



# TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

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February 21, 2023

In conjunction with H2M Architects and Engineers, an engineering consulting firm, and a town-appointed Montauk Wastewater Committee comprising Montauk residents and town staff, East Hampton Town is in the earliest stages of a public process to study the feasibility of creating a community wastewater treatment system in Montauk.

This centralized wastewater treatment project would be one component of the Town's overall water quality improvement strategy for Montauk. Other ongoing water protection efforts in the hamlet include stormwater runoff mitigation and abatement projects, and upgrades – where conditions allow -- to individual low-nitrogen septic systems at municipal, residential, or commercial properties, through the Town's Septic Incentive Program.

The Town is continuing to work on gathering the necessary science and fact-based information for the community and policymakers to make informed decisions regarding alternatives to discharging untreated sewage. Initial public response highlights the need to provide more detailed information to address questions and concerns raised such as:

- Demonstrate the need- is centralized sewage treatment necessary?
- Feasibility of and options for treating the raw sewage
- Address specific public concerns:
  - Weigh potential environmental and health impacts of doing nothing
  - Address concerns about overdevelopment and address possible zoning changes to prevent
  - Parkland Alienation to obtain a sewage treatment plant site -Is it necessary? Is it precedent setting?
  - Assess any potential impacts to properties and drinking water wells in proximity to the treatment site
- Location/siting of treatment facilities
  - Regulatory constraints
  - Centralized vs decentralized sewage treatment
  - Available land
    - Alternatives to Parkland Alienation
- Creating a sewer district

- Property Owner Support
- Funding

The project will be subject to a full environmental analysis and review under the NYS Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). Public comment will be encouraged throughout the discussion and planning process, which would include a design and engineering phase, cost estimation, identifying funding sources, and creation of a tax district following state approval and a vote of property owners within the proposed district.

We look forward to continuing to work with the community, our engineers, staff, and stakeholders to collectively address this longtime problem through a constructive and science-based approach.