

## EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

### LICAP LAUNCHES GROUNDBREAKING WATER TRAQ INITIATIVE

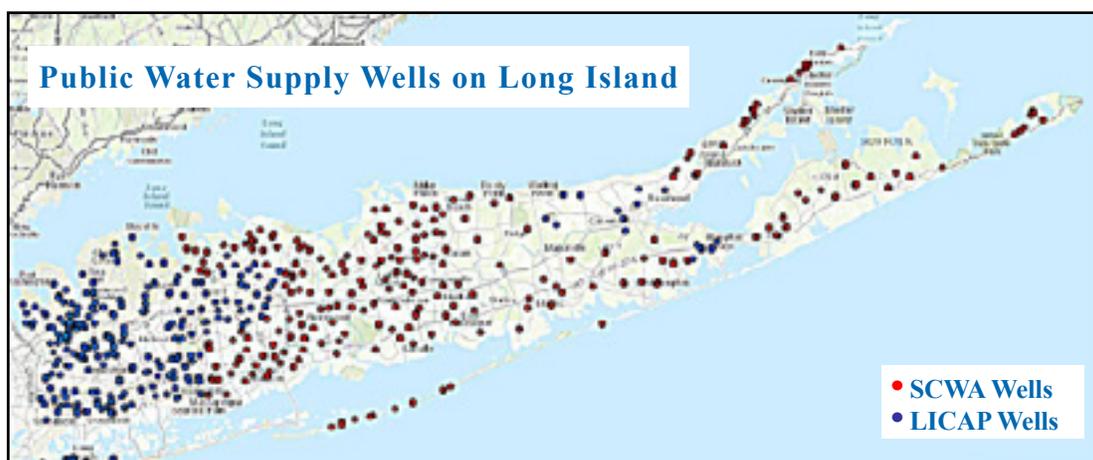


The Long Island Commission for Aquifer Protection (LICAP) officially launched its historic, GIS-based water quality mapping and database website known as WaterTraq. The program, the first of its kind in New York State, will revolutionize the way public water providers track potential threats in the water supply and provide information to the public and regulators. Vital information about drinking water quality will now be available to the public 24 hours a day at [liaquifercommission.com](http://liaquifercommission.com). WaterTraq combines interactive maps with water quality data to paint a clearer picture of the status of Long Island groundwater for health officials, industry professionals and the general public. Users can search for contaminants and have results visually displayed by concentration range and location. Compounds can also be searched based on well depth, water district or location of a sample station. The user can search for either raw groundwater or the post-treatment water public water suppliers deliver to their customers. “WaterTraq is an outstanding accomplishment and a valuable tool that allows us to share information with regulators and the general public at the click of a button,” Suffolk County Water Authority Chief Executive Officer and LICAP past Chairman Jeffrey W. Szabo

said. “It gives users the chance to see things from an island-wide perspective,” added SCWA Lead Hydrogeologist and Director of Strategic Initiatives Tyrand Fuller. “The new WaterTraq GIS-based mapping initiative will help advance a critical regional approach to Long Island’s water resources,” said New York State Assemblyman Steve Englebright. “The Long Island Commission for Aquifer Protection is to be commended for their efforts to collect data from Long Island’s numerous water districts and integrate it into a dynamic tool that will surely become a model for other regions in the state and the nation.” “Long Island is once again in the forefront of the effort to ensure clean, healthy drinking water,” said Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming. Stan Carey, Superintendent of the Massapequa Water District and Vice Chairman of LICAP, said the program will allow water professionals to “draw conclusions based on the data they see.” WaterTraq will be used to help New York State’s new water quality rapid response team identify and respond quickly to drinking water issues. “WaterTraq will be a vital tool that the Department of Environmental Conservation will utilize to continue efforts to improve and safeguard Long Island’s drinking water resources,” said DEC Regional Director Carrie Meek Gallagher. “We are excited for the launch of this program and eager to incorporate this new technology into New York State’s water programs.” The Long Island Commission for Aquifer Protection is a bi-county entity formed to address both quality and quantity issues facing Long Island’s aquifer system and to advocate for a coordinated, regional approach to groundwater resources management.

### LICAP - Water Quality Mapping: The Next Step in Coordinated Water Resources Management

For decades, researchers, scientists and officials from public agencies and water utilities have collected and analyzed water quality data from wells located all across Long Island. This data has been used to produce reports vital to the understanding of Long Island’s aquifers. Water quality data from thousands of wells, as well as information about well location, the aquifer from which water was drawn, water table elevation and pumping history - is managed in dozens of independent databases by various entities. But until now, no one has attempted to unify all available information into a single database available to everyone, including the general public. Suffolk and Nassau County officials created LICAP to advance a coordinated regional approach to groundwater resources management. To that end, water suppliers from across Long Island shared water quality data from calendar year 2015 to develop a single, unified database. The creation of this database allows water utilities and public agencies to search for any chemical constituent and have results visually displayed by concentration, location, depth and sample date, among other criteria. Shown below are SCWA and LICAP public supply wells from which this water quality data was obtained.



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### SCWA OFFERS GUIDANCE TO DISTRICTS ON ADDRESSING POTENTIAL HAZARDS OF LEAD IN DRINKING WATER



#### **SCWA, County Health, Legislator Spencer Host Lead Safety Forum for Schools**

The Suffolk County Water Authority in conjunction with the Suffolk County Department of Health Services and Suffolk Legislator Dr. William Spencer hosted a forum at the SCWA Education Center to offer guidance to school districts on addressing potential hazards of lead in drinking water. The forum, attended by more than 30 representatives of school districts from throughout Suffolk County, included a review of all pertinent information included within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s guidance document for reducing lead in drinking water in schools, an overview of how SCWA ensures that the water delivered to schools is safe from lead contamination and an opportunity for attendees to ask questions to water supply industry and health department experts. “The Suffolk County Water Authority through its rigorous testing protocols and an optimal corrosion control system ensures that the water we supply to our customers is safe from lead contamination,” said SCWA Chief Executive Officer Jeffrey W. Szabo. “But the second half of the equation is making sure that the water supply continues to be safe once it travels beyond our distribution system, and so we’re delighted to offer any insight we can provide in helping school districts ensure the safety of their drinking water on school grounds.” “This meeting was a proactive effort to protect public health,” said Dr. James Tomarken, Suffolk County Commissioner of Health Services. “Suffolk County Health Officials, Suffolk County Water Authority Administrators and school superintendents will continue to collaborate to ensure that schools are following EPA guidelines for safe drinking water and are aware of state and county drinking water regulations.” “I felt it was imperative to be proactive and coordinate this meeting considering the recent test results in some local schools showing lead contamination,” Legislator Spencer told the assembled school officials at the forum. “Our goal is to ensure that everyone is on same page and to provide resources, understanding of roles and best practices on how to proceed in the event that test results reveal levels of lead in drinking water. We have to approach this together and in joining forces we are better prepared and equipped to protect the health of the public.”

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### SCWA's Education Center



The Suffolk County Water Authority now has a great education center at its Hauppauge office for visitors to learn about how SCWA retrieves water from Long Island's sole source aquifer, makes sure it's safe to drink, and then delivers it to customers all over Suffolk County. At the center, you and your family can learn about how Long Island's water cycle works, activate a pump station model to see how water is treated and delivered and view exhibits of SCWA meters and laboratory equipment from our more than 60 years of operation. There is also an exhibit on the history and preservation of the Central Pine Barrens region, a Water Workshop and more.

To sign up for an upcoming Education Center program, please email us at [educationcenter@scwa.com](mailto:educationcenter@scwa.com). Individuals, families, school groups, businesses, civic associations and clubs are all welcome, so make your appointment to come visit the center soon!

### ON OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.SCWA.COM](http://WWW.SCWA.COM)

**Got Five Minutes? Check out our new educational videos!** The SCWA now has a way for you to get up to speed about a variety of topics concerning water. Go to [www.scwa.com](http://www.scwa.com) and look at the bottom of the home page for links to five-minute videos on topics including:

**The journey of a drop of water from a cloud to your faucet.** This video takes you on a tour through the water cycle and our intricate system of providing you with the best water you can get anywhere.

**Water technology in the 21st Century.** Ever wonder how we are able to keep water flowing through thousands of miles of pipes? This video gives you a tour of our production control facilities, and also highlights our new system of reading meters by just driving past your home or business.

**A Ripple in Time.** This video gives you a brief history of SCWA, starting with its inception in 1951.

**SCWA water versus bottled water.** This video takes you on a tour of our state-of-the-art laboratory. You'll learn about the rigorous testing our water goes through before it gets to your faucet.

**Preserving our groundwater.** In this video, we tell you about the various steps you can take to make sure our underground aquifer system, the source of all of our water, stays as pure as possible.

**Your questions, our answers.** Ever wonder why water is stored in elevated tanks? In this video, our Customer Service clerks answer your most commonly asked questions.