

# Bay Park sewage treatment plant to get \$150 million for nitrogen-removal system after all, officials say

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*Shown are digester tanks at the Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant in East Rockaway. At right is a 60-foot-high gas sphere on March 9, 2011. Photo Credit: Kevin P. Coughlin*

State officials announced Thursday morning they have secured \$150 million for a nitrogen-removal system for Nassau's storm-damaged Bay Park sewage treatment plant.

The money for the system had been in doubt.

Federal officials announced in May that \$150 million would be included in the state's plans for a third installment of storm-recovery money from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. But that money did not appear in the state's request to the federal agency.

Jon Kaiman, Long Island adviser for the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery, said the source of the money was not yet determined, but it could be included in the third installment of superstorm Sandy money or it could be funded with other resources the state may have.

He said the plan was to continue to push federal officials to fund an ocean-outfall pipe for the plant, which would allow the nitrogen-choked Reynolds Channel to recover and add to the area's storm resiliency.

"Our goal is to leverage this money to get more dollars invested so the total project can be completed in the proper manner," Kaiman said Thursday morning.

Kaiman will join Nassau County Executive Edward Mangano Thursday "to announce New York State's commitment" of the money, officials announced in a news release.

Officials will make the announcement and provide details at a late-morning news conference.