



# *News Release*

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### *Steinhaus Moves Forward with Shared Project: New Sewer System for Red Hook*

*Poughkeepsie...* Dutchess County Executive William R. Steinhaus is working to advance the development of a new sewer district in the Village and Town of Red Hook. This sewer district will provide sewer services to properties with frontage along Broadway (Route 9) and Market Street (Route 199), the commercial corridor of the Village and Town of Red Hook. The next step in the project is to set a Public Hearing on the establishment of Part County Sewer District No. 6 in the Village of Red Hook by the Dutchess County Legislature, at the request of Dutchess County Water and Wastewater Authority.

“We are very proud of the collaborative work between the County and the Village and Town of Red Hook to move this important shared project forward,” said County Executive Steinhaus. “This project is an excellent example of smart growth principles in action and will help protect the groundwater supply for the surrounding family homes.”

The sewer district project will serve nearly 200 properties in the Village and Town of Red Hook. The sewer system is viewed as a critical component of the Village and Town of Red Hook’s ongoing zoning and planning process and is considered to be a vital “smart growth” project. The sewer system will support the business district which is currently served by individual septic systems. These individual systems limit the opportunity for growth in the business district and potentially threaten the nearby aquifer that serves surrounding area residential properties.

In 2009, County Executive Steinhaus directed \$65,000 in Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) funds for the preliminary design and investigations for the construction of a low pressure sanitary sewer collection system and a wastewater treatment plant to service selected areas of the Village and Town of Red Hook. The public hearing and the formal establishment of District 6 as a Part County Sewer District are the next steps in this ongoing project. The sewer system will be owned and operated by the Dutchess County Water and Wastewater Authority (DCWWA). County Legislator Benjamin Traudt, who represents Red Hook, will sponsor the legislative resolutions to shepherd the project through the necessary steps. “The Village of Red Hook is one of only 2 villages that does not currently have a sewer system. This project will be a very important infrastructure improvement for both the Village and Town of Red Hook.”

The construction costs for the new sewer district are estimated to be approximately \$7.6 million. The DCWWA has worked closely with Village and Town officials to secure preliminary approval for \$3.4 million Rural Development Grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Final approval is expected to be granted once the public hearing has been held and the sewer district has been formally established. The sewer project also qualifies for 0% financing from the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation Clean Water State Revolving Fund. “Without these funding sources, we would never have been able to advance with this project,” says Village of Red Hook Mayor David Cohen. “We are very grateful to have had the County’s support from the inception, both with grant funding and with technical assistance, to make this long awaited project become a reality.”

“Getting a sewer system to efficiently serve the business district along Route 9 and Route 199 and allow for future growth has been a key priority for a long time,” said Mayor Cohen. “This funding is a critical next step toward making it a reality. We wish to thank County Executive Steinhaus and the DCWWA for their support with this process. It is an important step for protecting the environment (the aquifer) and encouraging growth in our business district.”

DCWWA Chairman Tom LeGrand stated, “We are extremely pleased to have the Red Hook sewer district advance to this point. A tremendous amount of time and effort has been invested to secure funding sources including the federal stimulus funds in order to bring this important project to fruition. I wish to thank our entire DCWWA team for all their work to make this a reality for Red Hook.”

A resolution to set the public hearing has been forwarded by County Executive Steinhaus to the County Legislature for approval at the January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 meeting. Resolutions to establish the

county sewer district will be considered by the Legislature at the February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 board meeting. Following approval of all necessary legislation, the remainder of the design work will be completed and permits approval will be sought. Pending successful outcome of all these steps, construction is anticipated to begin in fall of 2010. A public information meeting sponsored jointly by the Village, Town and DCWWA will be held at 7pm on Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at the Red Hook Firehouse for those who wish to learn more about the proposed sewer project.