

**New York State
Environmental Quality Review
(SEQR)**

Findings Statement

Pursuant to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act - SEQR) of the Environmental Conservation Law and 6 NYCRR Part 617, the Nassau County Department of Public Works, as the Lead Agency makes the following findings.

Name of Action: Nassau County Mosquito Control and Surveillance Program

Description of Action:

Through the Mosquito Control Plan (MCP), the Nassau County Department of Public Works (NCDPW) and Department of Health (NCDOH) work together to suppress mosquito populations that can impact public health (e.g. West Nile Virus [WNV]). To achieve this goal, the County MCP employs Integrated Pest Management (IPM) by focusing on long-term suppression or prevention, with a minimal impact on health, environment, and non-target organisms. IPM incorporates all reasonable measures to prevent mosquito problems by properly identifying species, monitoring population dynamics, and using physical, biological, or chemical population control methods to reduce mosquitoes to acceptable levels. Control measures emphasize prevention and proceed from the most environmentally friendly measures such as education of residents, water management and trapping in detention ponds and sumps, to chemical controls including the application of larvicides and adulticides. Chemical controls are only used if other measures prove to be insufficient.

Location: Countywide Program

Agency Jurisdiction: County of Nassau

Date Final Environmental Impact Statement Filed: March 31, 2017

Facts and Conclusions Relied on to Support the Decision:

The MCP is reviewed regularly to manage the mosquito program in the County. The Plan is evaluated each year based on mosquito surveillance reports, the prevalence of disease, the impact of previous control measures, and lessons learned from other programs in the region.

The purpose of the MCP is to provide the residents of the County with an integrated approach to mosquito control that maximizes prevention, and provides protection from, mosquito-borne diseases (WNV, Zika) while at the same time, avoiding or minimizing adverse impacts to the natural and human environment. Potential adverse impacts from the MCP are predominately related to the possible use of chemical larvicide or adulticides. As with all chemical pesticides potential adverse impacts to the environment or to humans are related to amount, concentration, and exposure. The most effective measure to reduce potential impacts of chemical larvicides or adulticides is to avoid using them altogether. The next best mitigation measure is to minimize use or make their use as infrequently as possible. If deemed necessary, based on surveillance parameters, a WNV or Zika outbreak, or other public health contingency, the County will apply only NYSDEC approved larvicides and/or adulticides by licensed applicators and in accordance with all application regulations and precautions.

Aerial application of adulticides is avoided to the maximum extent possible. There has been no aerial spraying of adulticide in Nassau County in the last 6 years.

The major implementation elements of the MCP are as follows:

1. Aggressive public education, outreach, and participation
2. Physical controls such as ditch maintenance and storm water system maintenance
3. Larvaciding as needed
4. Adulticiding as last resort

Environmental Setting

The action is relevant to the entire County, but especially the north and south shores, adjacent to wetland marsh areas. The County is diverse in terms of topography, soils, aquatic resources, cultural resources and demographics.

Certification to Approve/Fund/Undertake:

Having considered the Draft and Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement and having considered the preceding written facts and conclusions relied on to meet the requirements of 6 NYCRR Part 617.11, this Statement of Findings certifies that:

1. The requirements of 6 NYCRR Part 617 have been met; and
2. Consistent with social, economic and other essential considerations from among the reasonable alternatives available, the action is the one that avoids or minimizes adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable, and that adverse impacts will be avoided or minimized to the maximum extent practicable by incorporating as conditions to the program, the continued use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques and avoidance, to the maximum extent possible, the use of NYSDEC-approved chemical larvacides, as needed, or NYSDEC-approved adulticides, as last resort.

Name of Lead Agency: Nassau County Department of Public Works

Name/Title of Responsible Official: Shila Shah-Gavnoudias, Commissioner

Signature of Responsible Official: 

Address of Lead Agency: 1194 Prospect Avenue, Westbury, NY 11590

Date: April 24, 2017