# *City of Somers Point*

## Resolution

**No. 256 of 2026**

**Subject:** **A Resolution of the City of Somers Point Supporting the Greater Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Council and Opposing the Proposed Discharge of Treated Wastewater into the Tuckahoe and Great Egg Harbor Rivers**

**Introduced by:** **Council Member McGuigan**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Council was established to protect the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the Great Egg Harbor River, its tributaries, and surrounding waterways, which were designated as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System by Congress in 1992; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries are invaluable natural resources that provide significant environmental, recreational, economic, and quality-of-life benefits to Somers Point and the surrounding communities of southern New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Somers Point recognizes the importance of protecting the water quality, ecological integrity, and natural character of the Great Egg Harbor River watershed, including its tidal rivers, bays, wetlands, and associated aquatic habitats; and

**WHEREAS**, the former B.L. England Generating Station property located at Beesleys Point in Upper Township, New Jersey, was the site of a coal-fired electrical generating facility that operated for more than 50 years and was subsequently demolished in 2025, with significant environmental contamination identified at the property; and

**WHEREAS**, the Beesleys Point Development Group LLC has submitted a Coastal Area Facility Review Act (CAFRA) Land Use Permit Application proposing redevelopment of the former generating station property, including residential, hotel, and commercial uses, supported by a proposed onsite wastewater treatment facility; and

**WHEREAS**, as described in the Great Egg Harbor River Council's Resolution 5-2026, the proposed wastewater treatment facility would discharge approximately 250,000 gallons per day of treated wastewater into the tidal waters of the Great Egg Harbor and Tuckahoe Rivers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Egg Harbor River Council has identified significant concerns regarding the potential environmental consequences of this proposed discharge, including the introduction of nutrients, pathogens, residual pollutants, and other contaminants into these environmentally sensitive waterways; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tuckahoe and Great Egg Harbor Rivers contain waters designated for enhanced protection, including antidegradation protections, and the surrounding area includes environmentally sensitive wetlands, shellfish waters, and other important natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the introduction of treated wastewater into these waterways presents concerns regarding the long-term protection of water quality, aquatic ecosystems, shellfish resources, recreational uses, and the overall health of the Great Egg Harbor River watershed; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Somers Point has a direct and substantial interest in the continued protection of the Great Egg Harbor River and its surrounding waterways, which are integral to the

environmental health, recreational opportunities, tourism, fishing, boating, and economic vitality of our region; and

**WHEREAS**, the City recognizes that wastewater treatment is an essential public service; however, the location and method of wastewater disposal must be carefully evaluated to ensure that the protection of public health and the environment remains paramount; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 21, 2026, the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Council unanimously adopted Resolution 5-2026 opposing the proposed discharge of treated wastewater into the Tuckahoe and Great Egg Harbor Rivers and urging the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to prevent such discharge; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Somers Point believes that the protection of these rivers and their natural resources is a regional responsibility that requires the cooperation and support of neighboring municipalities, county agencies, state regulatory authorities, and environmental organizations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the City Council of the City of Somers Point, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The City Council of Somers Point hereby expresses its strong support for the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Council and its efforts to protect the Great Egg Harbor River, the Tuckahoe River, and the surrounding watershed.
2. The City Council hereby formally opposes the proposed discharge of treated wastewater from the proposed onsite wastewater treatment facility at the former B.L. England Generating Station property into the tidal waters of the Great Egg Harbor and Tuckahoe Rivers.
3. The City Council urges the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to carefully evaluate the environmental impacts of the proposed discharge and to deny any permits or approvals that would authorize the discharge of treated wastewater into these environmentally sensitive waterways.
4. The City Council further urges NJDEP and all applicable regulatory agencies to fully evaluate alternative wastewater management and disposal options that would avoid the discharge of treated wastewater into the Great Egg Harbor and Tuckahoe Rivers.
5. The City Council encourages neighboring municipalities, Atlantic and Cape May Counties, the Great Egg Harbor River Council, the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association, and other regional environmental organizations to join in supporting the protection of these important natural resources.
6. The City Council requests that NJDEP provide full transparency and meaningful public participation throughout the review of any applications, permits, or approvals associated with the proposed wastewater treatment facility and discharge.
7. The City Clerk is hereby directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the following:

    - Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Council
    - New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, including the Division of Water Quality and Division of Land Resource Protection
    - Atlantic County Board of County Commissioners
    - Cape May County Board of County Commissioners
    - Cape May County Planning Department
    - Upper Township Committee
    - National Park Service
    - Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association
    - Senator Vince Polistina
    - Assemblyman Don Guardian

- Assemblywoman Maureen Rowan

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution shall be made available to the public and posted on the official website of the City of Somers Point.

| | MOTIONS | YES | NO | ABSTAIN | ABSENT | RECUSE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DePamphilis | | X | | | | |
| Dill | 2 | X | | | | |
| Gerety | | X | | | | |
| Johnston | | | | | X | |
| McGuigan | 1 | X | | | | |
| Shields | | X | | | | |
| Slaughter | | X | | | | |
| Consent Agenda | | | | | | |

I, Shelby Heath, City Clerk of the City of Somers Point, New Jersey, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution is a true copy, duly adopted by the City Council of said City at a Regular meeting held on the 12th day of November 2026. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the Office on the 12th day of November 2026.

Shelby Heath, RMC, City Clerk