

The Greater Catskills Flood Remediation Program – Approval Of The Environmental Review Under The State Environmental Review Act, 6 NYCRR Part 617 (SEQRA), Classification Of The Project As An Unlisted Action, And Approval Of A Negative Declaration For The Purchase And Demolition Of Residential Properties Damaged By Seepage And/Or Floods, In Areas Within Two Miles Of The New York City Aqueducts In the Town Of Wawarsing In Ulster County – Funding By The Housing Trust Fund Corporation, A Subsidiary Of The New York State Housing Finance Agency Renewal And/Or The City Of New York Department Of Environmental Protection

Referred to: The Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee (Chairman Richard Parete and Legislators Belfiglio, Maio, Ronk and Briggs) and The Environmental, Energy and Technology Committee (Chairman Belfiglio and Legislators Lopez, Ronk, Wawro, Bartels, John Parete and Wishnick)

Chairman Bernardo and Legislators Craig Lopez, Thomas J. Briggs, and David B. Donaldson offer the following:

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Communications/Emergency Management has been notified that the New York State Legislature through the Housing Trust Fund Corporation, subsidiary of the New York State Housing Finance Agency, has allocated \$3.8 million to Ulster County to extend the Greater Catskills Flood Remediation Program to provide for purchase and demolition of residential properties damaged by seepage and/or floods in areas within two miles of the New York City Aqueducts in the Town of Wawarsing, and

WHEREAS, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection has offered to provide funds up to the amount of \$3.7 million for purchase and demolition of homes that lie within an area it has designated around the known leaking section of the Delaware Aqueduct in the Town of Wawarsing, and

WHEREAS, these funding sources and associated regulations constitute the Program, the goal of which is to remove people and their possessions from harm's way in areas in the Town of Wawarsing that have been hit particularly hard by seepage and flooding, and enable homeowners to relocate from areas that remain subject to seepage and flooding that occurs on a regular basis, and in a manner that threatens the health and safety of the residents, and

WHEREAS, homes purchased would be demolished and the properties dedicated in perpetuity for open space, recreational, wetlands or flood mitigation purposes, and

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WHEREAS, the County must undertake an environmental review necessary to comply with the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, 6 NYCRR Part 617 (SEQRA), prior to commencing any work that would result in physical alteration of the sites, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, 6 NYCRR Part 617 (SEQRA), the County has progressed an uncoordinated review of the Program as provided for under the SEQRA regulations for an Unlisted Action, and

WHEREAS, a long form Environmental Assessment Form was completed for the Program by the Ulster County Department of the Environment, including a Programmatic Environmental Assessment documenting potential environmental, historic and cultural impacts as well as the proposed avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures, and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature has considered the Environmental Assessment Form, Programmatic Environmental Assessment and Negative Declaration, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Ulster County Legislature finds and determines that the Program, as defined, constitutes an Unlisted Action and that for the reasons set forth in the Negative Declaration the Program will not have a significant adverse environmental impact within the meaning of SEQRA, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Negative Declaration is hereby adopted, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Chairman of the Legislature is hereby authorized to sign any necessary certifications and forms as required under SEQRA to implement this determination, and be it further

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RESOLVED, that this resolution, together with the Negative Declaration and supporting SEQRA materials, be filed and published in accordance with 6 NYCRR Part 617.12,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislator Roberts)

Passed Committee: Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee on March 6, 2012

Passed Committee: Environmental, Energy and Technology Committee on March 8, 2012

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

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