

EPA Grant #: CE



**Applicant:**  
**Suffolk County Department of Health Services**

**FY25 WORKPLAN**

**Submitted by:**  
**PEP Management Conference**  
**Approved March 19, 2025**

**Start Date of Grant**  
**October 1, 2025**

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# Peconic Estuary Partnership

## FY25 Workplan & Budget

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# I. INTRODUCTION

## Peconic Estuary Partnership

The Peconic Estuary is one of 28 estuaries in the country designated by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as an “estuary of national significance” under Section 320 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The National Estuary Program (NEP) was established to protect and restore nationally significant estuaries threatened or impaired by pollution, development, and overuse. The Peconic Estuary was formally accepted as part of the NEP in 1992. Officially commenced in 1993, the Peconic Estuary Partnership (PEP) includes numerous stakeholders, representing citizen and environmental groups, businesses and industries, academic institutions, and local, county, state and federal governments. The EPA, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) are the sponsoring government agencies for the program. Stony Brook University is the host entity and this grant commences October 1, 2025.

The PEP 2020 Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) guides the priorities of the organization and as such all projects and plans detailed in this workplan relate directly to the actions established to achieve our four goals: strong partnerships and engagement, clean waters, resilient communities, and a healthy ecosystem with abundant, diverse wildlife.

In 2025, the EPA administrator released five key priorities:

1. Clean air, land, and water for every American;
2. Restoring American energy dominance;
3. Streamlining permitting processes;
4. Making the U.S. the AI capital of the world; and
5. Potentially revitalizing the American auto industry.

These priorities build upon the core mission of protecting human health and the environment while also focusing on economic growth and technological advancement. The Peconic Estuary Partnership helps to fulfill the first key priority of clean water for every American. This workplan outlines a series of projects that seek to bring clean water to the residents of the Peconic watershed and further our mission outlined under section 320 of the Clean Water Act as a non-regulatory and non-enforcement entity.

## Overall Funding Sources

The core FY25 budget reflects the following sources of funding:

EPA FY25 Base Funding:	\$850,000.00*
Non-Federal Match:	\$850,000.00**
Total:	\$1,700,000.00

### Resources Requested

The total Section 320 funds requested in this NEP grant to Suffolk County is \$214,000 which will be matched at the required 1:1 rate by Suffolk County, making the full budget of the Suffolk County award \$428,000

\*EPA FY25 Base funding will be provided to Stony Brook University in the amount of \$636,000 which will be matched at the required 1:1 rate, making the full budget of the Stony Brook award \$1,272,000. This award is submitted as a separate application.

\*\*The non-Federal match is provided by NYSDEC, The Town of Southampton, and SCDHS. New York State, Suffolk County, and other partners are expected to provide significant support above and beyond the committed match in the budget table in support of Peconic Estuary Partnership goals and objectives.

## II. SUMMARY OF FY24 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### *Operational Accomplishments*

The PEP program office is growing and PEP hired a Grant Manager and a Water Quality Outreach Assistant during this period. The Tracking System continues to be our main portal to [track our CCMP progress](#) and we are expanding the [data hub](#). PEP completed the State of the Estuary [Report](#).

### PEP Committees

**The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** held meetings on December 31, 2024; May 7, 2025; August 20, 2025; November 5, 2025 [Agendas and minutes](#)

**Natural Resource Subcommittee of the TAC** : November 20, 2025; February 5, 2025; August 20, 2025

**Management Committee meetings** : October 30, 2024; February 26, 2025; May 14, 2025; August 6, 2025

**Policy Committee meetings**: October 30, 2024; March 19, 2025

**Citizens' Advisory Committee**: The Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) met on November 20, 2024, March 4, 2025, Other 2025 Dates TBD

**Local Government Committee**: The Local Government Committee (LGC) met on March 12, 2024, June 11, 2025, and September 10, 2025.

PEP staff has expanded regional partnerships to include the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture (ACJV) [Saltmarsh Sparrow restoration priority planning](#) and is a member of the Coastal Habitat and Resources Restoration and Management (CHaRRM) facilitating collaboration and communication among the mid-atlantic coastal management stakeholders. PEP is also coordinating with other National Estuary Programs, the National Parks Service, and EPA on a regional effort to protect and restore seagrass. PEP continues to work with Long Island Nitrogen [Action Plan \(LINAP\)](#) as they evolve to the Long Island Action Plan.

### *Water Quality*

PEP continues to support the SCDHS and USGS water quality monitoring systems:

Suffolk County Department of Health Service [Bathing Beach](#) and [Surface water](#); USGS continuous water quality monitoring at [Peconic River Station](#); [Shelter Island Station](#); [Orient Harbor Station](#). [Nitrogen Atmospheric Deposition Monitoring Program results \(NADP\)](#).

PEP continues to monitor the oil injection Permeable Reactive Barrier (PRB) in Three Mile Harbor at Tanbark Creek in East Hampton. PEP funded the monitoring of this project for 2023 to assess success in nitrogen reduction at the immediate pore water monitoring wells and measure if there is a quantitative reduction in nitrogen downstream in Three Mile Harbor. [The USGS-PEP Solute Transport Modeling Project](#) is finalizing the dashboard for public use. PEP hosted stakeholder update meetings on October 6th and November 17th of 2024. PEP continues to support the Suffolk County Reclaim Our Water [Initiative](#) which provides increased protection of water resources. The Initiative used existing legal framework and County and Town grant and loan opportunities to assist homeowners in upgrading to Innovative and Alternative On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems ([I/A OWTS](#)). PEP is partnering with Suffolk County to host and lead outreach events to promote the I/A OWTS program and disseminate information about the financial programs available. PEP continues the research on microplastics in the Peconics with the identification of polymers, additives, and pigments that can inform the source of microplastics in the environment. [Identification of microplastic pollution](#)

### [HABs in the Peconic Estuary Priority Embayments](#)

PEP continues to work with the Gobler lab at Stony Brook to develop end points for Nitrogen and HABs species.. This project aims at answering vital questions regarding HABs dynamics and the effect of nutrients, such as: Are the events similarly promoted by excessive nitrogen? What is the spatial and temporal variability of the nutrients promoting these events? What degree of nitrogen reduction is needed to lessen the intensity of these events?

### *Healthy Ecosystems*

PEP continues to collaborate with eelgrass experts from across the North East to develop a regional approach to eelgrass restoration. The TAC agreed to change the method of annual survey and the Quality Assurance Project Plan is underway. PEP is assisting NYS on the development of seagrass management areas, as well as regional coordination efforts for seagrass protection. PEP completed the 20 year data review of the state of SAV in the Peconics and developed a story map. Final surveys completed in October 2024 and groundtruthing complete Nov 2024. Orthoimagery completed in March of 2025. SeagrassNET sites are under consideration. Partners have aided in the development of criteria for a standardized monitoring plan. This monitoring strategy will also support the statewide and the regional seagrass habitat preservation efforts. Geospatial Center also continues to build out infrastructure for the "[PEP Central Data Hub](#)" and "[PEP Maps and GIS Data Hub](#)". This will allow partners to submit all relevant data to an online database for easy access and organization. Seagrass is a vital part of our clean water system and continued monitoring is one of the ways PEP contributes to ensuring clean water in the watershed.

Ongoing work continues with PEP, Suffolk County, the Long Island Power Authority, and the Town of Riverhead to complete a Land Use Agreement to pass the one barrier remaining on the main stem of the Peconic River at **Upper Mills Dam** which will allow river herring to expand their spawning habitat. Preserving river herring preserves one of the keystone economic drivers of the East End, recreational fishing. River herring are a key food source of striped bass and other sought after species by fishermen. PEP is also working closely with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to draft a plan to

utilize eDNA as a methodology to determine the presence, migration patterns, and abundance of diadromous fish within the Peconic River system. A pilot study for this project began in February 2025.

The PEP Aquaculture Impact Study Phase I is complete and final reporting is underway [here](#). Phase II involves the investigation of aquaculture operations and their effect on invertebrates, sediment analysis, and discreet microenvironments in and around aquaculture operations. Phase II has completed the lab portion of the study, and aims to continue the study with field experimentation and analysis. Link to Phase II presentation can be found [here](#). PEP supports this key part of the East End economy as Suffolk County is growing the aquaculture industry in the Peconics and PEP continues to support the effort.

#### *Resilient Communities*

PEP has continued its partnership with stakeholders of East Hampton Town's **Accabonac Harbor**. We are working with SMARTeams (regional experts that have developed an emerging, minimally invasive wetland restoration technique) to **restore over 30 acres of salt marsh in Accabonac Harbor**. Permit-ready plans a final workshop to aid in permitting. Outreach on this project has continued as PEP has participated in Accabonac Protection Committee meetings and assisted in fieldwork led by US Fish and Wildlife Service alongside The Nature Conservancy to survey for Saltmarsh Sparrow. The **Paul Stoutenburgh Habitat Restoration Project** aims to **restore six acres of salt marsh** and has completed an assessment of the hydrology of the southwest portion of the Paul Stoutenburgh Preserve. Engineering plans were completed and permits drafted for the town to correct the culvert to repair hydrologic flow to restore wetland area. The wetland restoration at **Indian Island is complete and restores 56 acres** on Terry's Creek.

**Shoreline Adaptation Initiative & Work Group:** In partnership with New York Sea Grant (NYSG), PEP program office is co-chairing [an innovative and collaborative initiative](#) devoted to moving Long Island forward in the realm of nature-based adaptations to allow for increased flood protection to our communities. This is a series of 1:1 information-gathering meetings with town planning departments, elected officials, and permitting entities. Progress is underway on a needs assessment and set of recommendations. The initiative began the contracting process with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science to adapt the established [Shoreline Management Model](#) used in the permitting process in Maryland to the Peconic estuary.

#### *Strong Partnerships and Engagement*

Association of National Estuary Programs Tech Transfer Conference-PEP co-hosted the [2024 ANEP Tech Transfer Conference](#) on November 13th-15th 2024 at Stony Brook University with a total of 104 registrants.

#### 2024 PEP Mini Grant Program

The 2024 PEP Mini Grant winners are:

The Perfect Earth Project with "Reducing Nutrient Pollution in the Peconic Estuary Watershed Through Residential Outreach and Nature-Based Land Care Education".

The Accabonac Protection Committee with "Enhancing Water Quality Communications in the Accabonac Watershed"

The Citizen Science Learning Center with "Adopt-a-Pond Water Quality Monitoring and Pond Keepers Educational Programing"

#### 2023 Mini Grant Program Progress

[Shinnecock Indian Nation Kelp Farm Pilot Project](#): Contracting is in progress

[Seatuck Half Shells for Habitat](#): This project accomplished the following tasks

Identified interests and engaged East End towns in oyster shell recovery and recycling program. Seatuck is actively working in partnership with other organizations and townships to develop another localized shell deposit location on the east end of Long Island.

For more information, visit <https://data.gss.stonybrook.edu/sk/dataset/east-end-town-oyster-shell-recovery-and-recycling-program-expansion>

**Peconic Baykeeper Project R.I.S.E.:** Peconic Baykeeper's Project R.I.S.E is complete. For more information, and to find a Chronolog Stations, visit <https://peconicbaykeeper.org/programs/project-r-i-s-e> and <https://data.gss.stonybrook.edu/sk/dataset/project-r-i-s-e>  
**Cornell Cooperative Extension Horseshoe Crabs and Diamondback Terrapin:** Tags were successfully placed on horseshoe crabs in Spring 2024. The tags showed limited detections from horseshoe crab tags. Tagging of the diamondback terrapins was successful, with a lot of data from those tagged off of Orient Harbor. Data will be reviewed in the spring/summer of 2025. For more information, visit: <https://data.gss.stonybrook.edu/sk/dataset/satellite-telemetry-tags-horseshoe-crab-diamondback-terrapin>

#### *Community Science Long Island Webinar Series 2025*

PEP has partnered with Long Island Sound Study, New York Sea Grant, South Shore Estuary Reserve, and the Seatuck Environmental Association to host the Community Science Webinar Series; an outreach series aimed at raising awareness for citizen science opportunities on Long Island and the importance of those projects in supporting research and local environmental management efforts.

#### *Winter Walk Series with Peconic Estuary Partnership and Peconic Baykeeper 2024/25*

The Peconic Estuary Partnership and Peconic Baykeeper hosted our third annual Winter Walk Series. Nature walks were held on alternating Friday and Saturdays, December 2024 through March 2025, at 5 parks/locations throughout the watershed.

**Nitrogen Reduction Outreach** - PEP continues outreach to the public to educate them on septic improvement, and encourage them to use available funding to upgrade their septic systems. PEP held a Local Government Committee meeting in October 2024 to discuss the Suffolk County Septic Improvement Program, and the East Hampton, Shelter Island, and Southampton town rebate programs. Further discussions on optimizations.

**Earth Day Alewife Walk with PEP and PBK** - In April 2025, PEP partnered with Peconic Baykeeper for our annual event celebrating Earth Day and Long Island Migratory Fish Week, for a nature walk in Southampton's Alewife Creek. Educational components included history of these threatened and ecologically important fish, current monitoring efforts, and restoration efforts.

#### *Homeowner Rewards Program*

PEP continues to provide financial rewards for homeowners who remove turf and pavement, and add green alternatives to their properties that benefit the environment. Homeowners can earn up to \$500 to offset the expense of installing green infrastructure on their properties including rain barrels, rain gardens, and native plant gardens. PEP's Homeowner Rewards Program opened for applications on March 17, 2025.

#### *River Herring and Eel Survey*

The annual Long Island Volunteer River Herring & Eel Survey is one of Long Island's longest running community science projects.

#### *Horseshoe Crab Monitoring at Squire's Pond*

The Peconic Estuary Partnership is part of the Horseshoe Crab Monitoring Network hosting a monitoring site at Squires Pond at the end of East Landing Road in Hampton Bays.

#### *Long Island Wildlife Monitoring Network*

PEP continued the highly successful citizen science partnership between Seatuck Environmental and PEP, the *Long Island Wildlife Monitoring Network*.

### **Workgroups and Symposiums**

Bay Scallop Symposium - One July 16th, the Peconic Estuary Partnership hosted a Bay Scallop Symposium in partnership with NY Sea Grant. This meeting was built out of the Peconic Estuary Partnership's Bay Scallop Technical Advisory Committee. The goal of this symposium was to bring stakeholders, government representatives, researchers, and members of industry together to discuss the state of the bay scallop fishery of the Peconic Bays. The symposium also provided a forum for individuals to be updated on the active, on-going bay scallop research supported by PEP.

Shoreline Code Review – in partnership with NY Sea Grant [implemented in 2024 code amendment process](#). [The initiative](#) finalized a Peconic Estuary Shoreline Needs Assessment, Shoreline Summit: Biennial Conference -This summit will also serve as the PEP Biennial conference as outlined in the CCMP. and will be held in June 2025 bringing together stakeholders from across the estuary who are involved in shoreline protection and adaptation. Presentations will also share info on the process of technical resources being developed for shoreline managers and regulators.



### III. FY25 WORKPLAN

#### CCMP Goals

Strong Partnerships, Resilient Communities, Clean Water, and a Healthy Ecosystem are the four pillars of our foundation. The CCMP lays out 8 Objectives and 35 Actions that will guide PEP and our partners to address the challenges facing our watershed.

#### Budget and Staff Elements

##### Program Office Staff

All funding to be used for direct PEP Program Office staff time is covered under the SUNY Stony Brook Research Foundation portion of the NEP grant request. For information regarding staff funding of the Peconic Estuary Partnership staff in FY2025, please see the Stony Brook workplan. However, time from the following staff will be used toward managing the projects funded via the NEP grant awarded to the Suffolk County Department of Health Services since this award supports the PEP:

##### **Executive Director – EPA and Local Government funding**

Location: Suffolk County Department of Health Services, 300 Center Drive, Room 250S, Riverhead, NY

Responsibilities: Provides overall leadership to the program office, management and administration to the Program on behalf of the Management Conference.

##### **Water Quality Outreach Assistant – Local Government and New York State funding**

Location: Suffolk County Department of Health Services, 300 Center Drive, Room 250S, Riverhead, NY

Responsibilities: Assist the Outreach Coordinator with communication around nutrient reduction. Help to coordinate civic engagement about septic improvement and fertilizer use. Develop materials for distribution specifically focused on septic improvement and fertilizer reduction. Develop social media campaigns and update website regularly.

##### **Coastal Resilience and Communities Coordinator – EPA and Local Government funding**

Location: Suffolk County Department of Health Services, 300 Center Drive, Room 250S, Riverhead, NY

Responsibilities: Coordinates PEP watershed resilience initiatives including wetland restoration projects, and builds partnerships with the PEP local communities to foster a stronger understanding of the challenges we face related to coastal flooding, property loss, and assists local governments in finding solutions.

## Budget Summary

Table 1 outlines the Summary Budget for the FY25 EPA 320 spending covered under this grant request. Section IV, page 12 has details of this budget.

**Table 1: PEP FY25 Budget Summary – Suffolk County Request**

<b>FY25 EPA §320 Budget</b>	
<b>Personnel (+fringe)</b>	<b>\$185,000</b>
<b>Other</b>	
<i>Pharmaceutical Disposal Program</i>	<i>\$20,000</i>
<i>NADP Monitoring - Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene</i>	<i>\$9,000</i>
<b>Indirect</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total Suffolk County Request</b>	<b>\$214,000</b>
<b>Total Match Suffolk County</b>	<b>\$214,000</b>
<b>TOTAL EPA Grant</b>	<b>\$428,000</b>

## FY25 Workplan

Ongoing Project Information – Suffolk County FY25 Workplan

All water quality monitoring programming and projects are ongoing.

The FY23 initiative to support the maintenance of installed Innovative and Alternative Septic Systems (I/A Systems) was introduced in the FY23 workplan and includes funds from the PEP FY23 workplan (\$45,000) and PEP IIJA Year 2 (\$50,000) funding. This project is underway. Table 2 lists all projects ongoing in the Peconic watershed and covered under this grant request.

**Table 2: PEP Projects in the Suffolk County FY25 Workplan**

All projects are continuations of past projects seen in Table 2

**Table 2 New & Ongoing PEP Projects**

<u>CCMP Action</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Project Type</u>	<u>Funding requested from \$320 award:</u>	<u>PEP Role</u>
Objective F	Pharmaceutical Disposal Project	New	\$20,000 FY25 Request	Supporting partner (SC Lead)
Action 16	I/A Maintenance support	Ongoing	\$45,000 FY23 EPA funding \$50,000 IIJA Year 2 funding	Supporting partner (SC Lead)
Action 31	Indian Island Wetland Restoration	Ongoing	\$27,646.82 EPA FY21 funding, \$36,586.00 EPA FY22 funding	Supporting partner (SC Lead)
Action 16	NADP	Ongoing	\$9,000 FY25 Request	Supporting Partner
Action 30	SAV Long Term Monitoring	Ongoing	\$49,000 FY24 Request	Lead Partner

## CCMP GOAL: CLEAN WATERS

### Objective F: Reduce Current and Future Inputs of Toxics

#### *Pharmaceutical Disposal Program*

New

- Estimated Budget:** \$20,000
- Partners and their roles:** Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS), Office of Ecology (Lead Partner), PEP (Supporting Partner).
- Description and Objectives** The Peconic Estuary Partnership will work with the Suffolk County Department of Health Services and other officials to reduce pharmaceutical and personal care products contamination in groundwater and surface waters within the Peconic Estuary watershed. This will include homeowner education regarding the environmental and public health risks associated with pharmaceutical and personal care products (PPCP) contamination in

groundwater and surface waters. The program will also promote the use of pharmaceutical waste collection programs such as Operation Medicine Cabinet, as well as other novel approaches such as the of Detera Drug Deactivation System, or similar home medicine waste disposal product. Existing and/or additional groundwater and surface water data will be used to support the education program and evaluate existing PPCP contamination within the watershed.

- d. **Outputs and Deliverables:** A public more informed about PPCP pollution and proper disposal. Suffolk County will set-up and administer the program.
- e. **Estimated Milestones:** Annual reporting.
- f. **Long Term Outcomes:** Water quality will improve with the reduction of toxic contaminants in the water.
- g. **Clean Water Act Core Programs:** Clean Water
- h. **External Constraints:** none

**Objective D:** Protect areas with clean water from degradation.

**Action 16:** Identify areas of clean water quality and deliver information that local governments and others can use to protect those areas.

**Action 17:** Plan science based for monitoring and reducing nutrient pollution

**Performance Measure:** Annual review of water quality data and water quality monitoring programs with assessment and recommendations regarding changes to water quality data collection in order to adequately monitor all waterbodies in the Estuary.

**Performance Measure:** Annual water quality data reports that support partner's efforts to increase local and regional stewardship of areas of clean water quality.

#### *I/A System Maintenance Grant Program*

Ongoing

- i. **Estimated Budget:** \$45,000 \$320 funds (FY23); \$50,000 IIJA Year 2 funds
- j. **Partners and their roles:** Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS), Office of Ecology (Lead Partner), PEP (Supporting Partner).
- k. **Description and Objectives:** SCDHS has a long standing grant program to replace cesspools and septic systems with I/ Systems. Communities have stressed the need to continual funding o cover the cost of increased maintenance in installed systems. PEP is supporting a pilot grant program to support households three years of continued maintenance on installed systems.
- l. **Outputs and Deliverables:** Suffolk County will set-up and administer a grant program for this. Continued grant applications and awarding of funds will report annually on progress.
- m. **Estimated Milestones:** Annual reporting.
- n. **Long Term Outcomes:** Water quality will improve in the watershed from cesspool and septic pollution.
- o. **Clean Water Act Core Programs:** Identifying Polluted Waters and Developing Plans to Restore Them (TMDLs): Assessment of progress toward TMDL goals; refinement of implementation plan and TMDL goals for land-based loads; Elements of this project prevent or mitigate the impacts of nutrient pollution.
- p. **External Constraints:** Suffolk County faced delays in the 'roll-out' of this project due to legal review.

### *Water Quality Monitoring*

Ongoing

- a. **Estimated Budget:** \$157,000 \$320 funds Request in FY25 budget.
- b. **Partners and their roles:** Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS), Office of Ecology (Lead Partner), PEP (Supporting Partner).
- c. **Description and Objectives:** SCDHS monitors water quality of surface and marine waters within the Peconic Estuary. The water quality monitoring program conducted by the SCDHS Office of Ecology includes monthly monitoring at approx. 40 Peconic surface water quality stations throughout the year, periodic monitoring of approx. 30-point source and stream stations, and weekly monitoring at the NADP rain and atmospheric deposition gauge. Task funds will be used to support 2 Suffolk County personnel monitoring water quality of surface and marine waters within the Peconic Estuary as part of the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCHDS) Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program. The SCDHS Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program data will be analyzed by SCDHS Office of Ecology as part of the PEP Water Quality Monitoring Collaborative; a water quality monitoring report will be produced for the Peconic Estuary Partnership. FY25 funds will be used to support personnel time allocated to this task.
- d. **Outputs and Deliverables:** Routine monitoring conducted in the Peconic Estuary makes it possible for the PEP to have accurate, up-to-date information regarding water quality conditions throughout the Estuary. All Suffolk County Department of Health Services Water Quality Data and Information is available upon request. And presented in the annual report.
- e. **Estimated Milestones:** Annual water quality summary report.
- f. **Long Term Outcomes:** Water quality data will be used to assess environmental conditions in the Peconic Estuary and refine management programs as necessary. Based on water quality data, priority projects and research initiatives can be identified and the PEP can continue its success in efforts to protect and restore the Estuary. Data collected by these monitoring efforts inform periodic reporting and adaptive management.
- g. **Clean Water Act Core Programs:** Identifying Polluted Waters and Developing Plans to Restore Them (TMDLs): Assessment of progress toward TMDL goals; refinement of implementation plan and TMDL goals for land-based loads; Elements of this project prevent or mitigate the impacts of nutrient pollution.
- h. **External Constraints:** none

### *National Atmospheric Deposition Program*

New/Ongoing

- a. **Estimated Budget:** \$9,000 (FY25 funds)
- b. **Partners and their roles:** Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Office of Ecology (Lead Partner) is responsible for sample collection; Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (cations) and Frontier Global Sciences, Inc. (mercury) are responsible for data analysis; Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene National Atmospheric Deposition Program is responsible for data assessment, reporting, and coordination with the national network; Mercury Deposition analyses are funded through a partnership with New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), PEP (Supporting Partner).
- c. **Description and Objectives:** Monitor local atmospheric deposition of major cations in precipitation and local mercury deposition in precipitation at Site ID 96 at Cedar Beach Southold, NY.

- d. **Outputs and Deliverables:** Results published as part of the National Atmospheric Deposition Program system on their website:  
(<http://nadp2.slh.wisc.edu/data/sites/siteDetails.aspx?net=NTN&id=NY96>)
- e. **Estimated Milestones:** Annual Reporting
- f. **Long Term Outcomes:** To assess the long-term trends of nitrogen and mercury and nitrogen deposition in the Peconic watershed and Estuary. Utilize the results to understand the sources of nitrogen pollution and implement science-based approaches for monitoring and reducing nitrogen pollution. Results will be used to determine implications for coastal acidification.
- g. **Clean Water Act Core Programs:** Identifying Polluted Waters and Developing Plans to Restore Them; Assessment of progress toward TMDL goals; refinement of implementation plan and TMDL goals for land-based loads; Elements of this project prevent or mitigate the impacts of nutrient pollution.
- h. **External Constraints:** none

CCMP GOAL: HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS WITH ABUNDANT, DIVERSE WILDLIFE

**Objective H:** Restore and protect key habitats and species diversity in the Peconic Estuary

**Action 30:** Monitor and protect existing eelgrass beds; if appropriate, restore and expand eelgrass beds.

**Performance Measure:** Financial and logistical support for the Annual Long-term Eelgrass Monitoring Program to monitor changes in eelgrass density and extent.

*Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Long Term Monitoring and Management (SAV Monitoring)*  
Ongoing

- a. **Estimated Budget:** \$50,000 (FY24)
- b. **Partners and their roles:** Suffolk County (Lead Partner), PEP (Lead Partner)
- c. **Description and Objectives:** In FY22 the PEP Technical Advisory Committee voted to change the methodology used for the annual SAV monitoring program. In FY23, PEP resources were scheduled for use to carry out an aerial survey. Due to wildfires, this was not carried out. Aerial imagery was complete in Summer 2024 and groundtruthing complete in October 2024. Final orthoimagery is not yet complete. In Spring 2025 PEP will subaward funds to carry out annual monitoring using the new and TAC approved method and after QAPP approval. Monitoring of seagrass survival and bed expansion at thirteen eelgrass beds located throughout the estuary has been carried out for almost two decades. Nine sites were monitored annually and four additional sites were monitored biennially. Long-term measurements of seagrass extent and deep edge location, eelgrass shoot density, measurements of light, temperature, macroalgae cover and sediment conditions were done at these sites. These funds will move forward a new more robust method for more informed management decisions.
- d. **Outputs and Deliverables:** Annual assessments of SAV beds to inform management decisions.
- e. **Estimated Milestones:** Annual report
- f. **Long Term Outcomes:** An extensive and accurate record of eelgrass beds on a micro scale to allow for successful management decisions and assessment of clean water
- g. **Clean Water Act Core Programs:** Identifying Polluted Waters, Developing Plans to Restore Them
- h. **External Constraints:** The delay in the completion of the aerial imagery has delayed the finalization of the new method and QAPP for SAV annual monitoring.

## IV. BUDGET DETAILS

### Resources Requested

The total 320 funds requested in this PEP grant to Suffolk County Department of Health Services is **\$214,000**. This grant will be complemented by a request for PEP support to SUNY Stony Brook Research Foundation for \$636,000 and together these two components make up the full Peconic Estuary Partnership FY2025 workplan for a **total \$320 request of \$850,000** with a local match of \$850,000 for a total grant of \$1,700,000. Details of expenditures can be found in Table 3.

No trips are anticipated under this grant request and no travel funds are requested here.

Table 3: Detailed budget and spending FY25 Suffolk County request

<b>BUDGET DETAIL FY25 Workplan</b>		<b>Requested Fund</b>	<b>Match Funds</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>Personnel: Salary</b>	<i>Monitoring Personnel: Chemist</i>	\$72,398	\$72,399	\$144,797
	<i>Monitoring Personnel: Boat Operator</i>	\$41,590	\$41,590	\$83,180
	<b>Personnel total:</b>	<b>\$113,988</b>	<b>\$113,989</b>	<b>\$227,977</b>
<b>Fringe</b>				
	<i>Monitoring Personnel: Chemist</i>	\$39,483	\$39,483	\$78,966
	<i>Monitoring Personnel: Boat Operator</i>	\$31,528	\$31,529	\$63,057
	<b>Fringe total:</b>	<b>\$71,011</b>	<b>\$71,012</b>	<b>\$142,023</b>
<b>Projects:</b>				
	<i>PIPP</i>	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000
	<i>NADP</i>	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$18,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$214,000</b>	<b>\$214,000</b>	<b>\$428,000</b>

### Non-Federal Contribution

#### Suffolk County Match

Suffolk County Department of Health Services will provide the required 1:1 for this grant application totaling \$428,000 as detailed in the previous table. Suffolk County's expenditures to fund water quality monitoring and water quality protection and restoration through the Suffolk County General Budget and Suffolk County Capital Budget funding are approved to be allocated as the required 1:1 local match for Suffolk County's USEPA National Estuary Program Peconic Estuary Partnership Support grant.