RESOLUTION NO. 459-2012, AUTHORIZING THE DRILLING OF WELLS ON COUNTY PARKLAND FOR FIREFIGHTING PURPOSES

WHEREAS, due to a mild winter and dry spring, Suffolk County is suffering from a severe drought, with conditions ripe for wildfires; and

WHEREAS, two major wildfires occurred in the Pine Barrens region in the past week, with more than 1,200 acres burned; and

WHEREAS, the County owns a large quantity of parkland in the areas most likely to be affected by wildfires; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health Services, Office of Water Resources maintains a well drilling unit which can install wells that can provide up to 400 gallons of water per minute; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Water Resources has identified potential areas for fire wells; and

WHEREAS, given the current conditions, it would be prudent for the County to install wells on County property in the Pine Barrens and other areas of the County that are vulnerable to wildfires; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health Services should work collaboratively with the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, and the Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services to select specific sites where wells will be installed for firefighting purposes; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the Department of Health Services is hereby authorized empowered and directed to drill fire wells on County park properties to aid firefighters battling wildfires; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, the Department of Health Services is further directed to work collaboratively with the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation and the Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services to identify the specific locations for the fire wells within County parkland; and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that the Department of Health Services is further authorized to, at its discretion, install fire wells on land owned by other municipalities or private owners with the written consent of the landowner; and be it further

4th RESOLVED, that based on the information received, a quorum of the CEQ recommends to the Suffolk County Legislature and County Executive, pursuant to Title 6 NYCRR Part 617 and Chapter 450 of the Suffolk County Code, that the proposed project be classified as an unlisted action which will not have significant adverse impacts on the environment for the following reasons:
1. The proposed action will not exceed any of the criteria in Section 617.7 of Title 6 NYCRR which sets forth thresholds for determining significant effect on the environment, as demonstrated in the Environmental Assessment Form;

2. The proposed action does not appear to significantly threaten any unique or highly valuable environmental or cultural resources as identified in or regulated by the Environmental Conservation Law of the State of New York or the Suffolk County Code; and

3. The proposed action will protect County parkland by providing emergency water sources in the event of fire.

DATED: June 5, 2012

APPROVED BY:

County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: 6-21-2012
This is to Certify That I, TIM LAUBE, Clerk of the County Legislature of the County of Suffolk, have compared the foregoing copy of resolution with the original resolution now on file in this office, and which was duly adopted by the County Legislature of said County on June 5, 2012, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said resolution and of the whole thereof.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the official seal of the County Legislature of the County of Suffolk.

[Signature]

Clerk of the Legislature
**Motion:**  
Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Muratore, Anker  
Calarco, Montano, Cilmi, Lindsay, Hahn, Barraga,  
Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Gregory, Stern, D'Amaro, Spencer

**Co-Sponsors:**  
Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Muratore, Anker  
Calarco, Montano, Cilmi, Lindsay, Hahn, Barraga,  
Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Gregory, Stern, D'Amaro, Spencer

**Second:**  
Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Muratore, Anker  
Calarco, Montano, Cilmi, Lindsay, Hahn, Barraga,  
Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Gregory, Stern, D'Amaro, Spencer

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Totals: 17 - 1

**MOTION**

- [X] Approve  
- __ Table: ____________  
- __ Send To Committee  
- __ Table Subject To Call  
- __ Lay On The Table  
- __ Discharge  
- __ Take Out of Order  
- __ Reconsider  
- __ Waive Rule ___  
- __ Override Veto  
- __ Close  
- __ Recess  

APPROVED __ FAILED ___  
No Motion__ No Second__

**RESOLUTION DECLARED**

- [X] ADOPTED  
- __ NOT ADOPTED

Roll Call__ Voice Vote__

Tim Laube, Clerk of the Legislature