

Sound View Sewer Coalition, LLC

P. O. Box 399

South Lyme, Connecticut 06376-9992

TO: The Honorable Ned Lamont, Governor of Connecticut

March 17, 2025

The Honorable William Tong, Attorney General of Connecticut

State of Connecticut DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes

State of Connecticut DEEP Sanitary Engineer Carlos Esguerra

The Sound View Sewer Coalition, LLC represents a majority of concerned residents of the three public town streets in the Sound View neighborhood of Old Lyme. We are the town residents affected by the proposed Town of Old Lyme Wastewater Management Sewer System. Unlike the three private beach municipalities on either side of us, (Miami Beach Association, Old Colony Beach and Old Lyme Shores), Sound View streets are public roads belonging to the Town of Old Lyme. While the three private beaches signed a Consent Order from DEEP, the Town is only under an Administrative Order.

The Town of Old Lyme and the Old Lyme WPCA have indicated that the Town is not willing to fund the Sound View portion of the sewer project, placing the entire cost on the 200 residents of Sound View, a mostly working-class neighborhood with many senior citizen retirees, in otherwise affluent Old Lyme.

It is unprecedented for the Town to shirk its financial responsibilities to Sound View residents by placing the costs of the shared infrastructure for this unwanted project directly on our residents. Once the infrastructure is in place, other areas of town may use it, but only Sound View residents will have paid for it. This is blatantly unfair, when all other town projects, such as the Senior Center renovation, Library renovation and School renovation, are shared equally amongst all taxpayers. This project is unaffordable for Sound View residents.

The Sound View Sewer Coalition has also identified many data and planning errors which were not corrected before bids were submitted. We believe this project cannot be allowed to move forward in its current configuration. Furthermore, if it does move forward, the Town of Old Lyme should foot the cost for Sound View's share of the collective infrastructure (pump house, force main, etc.) as it would be a town resource.

We also have serious concerns regarding the bidding process for Project # 866018: the pipeline from Old Lyme to East Lyme. This is one of six separate bids required to construct the sewer infrastructure. The following four bids were received for this part of the project:

BW Paving – Waterford CT - \$2,950,025

Baltazar – Ludlow MA - \$5,680,740

Ludlow Construction – Ludlow MA - \$8,009,625

CJ Fucci Construction- New Haven CT - \$11,765,855.00

The Old Lyme WPCA is considering awarding the contract to BW Paving since it is the lowest bidder. However, In light of BW Paving's recent conviction by Attorney General Tong for bid rigging, we (the Sound View Sewer Coalition, LLC) question that. In fact, we question the validity and qualifications of all 4 bidders:

BW Paving – was fined \$360,756 for bid rigging in December 2024

Baltazar – was subject to OSHA and civil fines

Ludlow – currently being sued by MDC for faulty workmanship

CJ Fucci – failed projects in New Haven and Waterford

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Another irregularity that stands out is that the low bidder for Project #866356 (Old Colony Beach Association) at \$5,933,795 was also the high bidder for the Sound View/ Area B Project CWF#660C at \$10,613,400, when these two communities sit side by side and have approximately the same number of properties.

There are also accounting discrepancies. In addition to Clean Water Funds, Connecticut DEEP announced a special provision – a \$15 million “forgivable” loan, because this project would otherwise be considered unaffordable. When DEEP authored this in 2022, the Old Lyme WPCA Chair and the WPCA Chairs of the private beach municipalities publicly stated that they had already spent \$4.1 million on this effort. However, to date, the town Finance Director has only been able to identify one charge of \$554,047.50 which was later reimbursed by Clean Water Funds. We therefore question the accuracy of the \$4.1 million number. These are state and federal funds, that will not be paid back once released.

We have done our research and would much prefer to move forward with cleaner, more affordable green solutions that also qualify for Clean Water Funding, and may not require an additional \$15 million in state funds. We ask you to please consider the above concerns, and understand that this project cannot be allowed to move forward as it is impractical and unaffordable for our residents. Thank you very much for your time and attention.

Respectfully submitted,

Sound View Sewer Coalition, LLC

Co-Chairs - Dennis Melluzzo and Frank Pappalardo

[Old Lyme and Beach Associations Ask for \\$14m Grant to Cover Shared Sewer Costs - CT Examiner](#)

[Antitrust Settlement with Asphalt Paving Companies and Their Principals Over Alleged Bid Rigging](#)

[HRCare - \\$70,000 in Fines for Cave-in Hazards in Massachusetts](#)

[Baltazar Construction \(Hernandez\) - Second Am Jt Stip of Class Action and PAGA Settlement \(f\) - fully executed.pdf](#)

[Notice of Ruling - RULINGS/ORDERS RE: MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT - FRANCISCO SALOME RENOJ HERNANDEZ VS BALTAZAR CONSTRUCTION, INC. | Trellis](#)

[FRANCISCO SALOME RENOJ HERNANDEZ VS BALTAZAR CONSTRUCTION, INC](#)

[Trenching Hazards Lead to \\$109,400 in Fines in Massachusetts | EHS Today](#)

[OSHA fines firm \\$70K for Marlborough sewer work](#)

[Motion to Approve Class Action Settlement in FRANCISCO SALOME RENOJ HERNANDEZ VS BALTAZAR CONSTRUCTION, INC. | Trellis.Law](#)