

Executive Summary

The “Rules and Regulations for the Protection from Contamination, Degradation and Pollution of New York City Water Supply and its Sources,” more commonly referred to as the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) Watershed Regulations, were implemented to protect the water quality of the New York City drinking water supply. These regulations could have a dramatic effect on local land use, community character, and economic activity in watershed municipalities. As part of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between NYCDEP and the watershed communities, funding was allocated for creation of a “Comprehensive Croton System Water Quality Protection Plan” (or “Croton Plan”) that would include three elements (Watershed Regulations, §18-82(c)):

- (1) Identification of water quality problems and community character needs.
- (2) Identification of investments to correct existing water quality problems in accordance with developed priorities.
- (3) Strategies for prevention of future water quality problems and the consideration of future community character needs in conjunction with the water quality goals of the Croton Plan.

The Town of Southeast has worked with the Putnam County Division of Planning and Development to create the *Croton Plan*.

The *Croton Plan* contains the following Sections:

- Section 1 identifies community character and needs and was developed in coordination with the Town’s updated *Comprehensive Plan*. The *Comprehensive Plan* incorporates the *Croton Plan* as a supporting report that identifies specific water quality and infrastructure considerations that affect the orderly growth and development of the Town consistent with the Town’s stated vision to maintain the Town’s picturesque rural character while allowing for appropriate commercial and residential development.
- Section 2 of the *Croton Plan* identifies water quality problem areas within the Town of Southeast and sources of contamination including both point sources and non-point sources.
- Section 3 of the *Croton Plan* discusses potential infrastructure solutions and specific recommendations to address water quality problem areas should funding become available.
- Section 4 of the *Croton Plan* identifies the recommendations contained within the *Comprehensive Plan*.
- Sections 5 and 6 of the *Croton Plan* describe existing and recommended local environmental laws and the existing Town of Southeast land use approval process. The Town of Southeast is committed to the protection of its community character and the natural environment through the application of local laws regulating growth and development in the site plan approval and subdivision review processes.

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Public participation has been included in the development of the *Croton Plan*. In addition to meetings with the Town Board and the Town's Master Plan Steering Committee, a public information meeting on the *Croton Plan* was held on April 25, 2001 and a public hearing was held on May 15, 2001. Additional meetings and hearings were held on the *Comprehensive Plan*.

To comply with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), the Town identified the preparation of the *Croton Plan* as a Type I Action and prepared a Full Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) and circulated the EAF with a Notice of Intent to Declare Lead Agency on May 21, 2001. The Town Board declared itself Lead Agency on _____ and issued a Negative Declaration of Environmental Significance on _____.