

GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO ANNOUNCES \$39.5 MILLION FOR WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS ACROSS THE STATE

Grants Will Help Fund Projects to Reduce Pollution Runoff, Improve Resiliency and Restore Natural Habitats

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced \$39.5 million in grants for local and regional projects that will improve water quality, reduce polluted runoff and restore water bodies and aquatic habitats.

“These important investments will provide the assistance communities need to implement effective pollution control projects, increase resiliency against storms and better protect critical natural resources,” Governor Cuomo said. “Preserving and improving water quality is vital to the quality of life for New Yorkers and these projects will help to ensure that our waterways and drinking water are clean and healthy.”

A total of 134 grants are being awarded through the state’s Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP), a competitive grant program funded primarily by the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) and NY Works II.

Regional totals include:

- Western New York: \$4,939,612 million
- Finger Lakes: \$3,851,204 million
- Central New York: \$7,259,947 million
- North Country: \$10,373,281million
- Capital Region: \$2,103,039 million
- Hudson Valley: \$4,159,980 million
- New York City: \$500,000
- Long Island: \$6,333,592 million

“Pollution can have devastating effects on our environment, including damaging critical habitats that provide natural defenses against storm surges and sea level rise,” Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Joe Martens said. “This latest round of WQIP grants is another example of Governor Cuomo’s commitment to building productive partnerships with local communities to better protect and restore our environment.”

The grants awarded today provide assistance for a variety of projects, including:

- \$23 million for projects to control polluted runoff from non-farm sources. Nonpoint source pollution comes from many sources and can occur when rainfall or snowmelt travels over and through the ground and picks up natural and human-made pollutants. Funding will support projects such as stream stabilization and flood control, and includes \$4 million for projects that utilize natural infrastructure, such as wetland construction and removal of floodplain berms, to help minimize damage from storms, a key goal of the Governor’s efforts to build and strengthen resiliency statewide;

- \$7.7 million in NY Works II funding for municipal wastewater treatment facilities to install equipment to disinfect effluent, or treated sewage. This funding will help to protect the quality of waters used for fishing, swimming and boating, as well as waters that have sensitive receptors nearby, such as bathing beaches, or the Great Lakes.
- \$2.2 million for wastewater treatment facilities in the Chesapeake Bay and Chautauqua Lake watersheds to install equipment to remove or reduce nutrients in the facility's effluent, which can impair water quality.

Under WQIP, eligible projects include municipal wastewater treatment; municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4); polluted runoff abatement and control from non-farm sources; and aquatic habitat restoration. Award recipients may be reimbursed for up to 85 percent of the total project costs cost.

A full list of projects receiving funding can be found on the DEC website at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html>