



The Coalition for
Hither Woods^{INC.}

BY HAND

Suffolk County Legislature
100 Veterans Memorial Highway
P. O. Box 6100
Hauppauge, New York 11788

Re: Downtown Montauk Contaminants will NOT be removed by the Wastewater Treatment Plant

Dear Members of the Suffolk County Legislature:

During the Suffolk County Parks Trustee meeting on February 23, 2023 a conversation ensued between H2M's Project Manager Nick Bono, and the Suffolk County Legislator Steve Flotteron. This discussion focused on the Downtown Montauk Wastewater Recharge.

Suffolk County Legislator Steve Flotteron asked:

What are you going to do to solve that problem with things that people are flushing down the toilet, such as Meds or anything else?

H2M Program Manager Nick Bono replied:

“The treatment plant technology is on the wastewater side, they are not designed to remove pharmaceuticals. Regulation wise, pharmaceuticals are not regulated. The emerging contaminants on the wastewater side are not regulated.”

In other words...when arguing about the benefits of refilling the Hither Woods aquifer with wastewater from downtown Montauk, H2M Program Manager Nick Bono acknowledges that all the contaminants that people flush down the toilet (chemicals, pharmaceuticals, drugs, estrogen, and all other things) are NOT contained by the wastewater treatment plant and COULD make their way into the Hither Woods aquifer.

Normally this is not a consideration because Wastewater Sewage Treatment Plants are never even considered to be built on top of any aquifer. The Hither Woods aquifer is a part of the Suffolk County Special Groundwater Protection Area and is an irreplaceable supply of Montauk's sole source drinking water. I beg this legislative body to forbid the alienation of parkland.

Sincerely,

ROBERT S. WHALEN
Secretary