

**Business of the Village Board
Village of Saranac Lake**

BILL #32-2026

SUBJECT: Budget Transfers

FOR AGENDA: 2/9/2026

DEPT OF ORIGIN: Village Manager

DATE SUBMITTED: 2/9/2026

MOVED BY: White SECONDED BY: Williams

VOTE ON ROLL CALL:

MAYOR WILLIAMS	<u>yes</u>
TRUSTEE BRUNETTE	<u>yes</u>
TRUSTEE RYAN	<u>yes</u>
TRUSTEE SCOLLIN	<u>yes</u>
TRUSTEE WHITE	<u>yes</u>

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM GENERAL, WATER,
AND SEWER CONTINGENCY ACCOUNTS**

WHEREAS, the Village of Saranac Lake has the responsibility to pay for its routine financial obligations, and,

WHEREAS, the Village has budgeted contingency funds in planning for unanticipated expenditures, and,

WHEREAS, these required adjustments may be satisfied through contingency appropriations, and

WHEREAS, the Village must make such expenditures through a relevant and appropriate account.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Village Treasurer is hereby authorized to transfer \$8,440.91 from General Fund Contingency, \$87.45 from Water Fund Contingency, and \$1,229.05 from Sewer Fund Contingency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such a transfer will be used to satisfy the Village's obligations in a timely fashion regarding expenses already incurred.

ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	ADJUSTMENT AMOUNT	TAKING FROM
GENERAL FUND			
001-1010-0400-0000	BOARD SERVICES	\$14.39	CONTINGENCY
001-1680-0400-0000	DATA PROC SERVICES	\$6,159.44	CONTINGENCY
001-3620-0406-0000	CODE ENFRC TRAV/TRAIN	\$134.40	CONTINGENCY
001-4020-0100-0000	REGISTRAR REG PAY	\$45.00	CONTINGENCY
001-5142-0410-0000	SNOW REMVL EQUIP MAINT	\$437.38	CONTINGENCY
001-7180-0400-0000	BEACH SERVICES	\$1,259.50	CONTINGENCY
001-8989-0403-0000	HYDRO ELECTRICITY	\$330.26	CONTINGENCY
001-9070-0800-0000	DENTAL INS BENEFITS	\$60.54	CONTINGENCY
WATER FUND			
004-8310-0401-0000	WATER ADMIN SUPPLIES	\$87.45	CONTINGENCY
SEWER FUND			
005-1950-0400-0000	PROPERTY TAXES	\$335.99	CONTINGENCY
005-8110-0401-0000	SEWER ADMIN SUPPLIES	\$356.03	CONTINGENCY
005-8130-0400-0000	TREATMENT PLT SERVICES	\$39.55	CONTINGENCY
005-8152-0401-0000	TREATMENT PLT SUPPLIES	\$497.48	CONTINGENCY

SUMMARY

GENERAL

AMOUNT	FROM ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	TO ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION
\$8,440.91	001-1990-0400-0000	GENERAL CONTINGENCY		<i>REFER TO ABOVE INFORMATION</i>

WATER

AMOUNT	FROM ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	TO ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION
\$87.45	004-1990-0400-0000	WATER CONTINGENCY		<i>REFER TO ABOVE INFORMATION</i>

SEWER

AMOUNT	FROM ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	TO ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION
\$1,229.05	005-1990-0400-0000	SEWER CONTINGENCY		<i>REFER TO ABOVE INFORMATION</i>



Wastewater Project Update

February 9, 2026

Village Board of Trustees,

Please let this memorandum serve as a project update and a discussion of possible rate impacts resulting from the Village's wastewater project.

WASTEWATER PROJECT

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Village's wastewater project is the result of engineering and planning work that dates back to several years and is a continuation of several phases of work that first started in 2010. The Village has successfully completed multiple collection system and WWTP upgrade projects, having secured funding from NYSEFC, NYSDOS, NYSOCR, and FEMA. These early phases of projects included the West Trunk, LaPan Highway, Dorsey Street, Broadway, and Pine Street sewer mains, in addition to the Woodruff Street Siphon, the Lake Flower Ave Lift Station Upgrade, and installation of two new clarifiers, as well as a UV disinfection system at the WWTP.

The current project was developed based on a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for the WWTP and two PERs for the collection system all funded by NYSEFC. The recommendations from these reports were combined into one large project. Successful funding applications to NYSEFC for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and 0% hardship financing were secured, along with grants from NYSDEC's WQIP and FEMA's Hazardous Mitigation Program. Combined funding for the project totals \$31.6 million in grant funds and \$17.5 million in available 0% loan.

OVERALL PROJECT SCOPE

To better manage the grants and eventual construction projects, the overall wastewater project has been broken into three components: the WWTP, the FEMA-funded collection work, and the remaining collection system work.

WWTP – SCOPE OF WORK

The primary goal and the reason funding was awarded for the WWTP work is to complete upgrades necessary to meet the plant's new permit limit of 1 mg/l phosphorus. This work is core to the project and must be completed. The other goal of the project is to upgrade/repair/replace aged equipment and buildings to ensure the WWTP can continue to serve the Village for the next 30+ years. The last major WWTP overhaul occurred approximately 34 years ago in 1992. Many of the WWTP equipment is past its life expectancy. The new upgrades will also bring enhanced safety, energy efficiency, and overall efficiency for operations staff.

As part of the 10% design phase of the project, SDA staff reviewed all report recommendations, suggested modifications, and reviewed the project scope with operations staff. The recommended scope of work is expected to fit within the project budget; however, specific work items have been identified that can be removed and saved for a later project should cost exceed current estimates. These changes can be made after the 90% design and final bidding estimates are completed.



To highlight the proposed recommendations, please see the attached map showing the WWTP aerial view. We have included flow arrows which show the path of flows from their entrance at the beginning of the plant through each treatment process prior to discharge to the Saranac River. We have also included a map showing the flow of solids (sludge) from the treatment processes where they are collected to the points where they are treated and ultimately sent for final disposal. Each process and the proposed work is briefly described below.

WATER FLOW PROCESS

1. Siphon

The siphon consists of two pipes that convey water under the Saranac River to the WWTP. A concrete structure with gates controls the flow of water into each pipe. At a minimum, the project will include replacement of the concrete structure and gates, and a second structure will be added on the WWTP side of the river. An alternative to install a 3rd pipe was included in the report and will be evaluated during later design phases and included if the budgets allow.

2. Influent Building

The Influent Building houses the first steps of the treatment process, specifically a manual and an automatic screen. The screens remove rags, plastics, large debris, and anything else that should not be flushed down the toilet. The screen has passed its useful life, and its design does not meet the current needs of the WWTP. The building is in need of rehabilitation due to age.

The proposed work includes the following:

- Replace the screen with a new, shorter screen to better fit the space.
- Replace gates, piping, etc.
- Upgrade the building's HVAC, electrical systems, and roof.

3. Grit Chambers

The grit chambers are concrete tanks which function by slowing down the flow to allow grit to settle at the bottom of the tank, where it is subsequently pumped out for further dewatering. A second piece of equipment, a grit classifier, removes the water and deposits the grit into a trailer for disposal. The tanks require updates to repair the concrete. Mechanical equipment in the tanks as well as the pumps and grit classifiers are past their useful life and require replacement.

The proposed work includes the following:

- Replace the grit pumps and grit classifier.
- Replace the mechanical equipment.
- Replace piping and water control slide gates.
- Rehabilitate the concrete.

4. Primary Clarifiers

The primary clarifiers are large concrete tanks which were installed in the 1930s as part of the original WWTP construction. The tanks allow the water to slow down further and larger organic material is allowed to settle to the bottom of the tank, where it is collected and pumped to the digesters for further treatment. Grease and oil rise to the top and is skimmed off for further treatment. The primary clarifiers are generally in good condition, considering their age, however the mechanical equipment is aged and in need of replacement



and the concrete is showing signs of degradation. Additionally, the 1930s design does not meet current safety standards for access for repairs.

The proposed work includes the following:

- Replace the mechanical equipment, gates, piping.
- Rehabilitate the concrete.
- Replace the concrete top with new concrete, railings, decking, and lifting and safety equipment.

5. Primary Effluent Pump Station

The primary effluent pump station pumps the partially treated wastewater that leaves the primary clarifiers to a higher elevation so that it can flow through the rest of the treatment process by gravity. The pumps in the pump station require replacement due to age. The actual structure is not set at the proper elevation and requires replacement. The current structure is attached to the control building, making modifications difficult. SDA has recommended that a new building be constructed at the WWTP to house a new primary effluent pump station, among other processes (described below). The new building will be easier (more cost effective) to construct and will gain efficiency by combining this step with the other proposed work.

The proposed work includes the following:

- Construction of a new process building with a new wet well, pumps, piping, site piping, and controls.

6. Control Building

The Control Building houses the WWTP's office space, lab space, bathrooms, break room, main electrical systems, and various pipes and pumps for portions of the treatment process. The building is in need of rehabilitation due to age. A portion of the building has settled, causing issues with doorways and other areas of the building's structure.

The proposed work includes the following:

- Installation of pilings to correct the settlement issues.
- General upgrades to the office and lab space.
- Upgrades to the bathrooms to maintain modern code compliance.
- Upgrades to the buildings HVAC systems, roof, and other architectural and structural repairs.
- Updates to electrical and control systems in conjunction with the upgrades to the rest of the WWTP.
- Updates to pumps and piping in conjunction with the upgrades to the rest of the WWTP.

7. Aeration Tanks

The aeration tanks are where the majority of the waste in the system is treated by bacteria within the tanks. As the water moves through the tanks, air is added to the system and then withheld at key points to control the bacteria that are growing. Each type of bacteria targets different types of waste. As the bacteria eat the waste, they multiply, resulting in excessive quantities that are removed farther downstream in the form of sludge. The aeration tanks have had several upgrades and modifications over the years. These upgrades included a major overhaul in 1992 to change the concrete structure as well as several in-house projects designed to modify the treatment process. The concrete from 1992 is in poor condition. Many of the other modifications are functional, but past their useful life. The tanks require a major overhaul to maximize the treatment potential as well as repair the damaged concrete. The tanks also do not have the necessary equipment for safe access for repairs.



The proposed work includes the following:

- Rehabilitation of the concrete.
- Replacement of gates, piping, mixers, and other process equipment.
- Modification of baffle walls and other structural components.
- Installation of proper safety and lifting equipment.

8. Chemical Feed Systems

Chemical feed systems are located throughout the WWTP and have been modified over the years as permit limits have changed. The Village operations staff have been using existing equipment and a system that was constructed in-house to treat for phosphorus over the last few years. This effort has proven the ability to meet the new requirements through the use of chemical treatment. The existing equipment requires upgrades to replace aged equipment and to ensure that the chemical feed systems will be safe and efficient to operate. SDA proposed to relocate all of the chemical feed systems related to phosphorus removal to a portion of the new process building that is also housing the primary effluent pump station.

The proposed work includes the following:

- Installation of chemical feed pumps, piping, storage, and safety equipment in the new process building.
- Site piping and conduit that will be used to deliver chemicals to the correct portion of the treatment process.

9. Secondary Clarifiers

The secondary clarifiers are large circular tanks that once again allow the water to slow down which causes the excessive sludge produced in the aeration tanks to settle for removal and eventual treatment. The clarified water flows over the top of weirs in the tank for either disinfection (summer months) or direct discharge to the river (winter months). The tanks were constructed in 2017 and 2022, and no work is planned at this time.

10. UV Disinfection

UV Disinfection is used to kill off any remaining pathogens in the wastewater prior to discharge in the summer months. The UV disinfection system was constructed in 2022, and no further work is planned at this time.

11. Outfall

The outfall is a pipe located in the Saranac River that disposes the water into the river from the plant. The pipe is generally in good condition but will be evaluated as part of the next phases of design. If additional work is identified it may be included if funds allow.

SLUDGE FLOW PROCESS

Sludge is the solid byproduct of the treatment processes and is disposed of off-site, typically at a landfill. The sludge starts out very wet and is progressively dried to minimize disposal costs. Please note, regulations around sludge disposal are being debated at the State level and are expected to change in 2026. The recommendations for these processes are intended to be flexible and may be modified should regulations change. Additionally, this flexibility allows for areas to reduce project scope should cost cutting be necessary.



1. Primary Clarifier

The waste that settles to the bottom of the primary clarifier is a form of sludge. This sludge is very volatile and must be treated further. The sludge is pumped from the primary clarifiers, mixed with sludge from the secondary clarifier, and discharged into the gravity thickener. The pumps are aged and in need of replacement.

The proposed work includes the following:

- Replacement pumps.

2. Secondary Clarifiers

The excess bacteria from the aeration tanks settles out of the wastewater in the secondary clarifiers. This resulting sludge is pumped from the secondary clarifiers, mixed with the primary sludge, and discharged to the gravity thickener. The pumps for this system were replaced in 2022, and no work is planned at this time.

3. Gravity Thickener

The gravity thickener is a small diameter clarifier where the sludge is allowed to rest. The sludge settles to the bottom and excess water is drained off for further treatment. The gravity thickener is in very poor structural and mechanical condition and requires rehabilitation. Additionally, the pipes that feed and leave the gravity thickener do not allow operational flexibility and need modification.

The proposed work includes the following:

- Rehabilitate the concrete and structural elements of the gravity thickener.
- Replace the gravity thickener mechanical components.
- Replace/change the piping that feeds and leaves the gravity thickener to provide better operational flexibility.

4. Digesters

The digesters are large tanks that further treat sludge through anaerobic digestion, using bacteria that operate without the presence of oxygen. During the 2022 project, the digesters were partially rehabilitated. Remaining work includes repairs to the tank facade, piping modifications, and pump replacement. This work, while important, could be moved to a future phase of work if cost savings are needed.

The proposed work includes the following:

- Facade repairs.
- Piping modification.
- Pump replacement.

5. Sludge Press

The sludge press is the last mechanical step for sludge processing. The sludge press squeezes sludge between two plates to separate water from the solids. The water is recirculated for treatment, and the sludge is ready for storage until disposal. The sludge press is aging and requires repair or replacement. Both options were evaluated, and replacement is recommended from a cost-benefit and longevity standpoint. Additionally, the sludge press design will be modified to provide operational flexibility during construction of the gravity thickener and digesters.

The proposed work includes the following:



- Replacement of the sludge press.

6. Sludge Drying Bed

The sludge drying beds are open air wood structures designed to provide a cover over sludge while it is stored prior to disposal. The sludge is left in the open and occasionally turned to help additional water evaporate and leak out of the sludge during freeze/thaw cycles. The sludge drying beds have structural damage and require repair. The exact final scope of work will depend on final costs and potential regulation changes and will require additional engineering evaluation of alternatives including replacement with prefabricated structures or the use of a sludge dryer. The final determination will be made as the design progresses. This work, while important, could be moved to a future phase of work if cost savings are needed.

The proposed work includes the following:

- To be determined (likely replacement of the structure at a minimum).

FEMA FUNDED COLLECTION SYSTEM – SCOPE OF WORK

The FEMA funded portion of the collection system includes the replacement of the sewer mains called the “Swamp Line” and the “Trunk Sewer Main.” The Swamp Line consists of the sewer main running from the Community Bank Parking Lot, north across Bloomingdale Avenue, and behind the fire station to Cedar Street. The Trunk Sewer Main runs from the Bloomingdale Lift Station to the Coinwash Parking Lot. The work was funded by FEMA as these sewer mains were determined to be those that are at a high risk of failure with a high risk of environmental and property damage if they were to fail. The work has progressed to the 10% design level, with the general location of replacement work determined. The next steps are to complete the 90% design, which will include final construction documentation, coordination of easements and permits, and review with regulatory agencies.

1. Swamp Line

The Swamp Line currently runs underneath several buildings and along the backside of the properties off of Broadway from Bloomingdale Avenue to Cedar Street. The project recommendations include a combination of relocation and replacement in-kind. The sewer mains will be partially relocated on the southern end out to Broadway and at the upper end along the Rail Trail. The middle section behind the Broadway properties will generally be replaced in-kind.

Please see the attached map.

2. Trunk Main

The Trunk Main mainly runs along the bank of the Saranac River, through Denny Park, and behind the properties along Bloomingdale Avenue before ending in the Coinwash Parking Lot. The project recommendations include a combination of pipe rehabilitation and pipe replacement. The sewer main will be rehabilitated from the Bloomingdale Lift Station to Denny Park and replaced through Denny Park to the Coinwash Parking Lot, with the exception of a portion of the sewer main under the Rail Trail which will be rehabilitated.

Please see the attached map.

REMAINING COLLECTION SYSTEM – SCOPE OF WORK

The remaining collection system portion of the project consists of three other areas of the Village’s collection system that were previously identified as high priority for replacement. These areas are the “North Swamp Line,” “West Route 3,” and “East Interceptor.” The 10% design of each of these sewer mains has been



completed with recommendations varied based on the site conditions. The next steps are to complete the 90% design, which will include final construction documentation, coordination of easements and permits, and review with regulatory agencies.

1. North Swamp Line

The North Swamp Line includes a number of sewer mains along Cedar Street, Park Avenue, Margaret Street, Baker Street, Ampersand Avenue, Hope Street, Adirondack Street, and St. Lawrence Street. These sewer mains eventually connect to the Swamp Line project. Recommendations generally include replacement of the sewer main with Park Avenue eligible for rehabilitation. The sewer mains on Adirondack Street and St. Lawrence Street are planned to be relocated from back yards to the street right-of-way. The sewer main on Margaret Street is recommended to be replaced along with the storm sewers and water mains.

Please see the attached map.

2. West Route 3

West Route 3 is a sewer main that collects the sewage from the Lake Street area (west of Route 3), runs through several wooded lots, crosses Route 3, and connects to the sewer main in the 3 Main Street parking lot via a sewer main running parallel to Route 3. This sewer main is slated for rehabilitation.

Please see the attached map.

3. East Interceptor

The East Interceptor is the sewer main that starts on Woodruff Street, crosses Broadway, runs down the alley to the Dorsey Street parking lot, crosses under Village Hall, and then crosses Main Street before ending near St. Bernard Street. The sewer main also connects to the portion of Main Street south of Route 3. The sewer main along Woodruff Street, the alley, and the Dorsey Street parking lot will be replaced in-kind. The remaining portions of the sewer main will be relocated to eliminate the pipe running under Village Hall and to reduce the highway crossings. Currently, the proposed location is underneath the walking path under the east abutment of the LaPan Highway Bridge.

Please see the attached map.



PROJECT BUDGET

PROJECT FUNDING

The Village's wastewater project was developed over many years and the grants obtained were secured over several grant funding rounds. The first grant received was the NYSEFC BIL grant with is a % based grant. This means that if additional grants are obtained, the overall BIL grant decreases. Therefore, as additional grants were added to the project, the overall project budget increased. The benefit to this plan, is that the Village is able to accomplish more work for the same loan package and planning investment. The Village has 0% hardship loans available for the project, which are nearly as valuable as grants and are hard to obtain. Therefore, maximizing the grant and loan funds is key to these types of projects. As a result, a maximum project budget was developed and approved by the Village Board. The Village had hoped to win a NYSEFC WIIA Grant to reduce the overall loan (this grant would not have affected the BIL grant) but has not yet been successful.

Current Funding Package:

- NYSEFC BIL: \$17,091,000
- FEMA: \$5,255,799.68
- NYSDEC WQIP: \$9,315,400
- Hardship Loan: \$17,569,217
- Total: \$49,231,416.68

Current Estimate:

As part of SDA's work to complete the 10% designs, the project estimates were updated. The current project estimate is under the overall project budget. More accurate budgets will be developed as part of the design process. It is recommended that the overall project budget remains intact for now, while the design progresses. Once design has reached the 90% level the overall budget can be reviewed and final scope determined.

USER RATE IMPACTS

At its most basic level, the user rate impact is calculated by dividing the total loan by 30 years and then by the number of users connected to the system. A significant portion of the Village's sewer budget is paid for by the Department of Corrections for the prisons located in Ray Brook. The rate increase for each connection will be approximately \$127-\$168/year, pending final estimates). The Town resident's rate will increase proportionally to the current agreements with the Towns. This rate increase would be expected in approximately 5 years once the project is complete.

It is recommended that the Village Board review potentially modest increases starting next year to start to offset the project costs and reduce the overall sudden increase. Additionally, there appear to be funds available within the Village's budget that can be used to offset more of this cost. A review of the overall sewer project budget during this year's budget planning would be prudent to determine a plan for the needed rate increases.

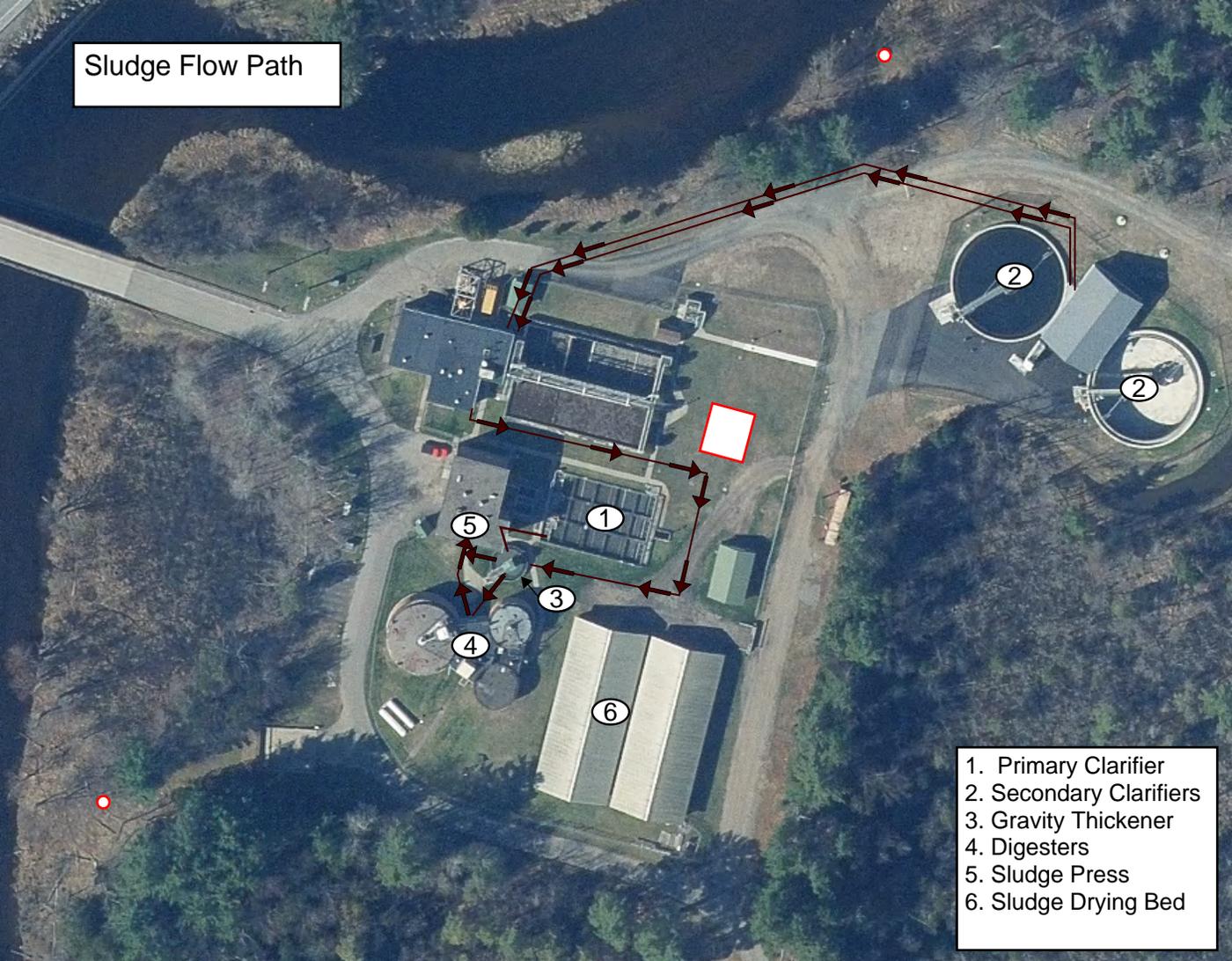
As the project progresses, we have left project items that can be removed to reduce project costs. It is important to note that any reduction in the project costs under the project total of \$49,231,416.68 will lead to a partial loss of BIL grant funds. This is due to the way in which NYSEFC calculates the final grant as a percentage of total project costs less any grants.

Wastewater Flow Path



- 1. Siphon
- 2. Influent Building
- 3. Grit Chamber
- 4. Primary Clarifier
- 5. Primary Effluent Pump Station
- 6. Control Building
- 7. Aeration Tank
- 8. New Process Building
- 9. Secondary Clarifiers
- 10. UV Disinfection
- 11. Outfall

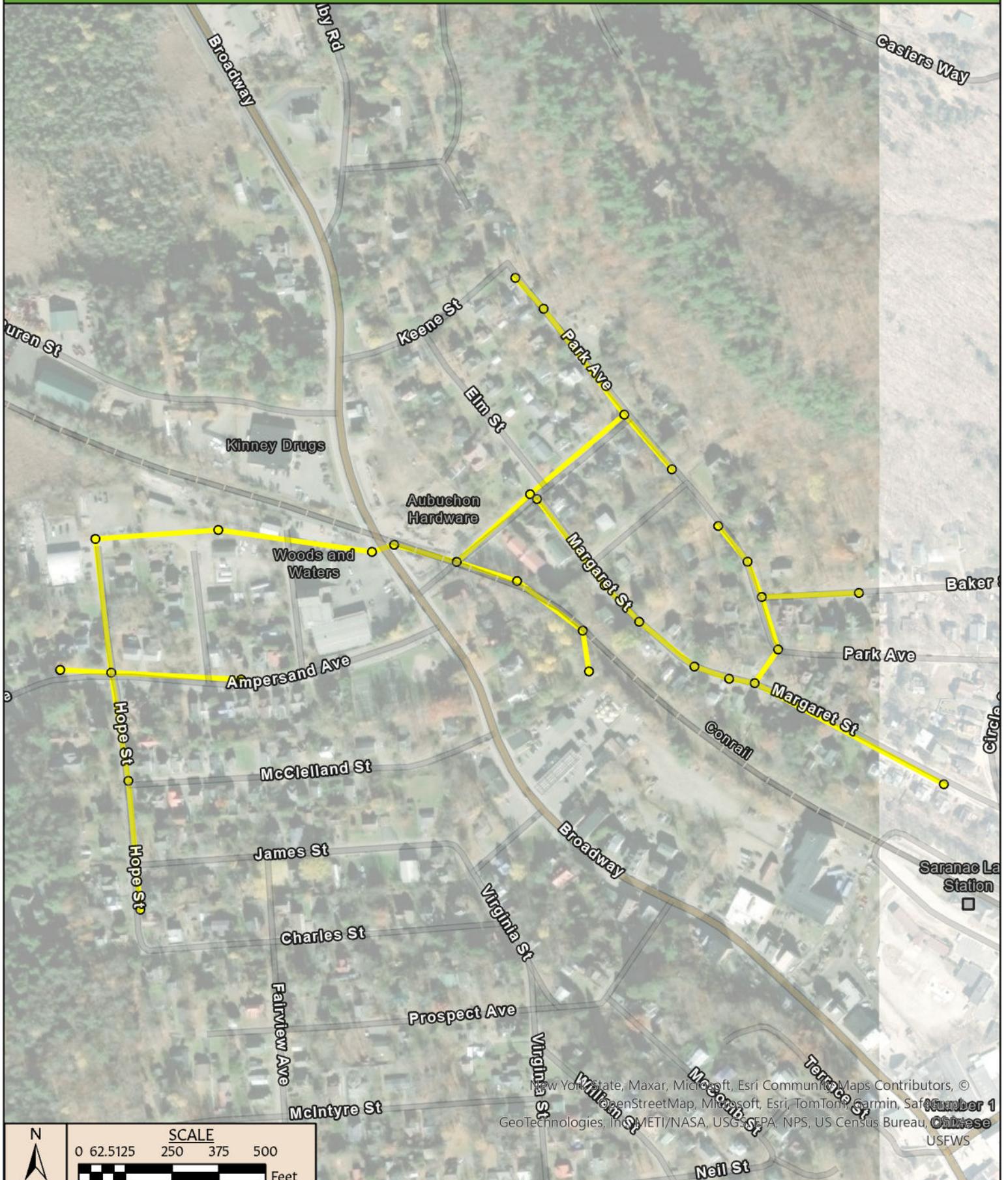
Sludge Flow Path



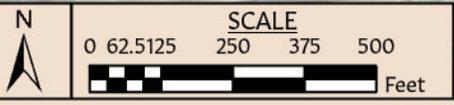
1. Primary Clarifier
2. Secondary Clarifiers
3. Gravity Thickener
4. Digesters
5. Sludge Press
6. Sludge Drying Bed

NORTH SWAMP MAIN - TEN PERCENT DESIGN SCHEMATIC

SDA Project No. 24-130 - Village of Saranac Lake FEMA Collection System Upgrades



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LEGEND

- North Swamp Manholes
- North Swamp Sewer Main

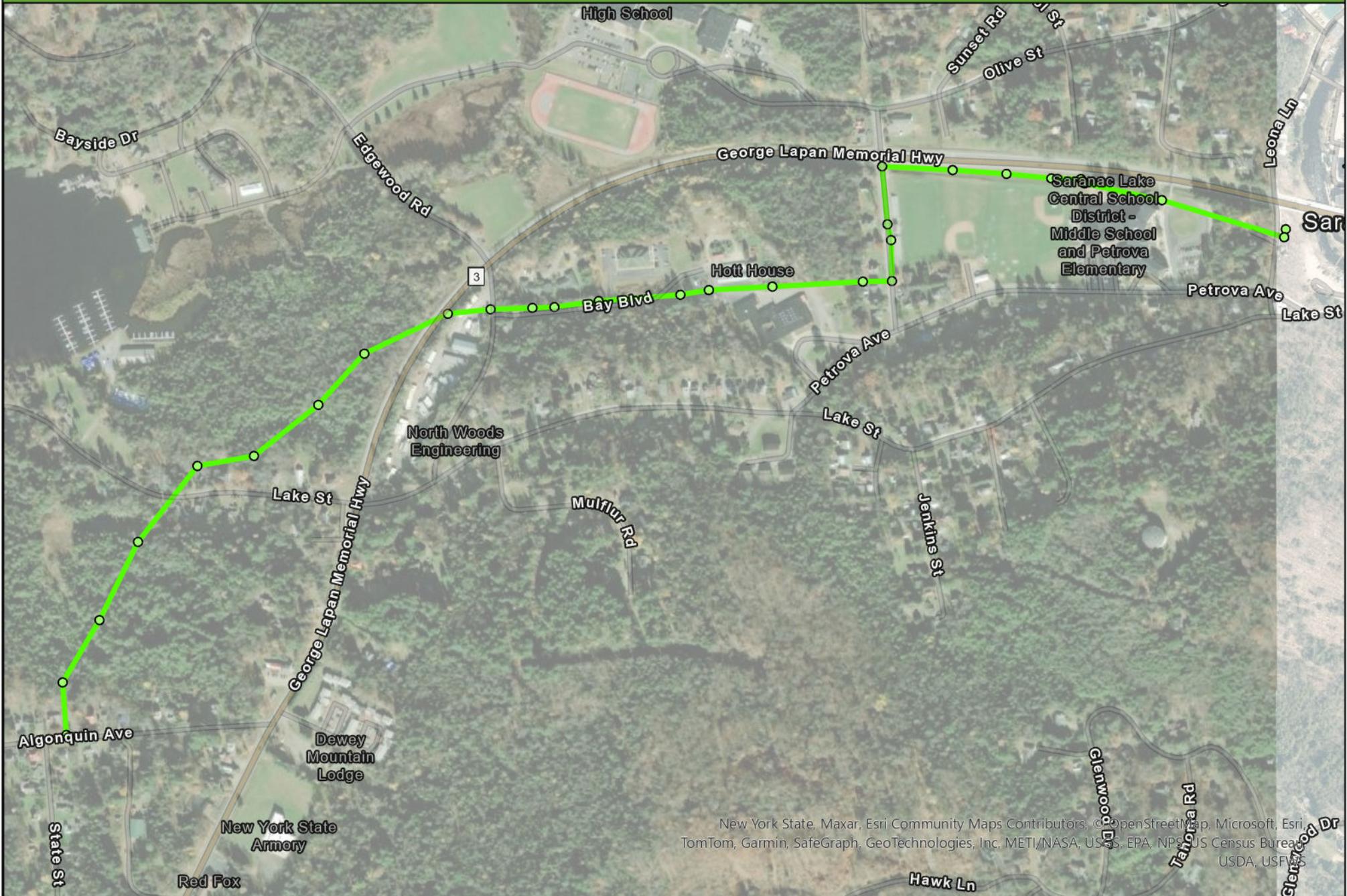
W: SDA PLLC.COM
 P: 518-240-6293
 4607 LAKE SHORE DRIVE,
 BOLTON LANDING, NY 12814



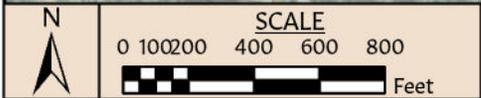
M-02

WEST INTERCEPTOR MAIN - TEN PERCENT DESIGN SCHEMATIC

SDA Project No. 24-130 - Village of Saranac Lake FEMA Collection System Upgrades



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LEGEND	
	West Interceptor Manholes
	West Interceptor Sewer Main

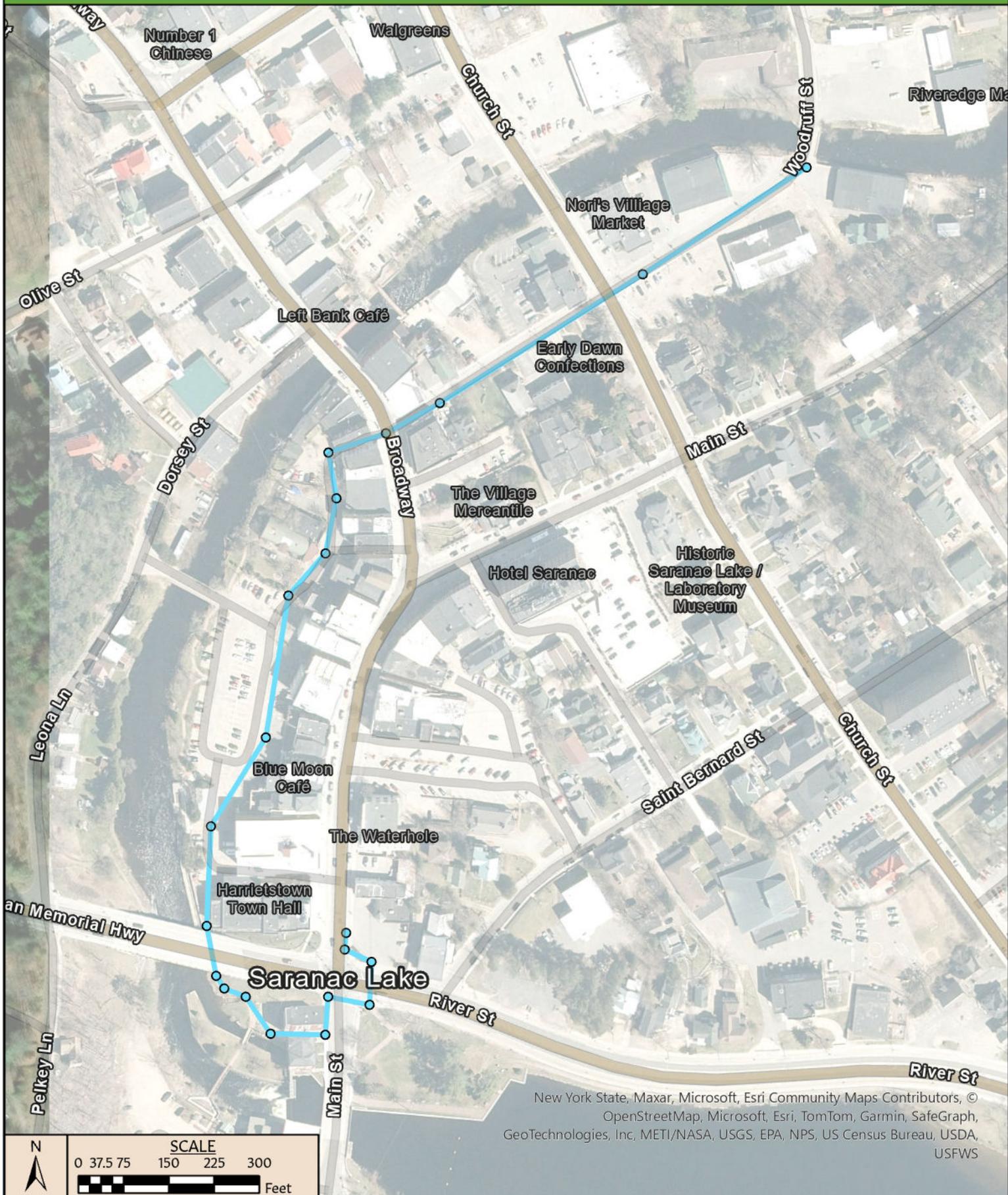
W: SDAPLLC.COM
P: 518-240-6293
4607 LAKE SHORE DRIVE,
BOLTON LANDING, NY 12814

Suozzo, Doty & Associates
Professional Engineers, P.E.

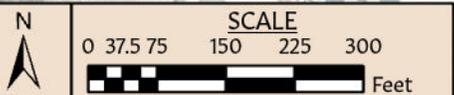
M-03

EAST INTERCEPTOR MAIN - TEN PERCENT DESIGN SCHEMATIC

SDA Project No. 24-130 - Village of Saranac Lake FEMA Collection System Upgrades



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- LEGEND**
- East Interceptor Manholes
 - East Interceptor Sewer Main

W: SDA PLLC.COM
 P: 518-240-6293
 4607 LAKE SHORE DRIVE,
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M-01