



Town of Brookhaven Long Island

Edward P. Romaine, Supervisor

April 2, 2018

New York State Department on Environmental Conservation
Division of Marine Resources
205 Belle Mead Road, Suite 1
East Setauket, NY 11733

**RE: Suffolk County Carmans River Fish Passage at Lower Yaphank Lake Project
Application for Round 23 2018 Grants for Tributary Restoration and Resiliency**

I am writing this letter offering my wholehearted support of the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning's application for a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Marine Resources 2018 Grant for the Carmans River Fish Passage at Lower Yaphank Lake Project. One of my early priorities as Supervisor of the Town of Brookhaven was the passage of the Carmans River Conservation and Management Plan, which was passed on a unanimous bi-partisan vote of the Town Board. This project implements an important recommendation in that plan.

The Carmans River is a jewel of a river that is highly valued by many Long Islanders. It is designated as a Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River System by the State of New York. The River contains Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat which includes Upper and Lower Yaphank Lakes and extends north to NYS Route 25. Alewife and American eel are identified as priority species due to their ecological importance and historic presence within the Carmans River and the South Shore Estuary Reserve. The Carmans River also supports concentrations of wild brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, and pirate perch.

Lower Yaphank Lake Dam is the last remaining barrier to fish migration on the Carmans River. Fish passages at two barriers have been completed. To achieve our decade long goal of restoring anadromous fish to the length of the Carmans River we need this project funded.

I strongly support the Suffolk County Carmans River Fish Passage at Lower Yaphank Lake. This high priority project will continue comprehensive efforts to restore fish habitat and populations along the Carmans River and will provide important ecological benefits throughout its 22,667 acre watershed.

Sincerely,

Edward P. Romaine
Supervisor

Office of the Supervisor

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