

LONG ISLAND

\$13M from state for sewage plant

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Suffolk County will receive \$13.6 million in financing from Albany to fund upgrades to the Bergen Point Sewage Treatment Plant in West Babylon and make it more storm-resilient and efficient at wastewater treatment, officials said.

The structure is the first to benefit from the state's Storm Mitigation Loan Program since superstorm Sandy damaged key Long Island facilities two years ago. The funding is made possible through the federal Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013.

It consists of a combination of a \$3.2 million grant and a \$10.4 million no-interest loan for Suffolk County.

Officials said the project costs \$14.5 million, with the balance being supplied through Suffolk County bonds and municipal contributions.

"Superstorm Sandy showed us the importance of proactively strengthening

our infrastructure so it is more resilient to extreme weather," Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo said in a statement announcing the funding. "This loan is the latest in a series of actions taken by New York State to help Long Island strengthen its coastal resiliency against future storms and will enable Suffolk County to improve its wastewater and storm water infrastructure. It is one more way that New York is building back better."

The project will improve the facility's outfall pumping system by replacing three pumping units and installing a new fourth pump, new electrical controls, mechanism systems and discharge piping, officials said. It should also expand treatment capacity and improve operational efficiency.

"Storm resiliency is vital in protecting our infrastructure from future storms," Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone said. "I thank Governor Cuomo for once again delivering on his commitment to rebuilding and making communities stronger than ever."