of adoption of this Resolution; and

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

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 471-1994, as revised by Resolution No. 461-2006, has established a priority ranking system, implemented in the 2015 Adopted Capital Budget and Program, as the basis for funding capital projects such as this project; and

WHEREAS, there are sufficient funds available in Fund 477 within the Reserved Fund Balance for Water Quality related projects to support the appropriation of this project within the 2015 Capital Budget and Program; now, therefore be it

1st **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 law constitutes a Type II action, pursuant to Section 617.5 (c) 20, 21, and 27 of Title 6 of New York Code of Rules and Regulations (“NYCRR”), and the Legislature has no further responsibilities under SEQRA; and be it further

2nd **RESOLVED**, that it is hereby determined that this project, with a priority ranking of fifty-three (53) 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

3rd **RESOLVED**, that sufficient funds exist within Fund 477’s Water Quality Reserve Fund Balance component to cover the cost of the County’s share for this project; and be it further

4th **RESOLVED**, that the Adopted 2015 Operating Budget be and hereby is amended and that the interfund transfer be and hereby is appropriated from Fund 477 Reserve Fund Balance as follows:

EXPENDITURES:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Object</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
IFT	477	E525	9600	Transfer to Capital Fund	\$80,750

and be it further

5th **RESOLVED**, that the interfund revenues be and hereby are transferred and accepted in the Capital Fund as follows:

REVENUES:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Rev. Source</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
IFT (Ref. 525-CAP-IFTR-R477)	525	R477	E525	Transfer from Water Quality Protection	\$80,750

and be it further

6th **RESOLVED**, that the 2015 Capital Budget and Program be and they are hereby amended as follows:

Project No.: 8710
 Project Title: Peconic Estuary Kelp Aquaculture Feasibility Study

	<u>Total Est'd Cost</u>	<u>Current 2015 Capital Budget & Program</u>	<u>Revised 2015 Capital Budget & Program</u>
1. Planning	\$80,750	\$0	\$80,750W
TOTAL	\$80,750	\$0	\$80,750

and be it further

7th **RESOLVED**, that these Water Quality proceeds in the amount of \$80,750 be and hereby is appropriated as follows:

<u>Project No.</u>	<u>JC</u>	<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
525-CAP-8710.145	14	Peconic Estuary Kelp Aquaculture Feasibility Study	\$80,750

and be it further

8th **RESOLVED**, that the County Treasurer and County Comptroller are hereby authorized and directed to accept these interfund revenues and effectuate these interfund transfers, including the associated cash transfers to finance this capital project; and be it further

9th **RESOLVED**, that Cornell Cooperative Extension shall enter into a contractual agreement with Suffolk County to ensure project completeness; and be it further

10th **RESOLVED**, that nothing contained herein shall be construed as a binding obligation on the part of Suffolk County to continue to provide funding or resources to Peconic Green Growth for implementation of this resolution once the funding in this resolution has been exhausted.

DATED: April 28, 2015

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
 County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: May 7, 2015