

**RESOLUTION NO. 610 -2020, RECONVENING THE WATER
QUALITY PROTECTION AND RESTORATION PROGRAM
COMMITTEE FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS**

WHEREAS, Fire Island is a unique community just off the main portion of Long Island, with a delicate environmental system as part of the barrier island; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation declared the majority of the South Shore Estuary Reserve, including the Great South Bay, as an “impaired water body”, with nitrogen from waste water identified as the leading cause of water quality degradation; and

WHEREAS, nitrogen in costal environments degrades the ecological health of estuaries and is established as a cause of harmful algal blooms throughout the South Shore Estuary Reserve; and

WHEREAS, while the County has been aggressive in pursuing solutions to nitrogen in its waterways and groundwater through expansion of sewage treatment facilities in some areas and the use of innovative alternative wastewater treatment systems, a comprehensive plan for wastewater treatment on Fire Island has not been developed; and

WHEREAS, while Fire Island has a fairly small year-round population, that population size surges in the summer months, with roughly 2.2 million visitors each year; and

WHEREAS, the Coalition for Fire Island Waste Water Solutions, a group of representatives from local, county, state and federal government entities together with environmental protection agencies, would like to develop a comprehensive plan to address the complex wastewater treatment needs for Fire Island; and

WHEREAS, the Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program, established in § C12-2 of the SUFFOLK COUNTY CHARTER, allows the County to provide funding for projects to improve water quality, with projects reviewed and approved by the Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program Committee; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that the County and other levels of government work together to ensure that the aquifer which supplies Fire Island remains a safe and viable water supply for those who live there; and

WHEREAS, the Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program should be reconvened to call for and review applications relevant to this critical need; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, the Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program (“WQPRP”) Committee is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to issue a new call for applications related to wastewater management in the Fire Island portion of the South Shore Estuary Reserve Subwatershed and reconvene to conduct a competitive review process; and be it further

2nd **RESOLVED**, that any projects approved by the WQPRP in this round of review which cannot currently be funded shall be prioritized for funding once monies become available in Fund 477; and be it further

3rd **RESOLVED**, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(26) and (33) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW insofar as these actions constitute routine or continuing administration and management not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment, 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: September 9, 2020

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: September 17, 2020