

Patchogue to use federal funds to connect 650 homes to sewers

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The Village of Patchogue is due to receive \$18 million in federal and state grant money as part of a plan to connect hundreds of properties, particularly homes in South Patchogue, seen here Aug. 23, 2016, to the nearby treatment plant. (Credit: Johnny Milano)

Patchogue Village will receive \$18 million in federal and state grant money to connect hundreds of properties to a sewer plant.

The funds are part of \$388 million designated for Suffolk County for both post-superstorm Sandy shoreline protection and to extend sewer connections to 12,000 South Shore homes.

That is part of an effort to improve sewer infrastructure to stem nitrogen pollution and bolster coastal protection from future storms. Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, a supporter of sewer expansion, announced the project in 2014.

While federal agencies designated the money for Suffolk County in 2014, officials only recently ironed out details on how to use the funds, said Suffolk County Legis. Rob Calarco (D-Patchogue).

Patchogue adopted a resolution Monday night to enter into a municipal agreement with Suffolk County to receive the funds as part of a coastal resiliency project.

“It’s a unique opportunity. Every once in a while you get lucky, and we got lucky,” Mayor Paul Pontieri said during the meeting.

More than 650 homes and other properties in south Patchogue near Patchogue Bay will be connected to a village sewer plant at no cost to the residents.

“The money is to serve a dual purpose: to rebuild what was damaged during the storm and make water areas more resilient for future storms,” Calarco said at the meeting. “Our wetlands have been greatly degraded by the amount of nitrogen pollution going in the Patchogue Bay.”

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The \$388 million also includes hooking up sewer connections to 12,000 South Shore homes and properties in Shirley, Mastic, Oakdale and Babylon, Calarco said.

The total amount of money comes from the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation’s Revolving Fund, and HUD’s Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Program. The federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program is also helping to fund the projects.

Patchogue officials praised the sewer installation component at the meeting.

“It’s a huge benefit to residents to not have to have a septic system on their property,” village trustee Susan Brinkman said. “It’s a win-win for the village.”

Calarco said work on the sewers likely wouldn’t start for another year, and will take three to four years to complete.