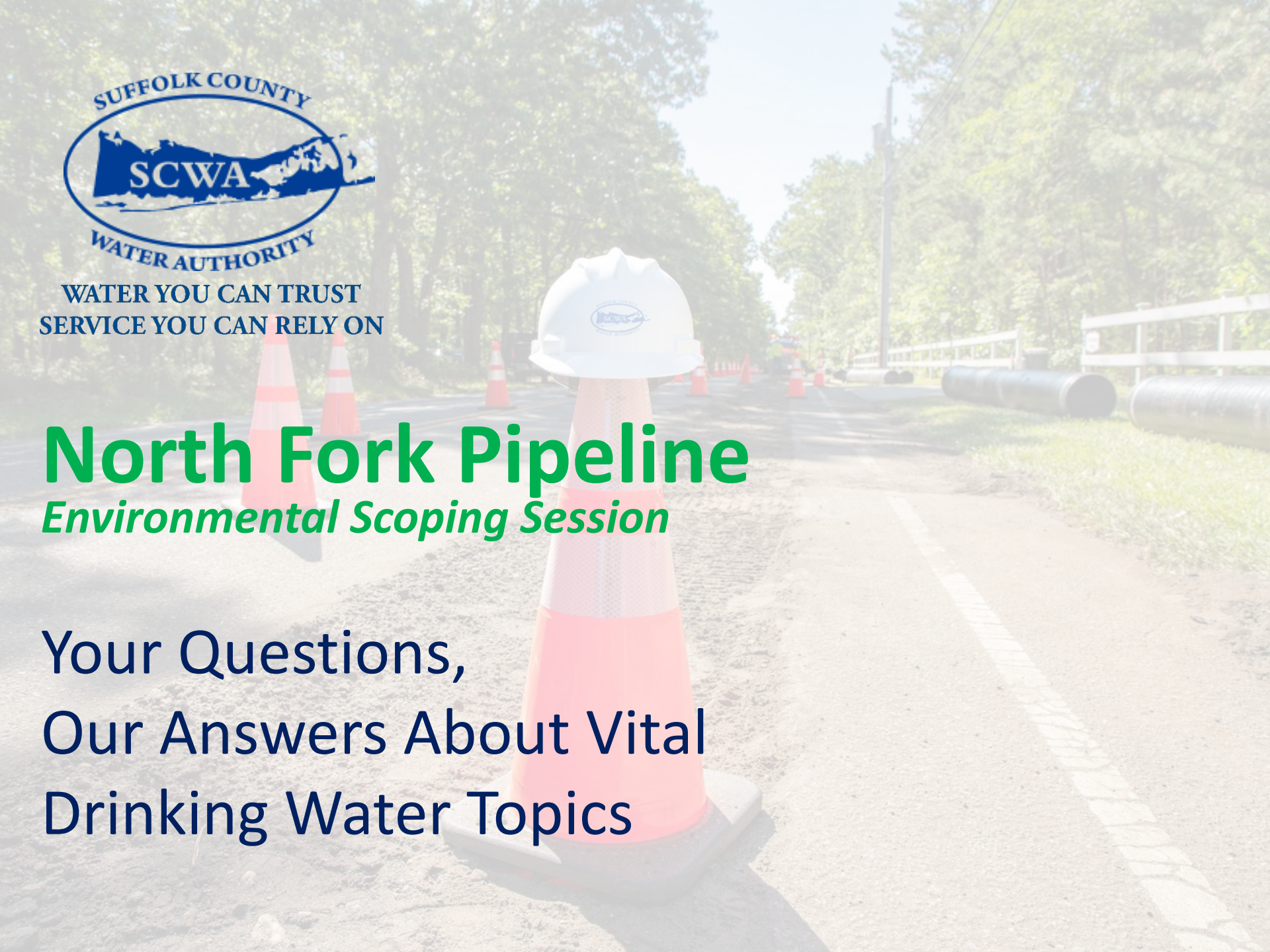


SUFFOLK COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

WATER YOU CAN TRUST
SERVICE YOU CAN RELY ON

North Fork Pipeline

Environmental Scoping Session

Your Questions,
Our Answers About Vital
Drinking Water Topics

SUFFOLK COUNTY
SCWA
WATER AUTHORITY

Jeff Szabo

Chief Executive Officer

Why are we here?

- The Suffolk County Water Authority is planning a major project known as the **North Fork Pipeline**.
- This meeting is to accept public comments on the scope of environmental review:
  - Ensure public participation in the EIS development process;
  - Permit inclusion of relevant, substantive public issues in the final written scope.
- SCWA will present a formal presentation on the project and then we will open it up for public comments on the scope of the project.
- This is **not** a public hearing. SCWA will not be addressing comments raised at this meeting. Comments will be reviewed and, when appropriate, incorporated into the environmental review.
- We will accept comments through **June 25th, 2025.**

SUFFOLK COUNTY SCWA WATER AUTHORITY

Why are we here?

- Through this scoping process we will complete the following objectives:
  - Identify the significant environmental conditions and resources that maybe affected by the project;
  - Rule out irrelevant impacts or issues and eliminate or de-emphasize non-significant impacts;
  - Define reasonable alternatives for avoiding specific impacts which must be included in the EIS, either as individual scenarios or a range of alternatives; and
  - Specify possible measures for mitigating potential impacts that must be discussed in the EIS, to the extent that they can be identified at the time of scoping.

SUFFOLK COUNTY SCWA WATER AUTHORITY

What SCWA is…

- The Suffolk County Water Authority is an **independent public-benefit corporation** operating under the Public Authorities Law of the State of New York.

- SCWA serves approximately **1.2 million** Suffolk County residents.
    - 95% of our accounts are residential **but use 76% of the total water pumped**.
    - Remaining 5% are commercial **but use 19% of the total water pumped**.

- Beginning operations in 1951, SCWA operates without taxing power on **a not-for-profit** basis.

- SCWA is one of the largest **groundwater suppliers** in the country.

What SCWA is not…

- SCWA is **not** a branch of Suffolk County Government.
- SCWA does **not** create or enforce drinking water regulations. This is the responsibility of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and New York State Department of Health (DOH).
- SCWA does **not** control development or land use. That function falls under the jurisdiction of the local towns.

We're a little different than other places

- In many other parts of the country, drinking water is sourced from surface waters, such as rivers, lakes and reservoirs.

- New York City, for example, gets most of their water from reservoirs filled from the watersheds of the Hudson Valley and Catskill Mountains.

Our Water

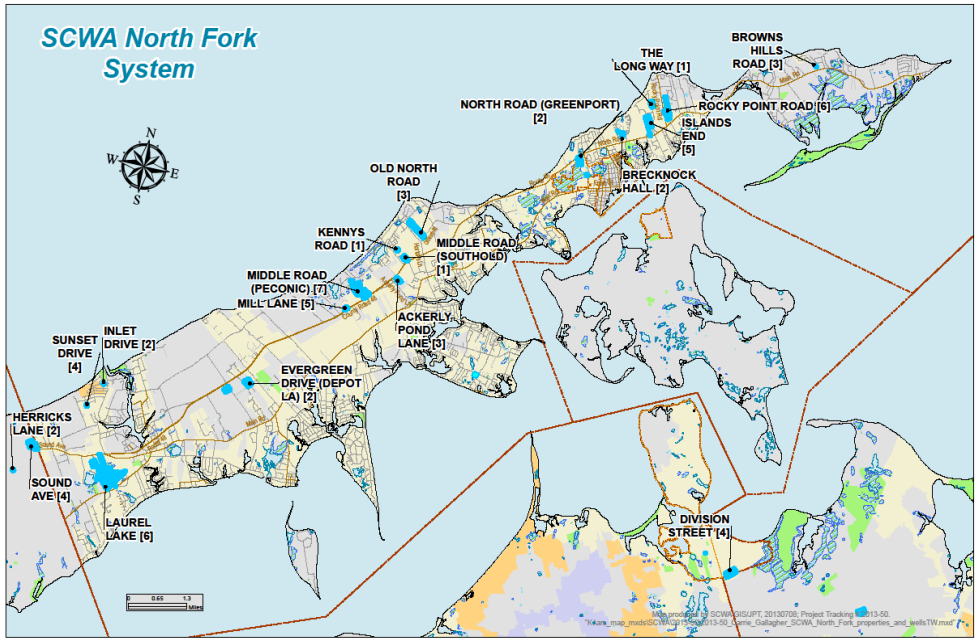
- SCWA gets 100% of our water from our **sole source aquifer**.
    - It is composed of three principal individual aquifers, the Upper Glacial, Magothy and Lloyd.
    - Collectively, they contain approximately **65 trillion gallons** of groundwater.
- SCWA maintains more than 600 public supply wells at about 240 locations that pump water from the aquifer.

SUFFOLK COUNTY
SCWA
WATER AUTHORITY

East End Challenges

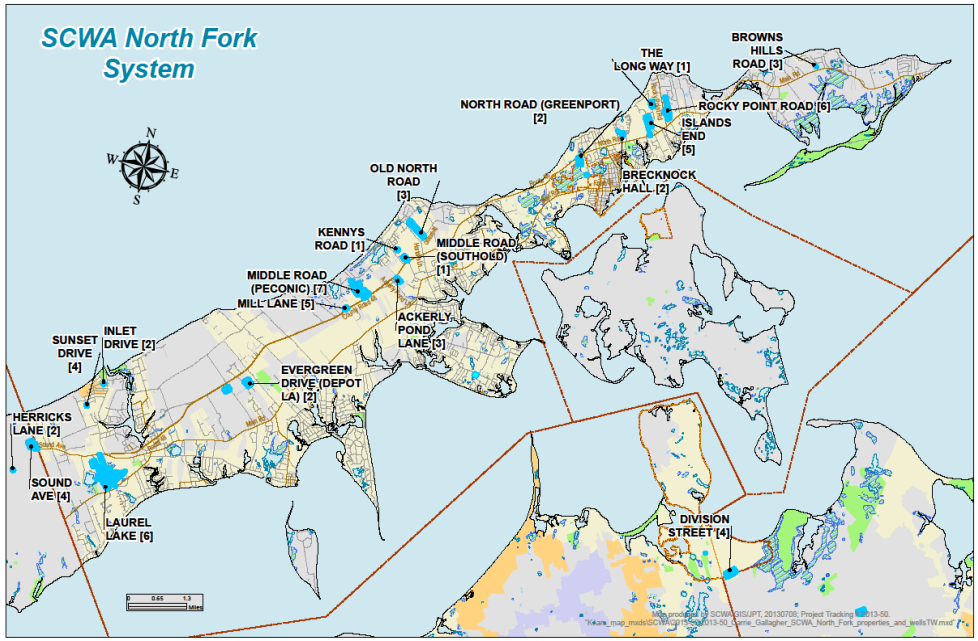
Pumping Water on the North Fork

- SCWA currently operates 60 wells at 18 well fields throughout the North Fork.
- Currently serve approximately 9,500 customers.
- Total authorized capacity of 12,550 gallons per minute.
- Usable capacity is substantially less due to pumpage restrictions:
  - Some restrictions are imposed by regulatory agencies such as NYSDEC
  - Others are imposed “internally” by the SCWA to maintain water quality.



North Fork Water Quality

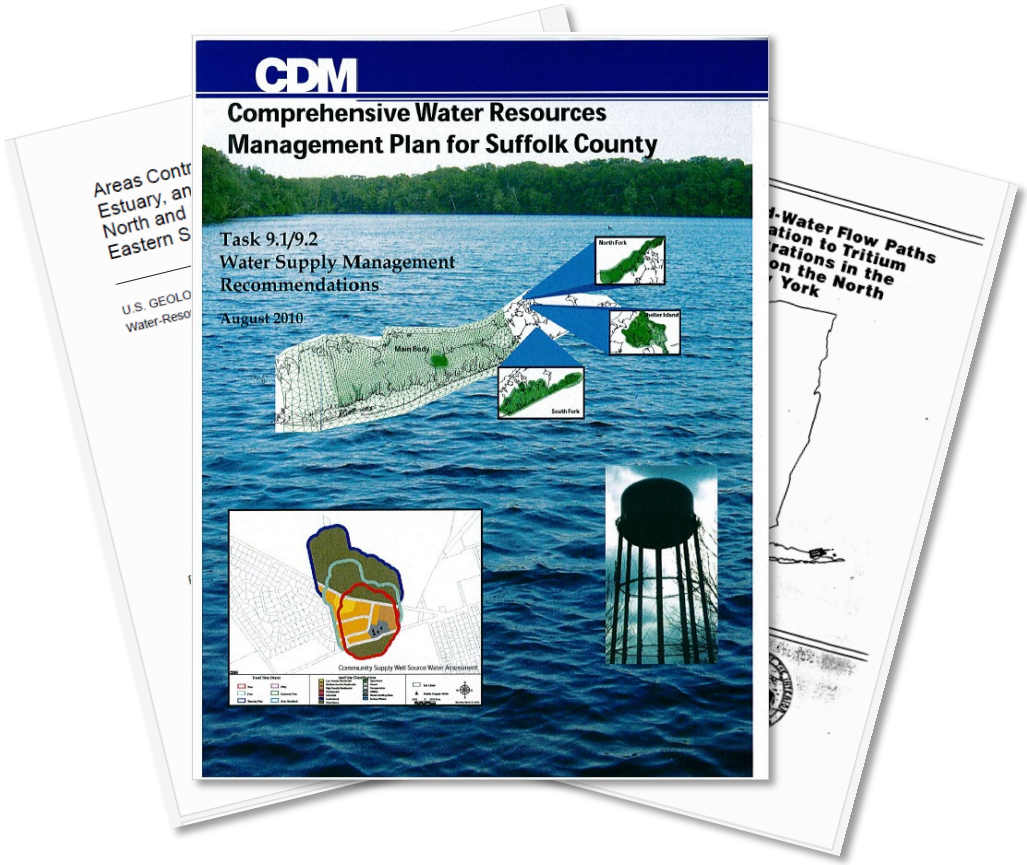
- Virtually all wells on the North Fork draw from the Upper Glacial Aquifer because it is the only part of the aquifer that we can draw from in this area.
- The shallower the well, the more surface conditions can impact water quality.
- Approximately 25 wells require treatment for pesticides/herbicides.
- Chlorides further limit operational capacities of our wells. All wells on the North Fork are threatened by lateral saltwater intrusion and vertical intrusion as they all sit above salt water.



North Fork Water Quality

Following studies contributed to our planning:

- Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan for Suffolk County
  - *CDM Smith – 2010*
- Simulation of Ground-Water Flow Paths and Traveltime in Relation to Tritium and Aldicarb Concentrations in the Supper Glacial Aquifer on the North Fork, Long Island, New York
  - *U.S. Geological Survey – 1996*
- Areas Contributing Ground Water to the Peconic Estuary, and Ground-Water Budgets for the North and South Forks and Shelter Island, Eastern Suffolk County, New York
  - *U.S. Geological Survey – 1998*



What are the Challenges?

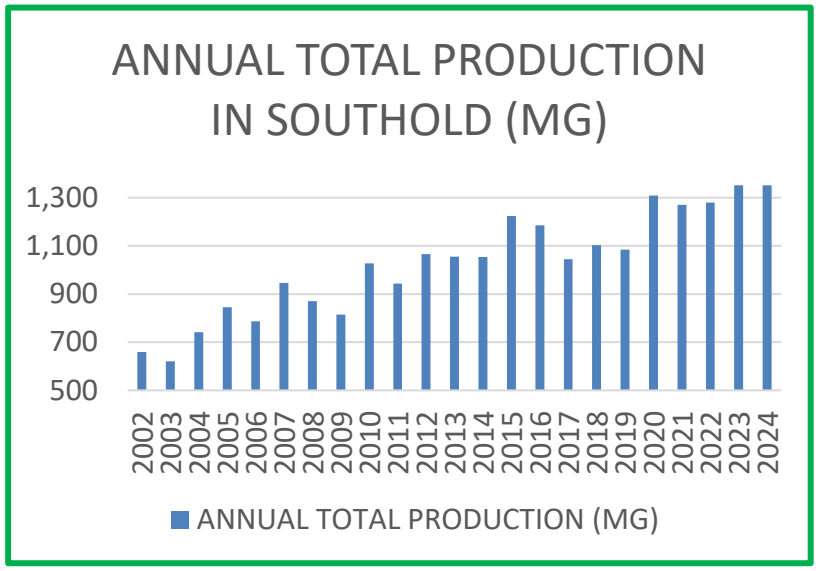
Peak demand continues to stress the aquifer and SCWA infrastructure.

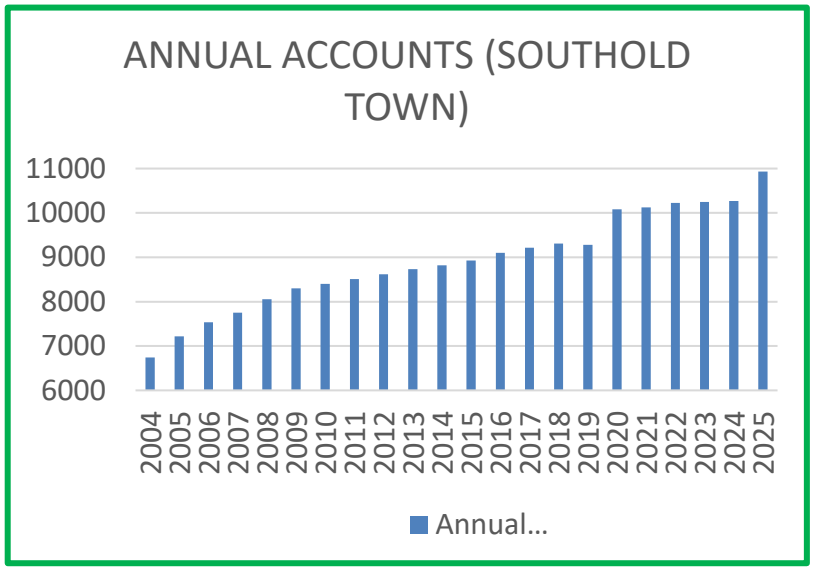
Our capacity to drill additional wells in limited by geology and regulators.

Chloride levels are on the rise—making it necessary to cut back on the use of certain wells

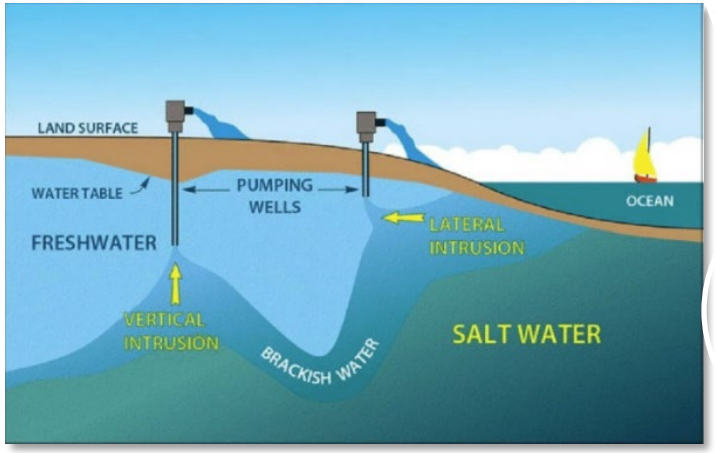
Current Demand is Outstripping Capacity

- Demand in Southold continues to increase. The number of customers that SCWA serves has expanded over the decades. As a result, consumption is outstripping supply. This problem will only get worse with time.





It is Difficult to Drill New Wells on the North Fork



Geology:

- Freshwater aquifers are limited by surrounding saltwater, restricting well depth and capacity.
- Pumping too much risks permanent saltwater intrusion, reducing freshwater quality.

Regulators:

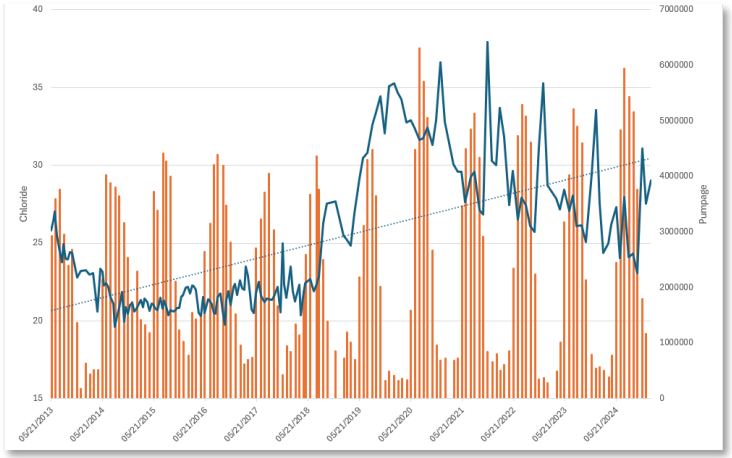
- Several wells have DEC permit limits and require chloride monitoring.
- Few viable locations remain for major new supply in Southold.

Cost:

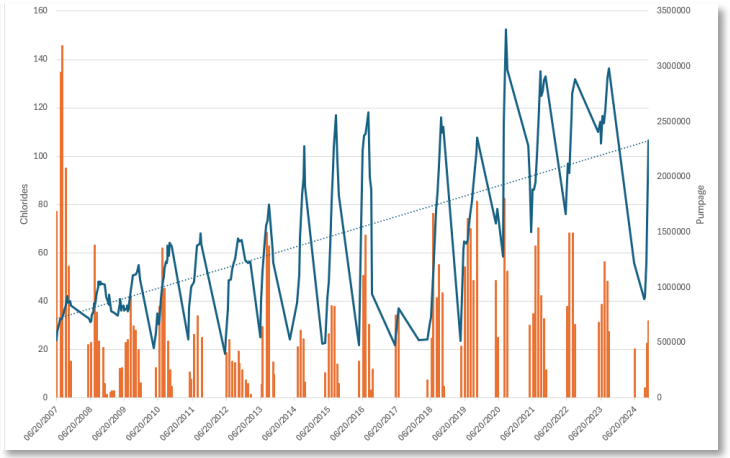
- Capital costs per gallon are higher, as small wells require the same infrastructure as larger ones.
- North Fork pump stations often rely on multiple small wells rather than larger mainland-style wells.

Chloride Levels are on the Rise

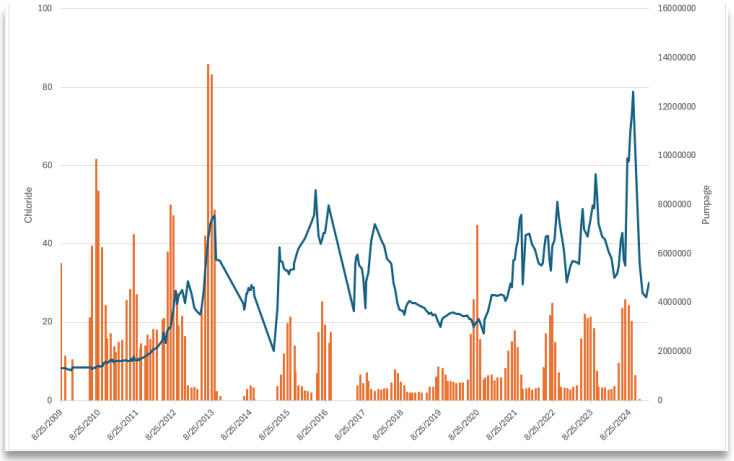
Evergreen Well #3



Island End Well #8a

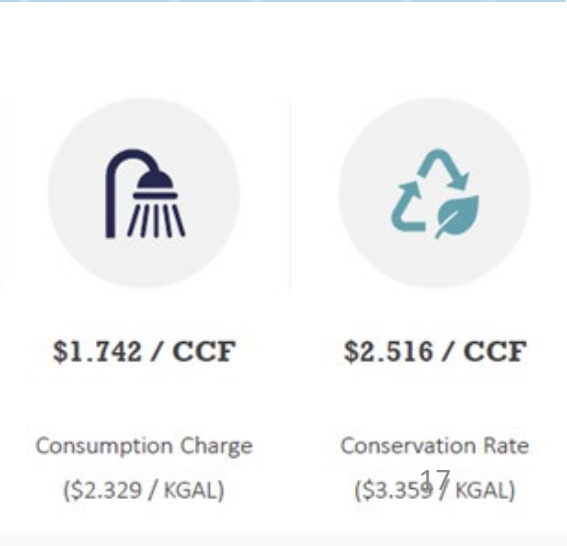


Sound Avenue Well #1b



How are we addressing this?

- In 2020, SCWA adopted **a tiered rate structure**. Customers who use water above a certain threshold will be charged a higher rate.
  - SCWA is considering add a **third tier** for super users.
- In January 2023, SCWA instituted a new **Comprehensive Water Conservation Plan**. Some of the key elements are:
  - The adoption of an **Odd/Even lawn watering** policy for all customers.
  - Enhanced **rebates** for installing water saving devices.
  - A proactive **ad campaign** to inform our customers about the importance of water conservation.



Educating Our Customers: Outreach

- We are using television and digital ad targeting to spread the message about our account credits and the Odd/Even Lawn Watering Policy.
- Increased outreach and messaging budget.
- Expanding our direct conservation outreach – we hope you will soon be tired of hearing from us.

Conservation Efforts

SCWA has been aggressively messaging conservation to customers across Suffolk County. Since 2023:

Our television and digital commercials have gotten **3.2 million impressions**

We've sent out multiple emails, totaling **1.1 million emails** sent

Our social media ads have been seen by **122,400** accounts

We've knocked on **1,211** doors knocked with 283 interactions on the North Fork to stress conservation

Our podcast episode on conservation has been downloaded more than **1,000** times.

WaterWise Checkup program – **52 checkups** – On average about 18% DECREASE in water usage year over year after a customer has a WaterWise Checkup.

The WaterWise Account Credit Program has approved **1627** account credits, totaling about **$215,000** given to customers for installing water saving devices

SUFFOLK COUNTY
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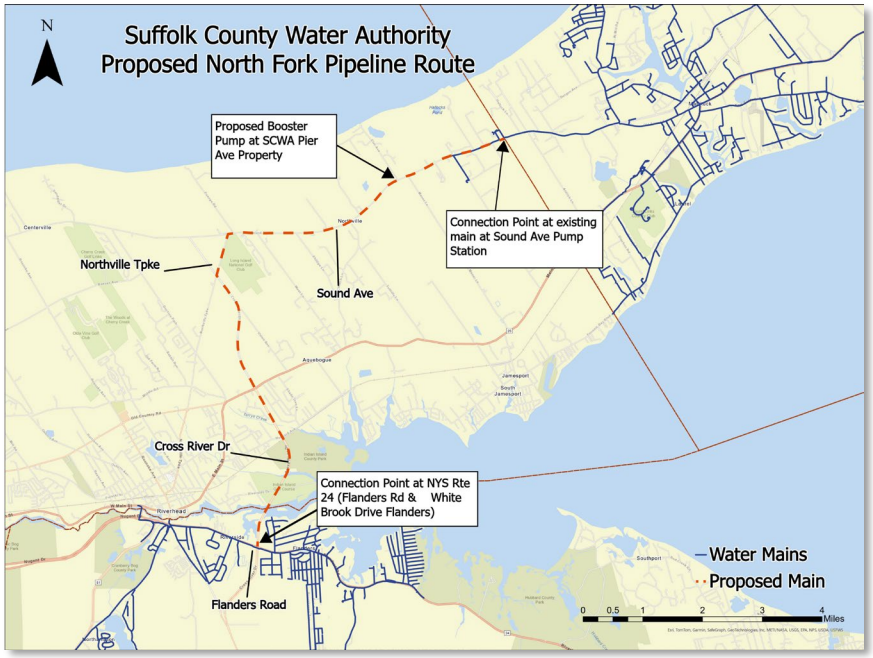
The Solution:
The North Fork Pipeline

Brendan Warner

Director of Construction/ Maintenance

The North Fork Pipeline



The Pipeline:

- The North Fork Pipeline will consist of 8.5 miles of 24” ductile iron water main from Flanders to the Southold Town line including 3 directional drills and a booster station.
- SCWA will utilize excess capacity in Southampton- no new wells will be drilled.

The Construction:

- Water main installation will be accomplished through open-cut installation and directional drill
- Trenching will only be opened for each day's work, typically 300 feet
- In consideration of the community, SCWA will avoid road openings and traffic interruptions during the busy fall season.
- The Pipeline is expected to be completed by 2030.

Project Benefits

With less reliance on shallow Southold wells, SCWA will be able to cutback on the use and possibly **retire wells** impacted by saltwater intrusion or emerging contaminants thereby avoiding the cost of treatment systems.

Importing water from outside the Southold hydrogeologic cycle will provide additional recharge to help **restore** the thin aquifer.

With SCWA pumping less water from Southold, the agriculture industry can pump water for irrigation with **less risk** of saltwater intrusion.

Fire Safety

The Southold community relies on water supplied by SCWA for fire protection and emergency response.

In order to provide adequate pressure for fire flow, SCWA needs its water storage tanks to have adequate supply.

During peak summer demand, storage tanks on the North Fork can run dangerously low, particularly the Moore's Lane tank in Greenport.

This has led to customers experience low pressure in the early morning hours when the demand is at its highest.

Fire fighters may not have enough water and pressure to respond to an emergency if a major fire were to breakout.

How will this impact you?

- SCWA designed the proposed plan to minimize impacts:
  - We are undertaking as few water crossings as possible to reduce our environmental impact
  - Residential areas are avoided, wherever possible
  - Traffic impacts will be minimized

- Water crossings will be accomplished utilizing directional drill technology which installs the pipeline well below the bottom of a water body—virtually eliminating any environmental impact.

- Construction will occur during the **off-season** to avoid impacting traffic during the busiest periods.

- All impacted roads will be **fully restored**.

- Where appropriate, SCWA will work during night hours to reduce the impacts on traffic.

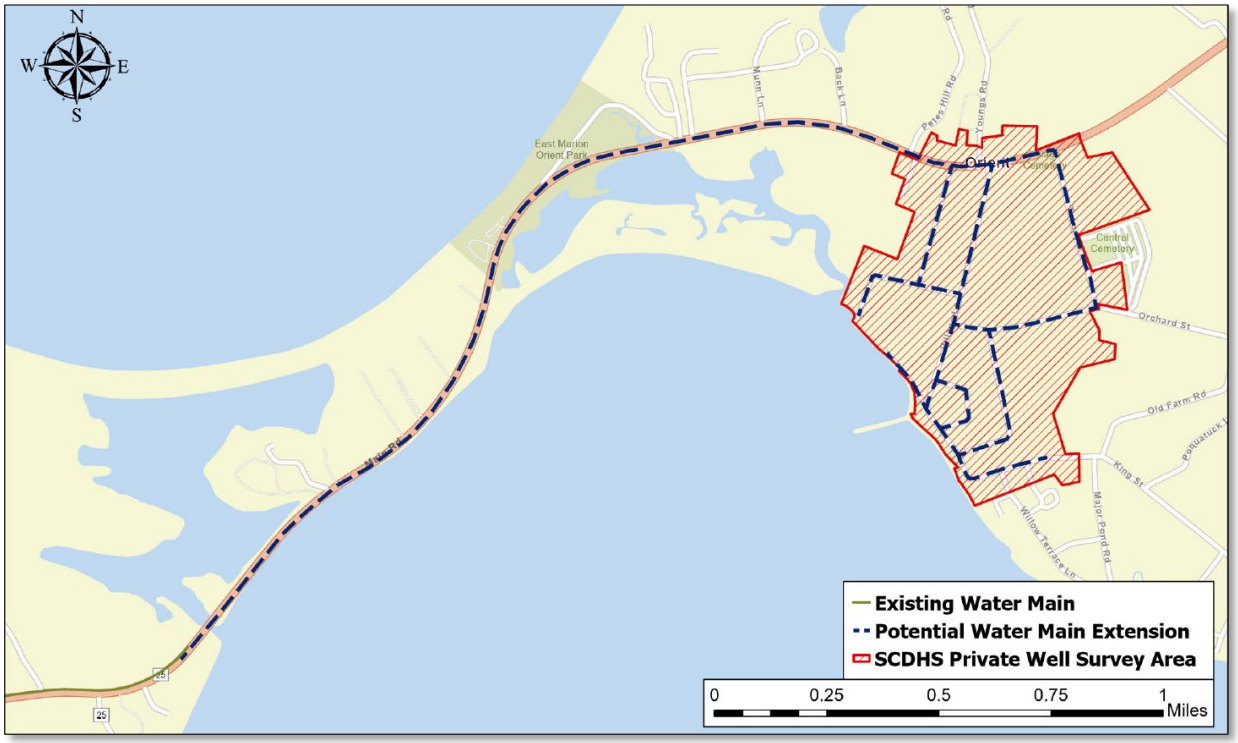
Project Cost

There will be no special assessments or fees charged to SCWA customers for this project.

Total Cost: $35 million

- This project is **fully budgeted** and will be integrated into SCWA's existing annual $100 million capital improvement budget.
- Potential grant funding may be available to help **offset** project costs after the EIS is complete.
- The project has been carefully structured to avoid any disruption to current operations.
- No impact is expected on services provided to existing ratepayers.
- The project will move forward without diverting resources from other critical system needs.

Orient



- SCWA is **NOT** planning to extend water main to Orient.

- The extension, or “Phase 2”, is being considered in the environmental review to be transparent and incorporate the possible extension in the future.
  - Failing to do this as part of this environmental review could be considered “segmentation”, which is prohibited under SEQRA rules.

- Expansion into Orient would **require input** from the affected residents and that they cover the cost of the extension.

Want to learn more about water?

- SCWA Website – www.SCWA.com
  - New conservation section
  - Pay your bill online
  - Waterwise programs
  - Real-Time Maintenance Map
  - Education Center Tours

- Sign up for our social media accounts for live updates:
  - X.com/suffolkwater (formerly twitter)
  - Facebook.com/suffolkwater
  - Instagram.com/suffolk_water

SUFFOLK COUNTY SCWA WATER AUTHORITY

Next Steps

- We are accepting public comments until June 25th , 2025.
- The Final scope will be prepared and will be distributed to Involved Agencies and posted on SCWA's website.
- The next step is a preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
  - Anticipated completion Fall/ early Winter 2025.