

SECTION VI

GENERAL POLICY #18

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POLICY #18 TO SAFEGUARD THE VITAL ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL INTERESTS OF THE STATE AND OF ITS CITIZENS, PROPOSED MAJOR ACTIONS IN THE COASTAL AREA MUST GIVE FULL CONSIDERATION TO THOSE INTERESTS, AND TO THE SAFEGUARDS WHICH THE STATE HAS ESTABLISHED TO PROTECT VALUABLE COASTAL RESOURCE AREAS.

Explanation of policy:

Proposed major actions may be undertaken in the Town's coastal area if they will not significantly impair valuable coastal waters and resources, thus frustrating the purpose of the safeguards which the State and Town have established to protect those waters and resources. Proposed actions must take into account the social, economic and environmental interests of the State and Town and their citizens in matters that affect natural resources, water quality, shoreline damage and recreation. No major action shall be undertaken that would have a significant impact on coastal resources or would significantly impair valuable coastal waters unless appropriate and accepted mitigative measures are implemented.

The vital economic, social and environmental interests of the citizens of New York State and East Hampton Town are closely linked to the resources of its coastal area because of the local resort economy, commercial fishing, and recreational pursuits such as boating, fishing, and swimming that contribute to the quality of life and enjoyment of residents. Economic and environmental concerns may at times appear to conflict. However, in the long-term the Town's coastal environment is its primary economic asset, and its ecological, historical and scenic qualities must be protected to insure future economic health.

New York State agencies are responsible for enforcement of the various State laws affecting coastal resources, such as the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), Tidal Wetlands Act and the Coastal Erosion Hazard Act (CEHA), and these agencies should coordinate and cooperate with East Hampton Town agencies in evaluating proposed major actions in light of State regulations. In most cases the Town reserves lead agency status for such proposed major actions, and would evaluate them under SEQRA procedures and according to local environmental and planning laws and procedures. All agencies, State, County, and Town, should place protection of valuable coastal waters and resources as the top priority in their decision-making processes.