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Public Information Officer, NYS DEC

625 Broadway

Albany, NY 12233-1016

Re: Environmental Bond Act Project Ideas Survey

Dear Ms. Severino:

The Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor (CSHH) is a not-for-profit environmental organization founded in 1986. CSHH is dedicated to identifying and eliminating environmental risks in and around Hempstead Harbor, located on the north shore of Long Island.

We are encouraged by the potential that the \$4.2 billion Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act provides to help protect the natural environment. We would like to present certain areas that we feel are particularly beneficial to the protection of these resources. We support funding for projects that address:

- **Water sustainability** on Long Island, specifically projects that help Long Island **meet the DEC directive to water suppliers to reduce water usage by 15%** from the 2012 benchmark year, including **annual reports** by DEC that track the status and results of the mandated reduction to date;
- Implementation of the goals and projects of **Nassau County's original WaterVision program**, including having water suppliers replace outdated water meters with smart meters and promote smart irrigation systems in their service areas, replace outdated and wasteful water fixtures in municipal buildings and facilities, and re-establish an annual report on groundwater and public water supply data for all water suppliers;
- **Shoreline strengthening initiatives** that prioritize **natural and nature-based features**;

continued

Visit www.coalitiontosavehempsteadharbor.org for information about our programs.


- **Acquisition of critical waterfront open space areas and appropriate adaptation** as sea levels rise;
- Mitigation efforts to **reduce nitrogen** loading to waterways; and
- Wastewater treatment infrastructure upgrades, especially those that provide **opportunities for water reuse** and/or address the **issue of combined sewage overflows**.

It is critical that projects be funded that address the issue of combined sewage overflows in New York City. Untreated sewage flowing into waterways even during nominal amounts of rainfall occurs regularly and occurrences will only increase as the frequency and intensity of storms also increase. CSHH has worked tirelessly for 37 years to fight for water quality improvements in Hempstead Harbor. Our cumulative efforts can only take us so far if untreated waters continue to negatively impact these shared waterways.

We support efforts to replace outdated septic and cesspool systems with sewers (where feasible). However, any new sewers created must follow a deliberate **regional plan for groundwater recharge**, guided by the USGS's Long Island Groundwater Sustainability Study, to sustain Long Island's drinking water supply. In cases where sewer connections are not feasible, we urge a **continuation of support for IA septic system upgrades**.

Thank you for your special consideration of the important areas referenced above for Environmental Bond Act funding.

Respectfully,



Michelle Lapinel McAllister
Programs Director
Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor