



George Latimer
County Executive

July 21, 2021

Westchester County Board of Legislators
800 Michaelian Office Building
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Members of the Board of Legislators:

Transmitted herewith for your review and approval is a bond act ("Bond Act") which, if adopted, would authorize the County of Westchester ("County") to issue bonds in the amount of \$800,000 to finance the following capital project:

RCG03 – Stokes Greene Building Demolition ("RCG03").

The Bond Act, in the amount of \$800,000, would fund design, construction and construction management associated with the demolition, removal and associated site work of derelict building structures located at the Stokes Greene property adjacent to Croton Gorge Park in Croton-on-Hudson.

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation ("Department") has advised that there are six derelict building structures located on the Stokes Greene property that pose a safety hazard to the public and require demolition. The project will also include associated removals, such as hazardous materials, asphalt paving, concrete and fallen trees. All disturbed areas will be restored with topsoil and seeded.


Pursuant to Section 249.101 (3) of the Laws of Westchester County, the Parks Commissioner has the right, subject to your Honorable Board's approval, to demolish or remove any buildings or structures required for park purposes. Approval of the proposed Bond Act will satisfy the requirements of this law.

Following bonding authorization, design will be scheduled and is anticipated to take three (3) months to complete and will be performed by outside consultants. It is estimated that construction will take six (6) months to complete and will begin after award and execution of the construction contracts.

The Planning Department has advised that based upon its review, this project falls within the definition of an "Unlisted" action under SEQRA and its implementing regulations 6 NYCRR, Part 617. The Planning Department has prepared the attached Short Environmental Assessment Form to assist your Honorable Board in making the required determination of significance pursuant to SEQRA.

Based on the importance of this project to the County, favorable action on the proposed Bond Act is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Latimer", written in a cursive style.

George Latimer
County Executive

GL/KOC/KU/jpg
Attachments

**HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK**

Your Committee is in receipt of a transmittal from the County Executive recommending approval by the County of Westchester (“County”) of a bond act (“Bond Act”) in the amount of \$800,000 to finance capital project RCG03 – Stokes Greene Building Demolition (“RCG03”). The Bond Act, which was prepared by the law firm Harris Beach, PLLC, would fund design, construction and construction management associated with the demolition, removal and associated site work of derelict building structures located at the Stokes Greene property adjacent to Croton Gorge Park in Croton-on-Hudson.

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation (“Department”) has advised that that there are six derelict building structures located on the Stokes Greene property that pose a safety hazard to the public and require demolition. The project will also include associated removals, such as hazardous materials, asphalt paving, concrete and fallen trees. All disturbed areas will be restored with topsoil and seeded.

Your Committee notes that in accordance with Section 249.101 (3) of the Laws of Westchester County, the Parks Commissioner has the right, subject to your Honorable Board’s approval, to demolish or remove any buildings or structures required for park purposes. Approval of the proposed Bond Act will satisfy the requirements of this law.

Your Committee is advised that following bonding authorization, design will be scheduled and is anticipated to take three (3) months to complete and will be performed by outside consultants. It is estimated that construction will take six (6) months to complete and will begin after award and execution of the construction contracts.

The Planning Department has advised that, based on its review, this project falls within the definition of an “Unlisted” action under Article 8 of SEQRA and its implementing regulations 6 NYCRR Part 617, which requires an assessment of environmental impacts. Your Committee has carefully considered the proposed legislation. It has reviewed the attached Short Environmental Assessment Form (“EAF”) and the criteria contained in Section 617.7 of the SEQRA regulations, to identify the relevant areas of environmental concern. For the reasons set forth in the attached

EAF, your Committee believes that the proposed action will not have any significant adverse impact on the environment and urges your Honorable Board to authorize the clerk to sign the attached EAF signifying that the proposed action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts.

It should be noted that an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of your Honorable Board is required in order to adopt the Bond Act. Your Committee recommends the adoption of the proposed Bond Act.

Dated: _____, 2021
White Plains, New York

COMMITTEE ON

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

CAPITAL PROJECT #: RCG03

NO FISCAL IMPACT PROJECTED

SECTION A - CAPITAL BUDGET IMPACT

To Be Completed by Budget

GENERAL FUND

AIRPORT FUND

SPECIAL DISTRICTS FUND

Source of County Funds (check one):

Current Appropriations

Capital Budget Amendment

SECTION B - BONDING AUTHORIZATIONS

To Be Completed by Finance

Total Principal \$ 800,000 PPU 10 Anticipated Interest Rate 0.65%

Anticipated Annual Cost (Principal and Interest): \$ 82,896

Total Debt Service (Annual Cost x Term): \$ 828,960

Finance Department: Interest rates from July 19, 2021 Bond Buyer - ASBA

SECTION C - IMPACT ON OPERATING BUDGET (exclusive of debt service)

To Be Completed by Submitting Department and Reviewed by Budget

Potential Related Expenses (Annual): \$ -

Potential Related Revenues (Annual): \$ -

Anticipated savings to County and/or impact of department operations

(describe in detail for current and next four years):

SECTION D - EMPLOYMENT

As per federal guidelines, each \$92,000 of appropriation funds one FTE Job

Number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Jobs Funded: 9

SECTION E - EXPECTED DESIGN WORK PROVIDER

County Staff

Consultant

Not Applicable

Prepared by: Ken Uhle

Title: Program Coord. Capital Planning PRC

Department: DPW&T

Date: 7/26/21

Reviewed By: 

Budget Director

Date: 7/26/21

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there is pending before this Honorable Board an Act to authorize the County of Westchester (the “County”) to issue bonds in connection with a component of capital project RCG03 – Stokes Greene Building Demolition (the “Capital Project”); and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Board has determined that the proposed Capital Project would constitute an action under Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law, known as the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to SEQRA and its implementing regulations (6 NYCRR Part 617), this project is classified as an “Unlisted” action, requiring this Honorable Board to make a determination as to whether the proposed action will have a significant impact on the environment; and

WHEREAS, the County of Westchester is the only involved agency with discretionary authority for this action and, therefore, is assuming the role of Lead Agency as permitted for Unlisted actions pursuant to Section 617.6(b)(4) of the implementing regulations; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with SEQRA and its implementing regulations, a Short Environmental Assessment Form (“EAF”) has been prepared to assist this Honorable Board in its environmental assessment of this proposed action; and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Board has carefully considered the proposed action and has reviewed the attached EAF and the criteria set forth in Section 617.7 of the implementing regulations and has identified the relevant areas of environmental concern, as described in the attached EAF, to determine if this proposed action will have an effect upon the environment.


NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the County Board of Legislators of the County of Westchester, State of New York, as follows:

RESOLVED, that based upon the Honorable Board’s review of the EAF and the reasons set forth therein, this Board finds that there will be no significant adverse impact on the environment in connection with the proposed action; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Legislators is authorized and directed to sign the “Determination of Significance” in the EAF, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, as the “Responsible Officer in Lead Agency”; to issue this “Negative Declaration” on behalf of this Board in satisfaction of SEQRA and its implementing regulations; and to immediately transmit same to the Commissioner of Planning to be filed, published and made available pursuant to the requirements of Part 617 of 6 NYCRR; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Resolution shall take effect immediately.

TO: Michelle Greenbaum, Assistant County Attorney
Jeffrey Goldman, Assistant County Attorney

FROM: David S. Kvinge, AICP, RLA, CFM 
Director of Environmental Planning

DATE: July 20, 2021

SUBJECT: **STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW FOR CAPITAL PROJECT
RCG03 STOKES GREENE BUILDING DEMOLITION**

The Planning Department has reviewed the above referenced capital project (Fact Sheet ID: 1646) in accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617 (SEQR).

Pursuant to the SEQR, this project has been classified as an Unlisted action. The County is the only involved agency and, therefore, must serve as lead agency. As such, a Short Environmental Assessment Form has been prepared for the project for consideration by the Board of Legislators.

Please contact me if you require any additional information regarding this document.

DSK/cnm

Att.

cc: Andrew Ferris, Chief of Staff
Lawrence Soule, Budget Director
Paula Friedman, Assistant to the County Executive
Kathleen O'Connor, Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Conservation
Tami Altschiller, Assistant Chief Deputy County Attorney
Peter Tartaglia, First Deputy Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Conservation
Lorraine Yazzetta, Associate Budget Analyst
Anthony Zaino, Assistant Commissioner
William Brady, Chief Planner
Michael Lipkin, Associate Planner
Claudia Maxwell, Associate Environmental Planner

Short Environmental Assessment Form

Part 1 - Project Information

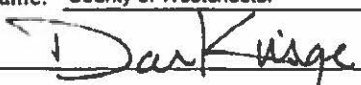
Instructions for Completing

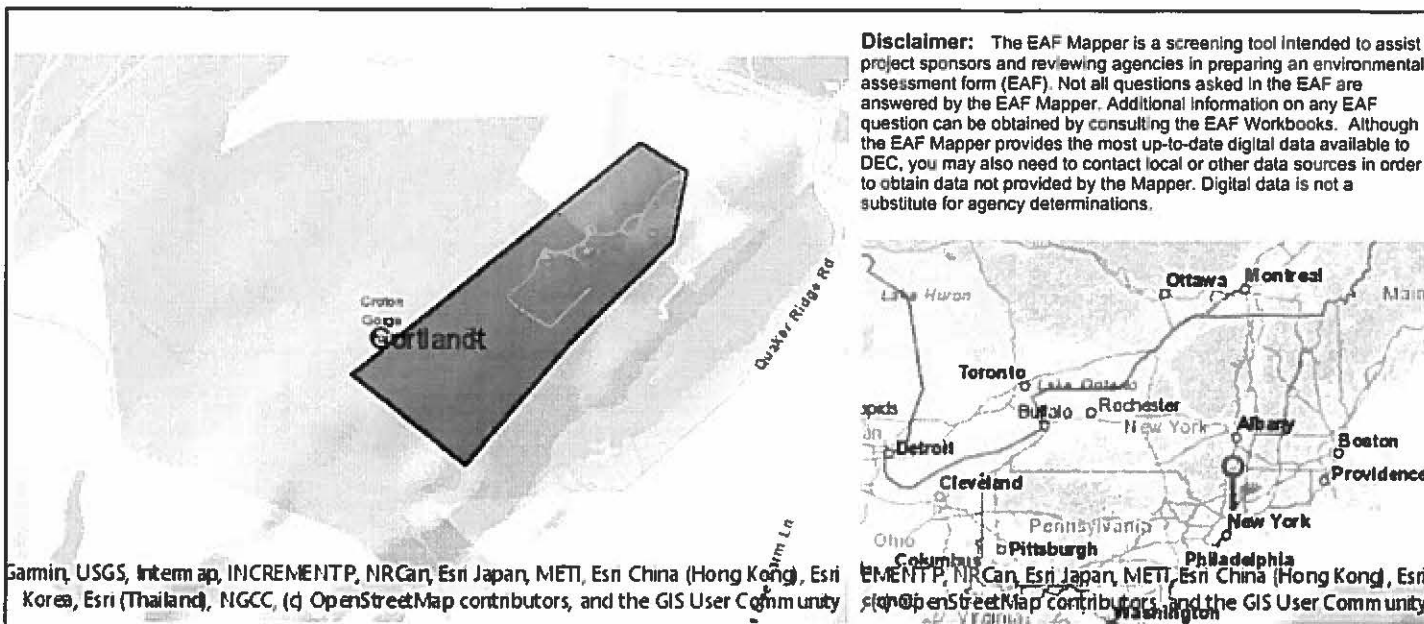
Part 1 – Project Information. The applicant or project sponsor is responsible for the completion of Part 1. Responses become part of the application for approval or funding, are subject to public review, and may be subject to further verification. Complete Part 1 based on information currently available. If additional research or investigation would be needed to fully respond to any item, please answer as thoroughly as possible based on current information.

Complete all items in Part 1. You may also provide any additional information which you believe will be needed by or useful to the lead agency; attach additional pages as necessary to supplement any item.

Part 1 – Project and Sponsor Information			
Name of Action or Project: Stokes Greene Building Demolition (RCG03)			
Project Location (describe, and attach a location map): 20 Croton Dam Road, Town of Cortlandt, Westchester County, New York			
Brief Description of Proposed Action: This action involves the demolition of derelict structures and site restoration at the former Stokes-Greene property. The property is the site of a former estate, and was acquired by the County in 1992. Work will include the removal of the carriage house, barn foundation, greenhouse, round shed, welding shop, dead trees, various paved driveways and concrete fixtures, as well as general regrading, replanting and site restoration. The removal of these heavily deteriorated structures will improve the safety and aesthetic qualities of the site for visitors.			
Name of Applicant or Sponsor: County of Westchester		Telephone: 914-995-4400 E-Mail: dsk2@westchestergov.com	
Address: 148 Martine Avenue			
City/PO: White Plains		State: New York	Zip Code: 10601
1. Does the proposed action only involve the legislative adoption of a plan, local law, ordinance, administrative rule, or regulation? If Yes, attach a narrative description of the intent of the proposed action and the environmental resources that may be affected in the municipality and proceed to Part 2. If no, continue to question 2.			NO <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Does the proposed action require a permit, approval or funding from any other government Agency? If Yes, list agency(s) name and permit or approval:			YES <input type="checkbox"/>
3. a. Total acreage of the site of the proposed action? _____ ±5 acres b. Total acreage to be physically disturbed? _____ 1.75 acres c. Total acreage (project site and any contiguous properties) owned or controlled by the applicant or project sponsor? _____ 120 acres			
4. Check all land uses that occur on, are adjoining or near the proposed action:			
5. <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Rural (non-agriculture) <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential (suburban) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aquatic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other(Specify): Utilities, Senior Home, Reservoir <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parkland			

5. Is the proposed action,	NO	YES	N/A
a. A permitted use under the zoning regulations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Consistent with the adopted comprehensive plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Is the proposed action consistent with the predominant character of the existing built or natural landscape?	NO	YES	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
7. Is the site of the proposed action located in, or does it adjoin, a state listed Critical Environmental Area? Name County & State Park Lands, Reason: Exceptional or unique character, Agency: Westchester County, Date: 1-31-90 If Yes, identify: _____	NO	YES	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8. a. Will the proposed action result in a substantial increase in traffic above present levels?	NO	YES	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
b. Are public transportation services available at or near the site of the proposed action?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
c. Are any pedestrian accommodations or bicycle routes available on or near the site of the proposed action?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Does the proposed action meet or exceed the state energy code requirements? If the proposed action will exceed requirements, describe design features and technologies: <u>The project involves only the removal of derelict structures. The project is not required to comply with state energy code requirements</u>	NO	YES	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10. Will the proposed action connect to an existing public/private water supply? If No, describe method for providing potable water: _____ Potable water is not needed for this project.	NO	YES	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11. Will the proposed action connect to existing wastewater utilities? If No, describe method for providing wastewater treatment: _____ Wastewater treatment is not needed for this project.	NO	YES	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12. a. Does the project site contain, or is it substantially contiguous to, a building, archaeological site, or district which is listed on the National or State Register of Historic Places, or that has been determined by the Commissioner of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to be eligible for listing on the State Register of Historic Places? b. Is the project site, or any portion of it, located in or adjacent to an area designated as sensitive for archaeological sites on the NY State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) archaeological site inventory?	NO	YES	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13. a. Does any portion of the site of the proposed action, or lands adjoining the proposed action, contain wetlands or other waterbodies regulated by a federal, state or local agency? b. Would the proposed action physically alter, or encroach into, any existing wetland or waterbody? If Yes, identify the wetland or waterbody and extent of alterations in square feet or acres: _____ <u>The property contains a large pond and various small streams, but the structures to be demolished are not proximate to any of these water bodies.</u>	NO	YES	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<p>14. Identify the typical habitat types that occur on, or are likely to be found on the project site. Check all that apply:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Shoreline <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural/grasslands <input type="checkbox"/> Early mid-successional</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Wetland <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suburban</p>		
<p>15. Does the site of the proposed action contain any species of animal, or associated habitats, listed by the State or Federal government as threatened or endangered?</p> <p>Bald Eagle</p>	<p>NO</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>YES</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>16. Is the project site located in the 100-year flood plan?</p>	<p>NO</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>17. Will the proposed action create storm water discharge, either from point or non-point sources?</p> <p>If Yes,</p> <p>a. Will storm water discharges flow to adjacent properties?</p> <p>b. Will storm water discharges be directed to established conveyance systems (runoff and storm drains)?</p> <p>If Yes, briefly describe:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>NO</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>18. Does the proposed action include construction or other activities that would result in the impoundment of water or other liquids (e.g., retention pond, waste lagoon, dam)?</p> <p>If Yes, explain the purpose and size of the impoundment:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>NO</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>19. Has the site of the proposed action or an adjoining property been the location of an active or closed solid waste management facility?</p> <p>If Yes, describe: _____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>NO</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>20. Has the site of the proposed action or an adjoining property been the subject of remediation (ongoing or completed) for hazardous waste?</p> <p>If Yes, describe: _____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>NO</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ABOVE IS TRUE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE</p> <p>Applicant/sponsor/name: <u>County of Westchester</u> Date: <u>July 19, 2021</u></p> <p>Signature: <u></u> Title: <u>Director of Environmental Planning</u></p>		



Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENTP, NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Part 1 / Question 7 [Critical Environmental Area]	Yes
Part 1 / Question 7 [Critical Environmental Area - Identify]	Name:County & State Park Lands, Reason:Exceptional or unique character, Agency:Westchester County, Date:1-31-90
Part 1 / Question 12a [National or State Register of Historic Places or State Eligible Sites]	No
Part 1 / Question 12b [Archeological Sites]	No
Part 1 / Question 13a [Wetlands or Other Regulated Waterbodies]	Yes - Digital mapping information on local and federal wetlands and waterbodies is known to be incomplete. Refer to EAF Workbook.
Part 1 / Question 15 [Threatened or Endangered Animal]	Yes
Part 1 / Question 15 [Threatened or Endangered Animal - Name]	Bald Eagle
Part 1 / Question 16 [100 Year Flood Plain]	No
Part 1 / Question 20 [Remediation Site]	No

Project: RCG03 Stokes Greene Building Demolition

Date: July 2021

Short Environmental Assessment Form
Part 2 - Impact Assessment

Part 2 is to be completed by the Lead Agency.

Answer all of the following questions in Part 2 using the information contained in Part 1 and other materials submitted by the project sponsor or otherwise available to the reviewer. When answering the questions the reviewer should be guided by the concept "Have my responses been reasonable considering the scale and context of the proposed action?"

	No, or small impact may occur	Moderate to large impact may occur
1. Will the proposed action create a material conflict with an adopted land use plan or zoning regulations?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Will the proposed action result in a change in the use or intensity of use of land?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of the existing community?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Will the proposed action have an impact on the environmental characteristics that caused the establishment of a Critical Environmental Area (CEA)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Will the proposed action result in an adverse change in the existing level of traffic or affect existing infrastructure for mass transit, biking or walkway?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Will the proposed action cause an increase in the use of energy and it fails to incorporate reasonably available energy conservation or renewable energy opportunities?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Will the proposed action impact existing:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a. public / private water supplies?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. public / private wastewater treatment utilities?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of important historic, archaeological, architectural or aesthetic resources?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Will the proposed action result in an adverse change to natural resources (e.g., wetlands, waterbodies, groundwater, air quality, flora and fauna)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Will the proposed action result in an increase in the potential for erosion, flooding or drainage problems?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Will the proposed action create a hazard to environmental resources or human health?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Short Environmental Assessment Form Part 3 Determination of Significance

For every question in Part 2 that was answered "moderate to large impact may occur", or if there is a need to explain why a particular element of the proposed action may or will not result in a significant adverse environmental impact, please complete Part 3. Part 3 should, in sufficient detail, identify the impact, including any measures or design elements that have been included by the project sponsor to avoid or reduce impacts. Part 3 should also explain how the lead agency determined that the impact may or will not be significant. Each potential impact should be assessed considering its setting, probability of occurring, duration, irreversibility, geographic scope and magnitude. Also consider the potential for short-term, long-term and cumulative impacts.

The Stokes-Greene property was formerly a 120-acre residential estate, containing a main house and multiple accessory buildings to the north and undeveloped lands to the south. Approximately 101 acres were dedicated as parkland and became part of Croton Gorge County Park. Approximately 10 acres on the northeast side was subsequently acquired by the City of New York for protection of the water supply. The remaining acreage at the north end, including the main house and many of the accessory buildings, was retained as general municipal land.

In 2015, the main house was destroyed by fire. This project will remove the ancillary structures on the property that have fallen into disrepair and currently pose a safety hazard. Structures to be removed include the former carriage house, barn, greenhouse, round shed, welding shop, as well as various paved pathways and concrete fixtures. Following demolition, the site will be graded over and seeded with native grasses.

The County of Westchester designated all County and State parklands as Critical Environmental Areas for the variety of benefits they provide, including recreational, educational, social, cultural and ecological benefits. This project will support these benefits by removing hazardous structures on public property that is adjacent to and accessible from County parkland.

The project occurs within an area where Bald Eagles, a New York State threatened species, may be encountered. However, as the project involves no activities that will result in the removal of trees, disturbance of nests or taking of any animals, the project will have no impact on Bald Eagles.

The property contains wetlands located on the National Wetlands Inventory, including two riverine wetlands, one pond area and its associated shrub wetlands. All activities will occur over 300 feet away from the nearest wetland. As these activities revert the site to a more natural state, the project will result in no impacts to these wetlands.

Because the project involves only restorative activities and will not impact any of the listed areas of concern, the project has been determined to have no significant adverse impact on the environment.

- Check this box if you have determined, based on the information and analysis above, and any supporting documentation, that the proposed action may result in one or more potentially large or significant adverse impacts and an environmental impact statement is required.
- Check this box if you have determined, based on the information and analysis above, and any supporting documentation, that the proposed action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts.

County of Westchester

Name of Lead Agency

Malika Vanderberg

Print or Type Name of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

Signature of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

Date

Clerk of the Board of Legislators

Title of Responsible Officer

Signature of Preparer (if different from Responsible Officer)