

January 1, 2010

From: Blooming Grove Democrat Committee.

To : Hon. Kevin Hines, County Legislator, District 12
Hon. Katie Bonelli, County Legislator, District 5
Hon. Joseph Gross, Mayor, Village of Cornwall on Hudson
Ms. Jeanne Mahoney, Village Clerk/Recording Secretary
Hon. Barbara Gosda, Village Trustee, Cornwall on Hudson
Hon. Mark Edsal, Village Trustee, Cornwall on Hudson
Hon. Doug Vatter, Village Trustee, Cornwall on Hudson
Hon. Rick Gioia, Village Trustee, Cornwall on Hudson
Hon. Kevin Quigley, Supervisor, Town of Cornwall
Hon. Mary Beth Greene-Krafft, Deputy Supervisor, Town of Cornwall
Hon. Alexander Mazzocca, Town Council, Cornwall
Hon. Randy Clark, Town Council, Cornwall
Hon. J. Kerry McGuinness, Town Council, Cornwall
Hon. Thomas DeVinko, Mayor, Village of Washingtonville
Hon. David Pollack, Trustee, Village of Washingtonville
Hon. Joseph Galante, Trustee, Village of Washingtonville
Hon. Matthew Davis, Trustee, Village of Washingtonville
Hon. David Heintz, Trustee, Village of Washingtonville

Subject: Water Master Plan Resolution (Attached)

The Town of Blooming Grove Democratic Committee has approved the attached resolution opposing the Water Master Plan (WMP) that is being proposed by the Orange County Executive and the County Planning Department.

There are a number of reasons for this resolution:

1. The Orange County Water Authority (OCWA) already has all of the power that they claim this plan will give them. This can be verified by reading the OCWA Law and reviewing the roles and responsibilities contained in that document.
2. The WMP gives the County Executive the power to overrule "home rule" and allows the county to act as they choose, without approval from the locally elected officials. This fact is supported by the statement on Page 23 of the WMP Task 2 document. It states

"While OCWA cannot unilaterally influence the actions of the individual municipal systems providing water within the county, it can indirectly influence those actions through its planning

role. To the extent that the County chooses to incorporate plans, recommendations and strategies for water supply developed by OCWA into its County-wide Master Plan, the local governments of the County must conform to the vision for County-wide water supply created by OCWA.”

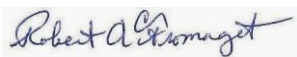
The county has stated that they would never make a decision without consulting with the local elected officials. This is exactly what they claimed when they created the Orange County Sewer District (OCSD). However, if the local officials raise any objections they are simply ignored or told “...if they do not like it, sue us!” There is no reason to suggest that this conduct will change as it has happened again when the 2010 OCSD budget was passed.

This is not the management style that we need managing our water supply. The OCWA's Law created a county wide water district for Orange County and thus the county has MTA like powers to tax ALL residents, including those residents with wells, within the county to pay for any pipelines that they are asked to install for a priority growth area.

I am asking you to support this resolution (attached) and discuss it with the County Legislators who represent your municipality to ensure they remember their campaign promises to “protect our water.”

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Robert Fromaget
Co-Chairs, Blooming Grove Democratic Committee.



Sonia Ayala

CC:

Mr. David Church, Commissioner of Planning, Orange County

Mr. Ed Diana, County Executive of Orange County

County Legislators

- Hon. Michael Amo, County Legislator, District 1
- Hon. Melissa Bonacic, County Legislator, District 2
- Hon. Michael Pillmeier, County Legislator, District 3
- Hon. Harvey Burger, County Legislator, District 4
- Hon. Katie Bonelli, County Legislator, District 5
- Hon. Patrick J. Berardinelli Sr., County Legislator, District 6
- Hon. Myrna Kemnitz, County Legislator, District 7
- Hon. Daniel Castricone, County Legislator, District 8
- Hon. L. Stephen Brescia, County Legislator, District 9
- Hon. Albert W Buckbee III, County Legislator, District 10
- Hon. M. William Lahey, County Legislator, District 11
- Hon. Kevin Hines, County, Legislator, District 12
- Hon. Dennis W Simmons, County Legislator, District 13
- Hon. Roxanne Donnery, County Legislator, District 14
- Hon. Christopher W. Eachus, County Legislator, District 15
- Hon. Leigh J. Benton, County Legislator, District 16
- Hon. Mike Anagnostakis, County Legislator, District 17
- Hon. Daniel Depew, County Legislator, District 18
- Hon. Michael D. Paduch, County Legislator, District 19
- Hon. Jeffery Berkman, County Legislator, District 20
- Hon. Thomas Pahucki, County Legislator, District 21

Town of Blooming Grove

- Hon. Frank Fornario, Supervisor
- Ms. Barbara Decker, Town Clerk
- Hon. Michele Murphy, Town Council
- Hon. Brendan Nielsen, Town Council
- Hon. Wayne Kirkpatrick, Town Council
- Hon. Katie Calhoun-Wells, Town Council

Village of South Blooming Grove

Hon. Robert Jeroloman, Mayor
Ms. Barbara Vojta, Village Clerk
Hon. Dorine Sas, Village Trustee
Hon. Garry Dugan, Village Trustee
Hon. James Mullany, Village Trustee
Hon. John Hickey, Village Trustee

Village of Washingtonville

Hon. Thomas DiVinko, Mayor
Ms. Joseph Galanta, Village Trustee
Hon. Matthew Davis, Village Trustee
Hon. Kevin Hines, Village Trustee
Hon. James Pollack, Village Trustee

Attachment

Town of Blooming Grove Democratic Committee

Water Master Plan Resolution

WHEREAS, the Orange County Water Authority is proposing the override of Home Rule within Orange County in their Water Master Plan and place the absolute control of our water under the control of one elected official, our county executive; and

WHEREAS, the current law that defines the Orange County Water Authority grants all the powers that organization is claiming are needed to effectively manage our water and support the “smart growth” areas identified within the Orange County Comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, the override of Home Rule will eliminate the oversight by our regionally elected officials, our county legislators; and

WHEREAS, the Water Master Plan, combined with the existing countywide water district established within the current Orange County Water Authority law, will enable the county executive, Mr. Eddie Diana, to levy taxes to support any capital project that he deems appropriate without oversight by any of our other elected officials; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Blooming Grove Town Democratic Committee urges members of our county legislature and local elected officials:

1. To direct the county to work to eliminate the existence of the countywide water district within the Orange County Water Authority’s law; and
2. To reestablish the Orange County Water Authority as an independent organization with legislative oversight; and
3. To reestablish the role of this organization as a resource for county municipalities, to facilitate their ability to protect and deliver this important natural resource; and
4. To vote **no** on the proposed Water Master Plan and protect Home Rule; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Blooming Grove Town Democratic Committee shall send a copy of this resolution to all County Legislators, State and local elected officials who represent our town residents.

Democratic Committee of Blooming Grove.

Robert A. Fromaget and Sonia Ayala, Co-Chairpersons,