ENVIRONMENT

RESOLUTION NO. 2025119

RE: ADOPTION OF NEGATIVE DECLARATION WITH RESPECT TO LANDOWNER REQUESTS TO INCLUDE THEIR PROPERTY WITHIN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT 21

Legislators D'AQUANNI, PAOLONI, GORMAN, and VERSACI offer the following and move its adoption:

WHEREAS, this Legislature is considering Landowner requests to include their property within Dutchess County Agricultural District 21, in accordance with Agricultural and Markets Law Section 303-b and the recommendations of the Dutchess County Agricultural and Farmland and Protection Board (AFPB), and

WHEREAS, approval of modifications constitutes an action subject to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and

WHEREAS, the Dutchess County Legislature has attached a Short Environmental Assessment Form, which concludes that the program constitutes: (1) an Unlisted Action pursuant to Article VIII of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and part 617 of the NYCRR (SEQRA); and (2) that the proposed action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Legislature in adopting this Resolution is to adopt and confirm those findings, and

WHEREAS, a true copy of the Short Environmental Assessment Form and the Negative Declaration reflecting the finding that the action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts are attached hereto and made a part hereof, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Dutchess County Legislature hereby adopts the Short Environmental Assessment Form and Negative Declaration regarding modification of Agricultural District 21, as recommended by the AFPB, and confirms it will not have any significant adverse environmental impacts.

APPROVED
Susan Serino
SUSAN J. SERINO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Date 08/14/2025

STATE OF NEW YORK
ss:
COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Dutchess, have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 11th day of August 2025, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said original resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of said Legislature this 11th day of August 2025.

DUTCHESS COUNTY SEAL

Leigh Wager

LEIGH WAGER, CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE

NEW YORK STATE | Agriculture and Markets

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW
SHORT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FORM
FOR AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS

UNLISTED ACTIONS ONLY

Please indicate lead agency status by checking the appropriate box below:

☒ **The proposed action is within the scope of a cooperative agreement between the undersigned County Legislative Body ("CLB") and the Department of Agriculture and Markets ("Department"), the only other agency required to undertake an action in this case. Therefore, the undersigned CLB will serve as lead agency for the proposed action to ensure compliance with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, and is undertaking a coordinated review of the proposed action with the Department pursuant to 6 NYCRR §617.6(b)(3).**

☐ **The proposed action is not within the scope of a cooperative agreement between an applicable CLB and the Department. The agency that will serve as Lead Agency is the undersigned CLB, and is undertaking a coordinated review of the proposed action with the Department pursuant to 6 NYCRR §617.6(b)(3).**

Part 1 – Project and Sponsor Information

1. The proposed action is located in the County of Dutchess and the Town(s) of _____.

2. The agency responsible for preparing this Short Environmental Assessment Form and determining environmental significance is the CLB of Dutchess County.

3. The name, address, and e-mail address for the Clerk of the above named CLB is:
   Leigh Wager
   Dutchess County Legislature 22 Market Street Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
   LWager@dutchessny.gov

4. Does the proposed action only involve the modification, consolidation or termination of a county-adopted, State-certified agricultural district by the CLB pursuant to Agriculture and Markets Law (AML) §303-a, 303-b or 303-c? ☒ Yes ☐ No

   If Yes, attach a narrative description (including a location map) of the intent of the proposed action and the environmental resources that may be affected in the County. If No, this form should not be used to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action.

5. Is this an action proposed to modify an existing agricultural district? ☒ Yes ☐ No

   If Yes, total number of acres comprising the agricultural district as it exists prior to modification: 195,426 acres.

6. If this proposed action involves a modification, will such modification result in a change in the size of the agricultural district? ☒ Yes ☐ No
   - If yes, how many acres are involved in the change? 518.83 acres
   - Does this represent ☒ an increase or ☐ a decrease?

7. Check all present land uses that occur on, adjoining, and near the proposed action?

☒ Residential ☐ Industrial ☒ Commercial ☒ Agriculture ☒ Park/Forest/Open Space ☐ Other

If Other, please describe:_____

_____

8. Information on Coastal Resources. Is the action located within, or have a significant effect on:
   - A Coastal Area, or the waterfront area of a Designated Inland Waterway? ☐ Yes ☒ No
   - A Coastal Erosion Hazard Area? ☐ Yes ☒ No
   - A community with an approved Local Waterfront Revitalization Program? ☐ Yes ☒ No

   If Yes, please identify the affected community or communities: _____

9. Information on Local Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plans
   - Is the action compatible with the County's Agricultural & Farmland Protection Plan? ☒ Yes ☐ No

   If Yes, date of Plan approval: May 22, 2015

   If Yes, please cite the applicable language:

   Since the adoption of the Plan we have offered several educational opportunities about the differences between the Agricultural Districts Program and Agricultural Value Assessment. In addition, we have audited communities for their farm friendliness and offered improvements to zoning that could further the agricultural industry. Ensuring that our agriculturally viable land is included in the these districts will ensure its future usage for agriculture.

10. Comments from Municipalities within the County
    - Did the CLB receive any comments from municipalities about the addition or removal of land from the agricultural district? ☒ Yes ☐ No

    If Yes, please briefly summarize the comments:

    The Town of Wappinger wrote a letter in support of the addition of Hawk Valley Farm.

11. Attach any additional information as may be needed to clarify the proposed action.

I AFFIRM AND CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ABOVE IS TRUE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE

Name of Person Authorized to Sign: Eoin Wrafter **Date:** June 11, 2025

Signature: _____ **Title:** Commissioner - Planning & Development

Part 2: Impact Assessment

Part 2 is to be completed by the County Legislative Body ("CLB") as Lead Agency.

Answer all of the following questions in Part 2 using the information contained in Part 1 and other materials submitted to the CLB for the proposed modification, consolidation or termination of a county-adopted, State-certified agricultural district or otherwise available to the reviewer.

In providing responses to each of the questions, the reviewer should keep in mind that the action proposed is the modification, consolidation or termination of an agricultural district(s) The action is not the land use or activity which will, or may, take place in the district(s). For example, it is not appropriate to consider the effects of management actions that may be taken by individual operators in conducting farming. Agricultural farm management practices, including construction, maintenance and repair of farm buildings, and land use changes consistent with generally accepted principles of farming are listed as Type II actions in 6 NYCRR §617.5(c)(3), and these actions have been determined not to have a significant impact on the environment.

	None to small impact may occur	**Moderate to large impact may occur**
1. Will the proposed action create a material conflict with an adopted land use plan or zoning regulations?	X	
2. Will the proposed action result in a change in the use or intensity of use of land?	X	
3. Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of the existing community?	X	
4. Will the proposed action have an impact on the environmental characteristics that caused the establishment of a Critical Environmental Area (CEA)?	X	
5. Will the proposed action result in an adverse change in the existing level of traffic or affect existing infrastructure for mass transit, biking or walkway?	X	
6. Will the proposed action cause an increase in the use of energy and fail to incorporate reasonably available energy conservation or renewable energy opportunities?	X	
7. Will the proposed action impact existing: a. public / private water supplies?	X	
b. public / private wastewater treatment utilities?	X	
8. Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of important historic, archaeological, architectural or aesthetic resources?	X	
9. Will the proposed action result in an adverse change to natural resources (e.g., wetlands, waterbodies, groundwater, air quality, flora and fauna)?	X	
10. Will the proposed action result in an increase in the potential for erosion, flooding or drainage problems?	X	
11. Will the proposed action create a hazard to environmental resources or human health?	X	

Part 3: Determination of Significance

For every question in Part 2 that was answered "moderate to large impact may occur," or if there is a need to explain why a particular element of the proposed action may or will not result in a significant adverse environmental impact, please complete Part 3. Part 3 should, in sufficient detail, identify the impact, including any measures or design elements that have been included by the project sponsor to avoid or reduce impacts. Part 3 should also explain how the lead agency determined that the impact may or will not be significant. Each potential impact should be assessed considering its setting, probability of occurring, duration, irreversibility, geographic scope and magnitude. Also consider the potential for short term, long-term and cumulative impacts.

[ ]	Check this box if you have determined, based on the information and analysis above, and any supporting documentation, that the proposed action may result in one or more potentially large or significant adverse impacts and an environmental impact statement is required.
[X]	Check this box if you have determined, based on the information and analysis above, and any supporting documentation, that the proposed action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts.

County of Dutchess
Name of Lead Agency

Date

Will Truitt
Print or Type Name of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

Chairman, County Legislature
Title of Responsible Officer

Signature of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

Signature of Preparer (if different from Responsible Officer)

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW SHORT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FORM FOR AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS

Question 4 Narrative:

The Dutchess County Legislature intends to modify Dutchess County Agricultural District 21 through the addition of 33 parcels or 519 acres, resulting in a new Agricultural District acreage of 195,945, less than a 1% overall change.

There are no significant adverse environmental impacts on environmental resources due to the proposed modifications to Agricultural District 21.

NEW YORK STATE | **Department of Agriculture and Markets**

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

RICHARD A. BALL
Commissioner

RECEIVED
SEP 16 2025
By SR

Leigh Wager, Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
County Office Building
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Dear Ms. Wager,

In accordance with Section 303-b of the Agriculture and Markets Law, the Dutchess County Legislature submitted to me, by resolution #2025120, a report and plan to modify Dutchess County Agricultural District No. 21 by including predominantly viable agricultural land into the district.

Following review of the plan and its related documents, I hereby certify that the inclusion of predominantly viable agricultural land, as proposed, is feasible and shall serve the public interest by assisting in maintaining a viable agricultural industry within the district.

Signed and sealed at the Town of Colonie
County of Albany, New York
This 9th Day of September, 2025

Sincerely,

Richard A. Ball
Commissioner

cc:

Mathew Sabellico, Chair, Dutchess County AFPB
Eoin Wrafter, Commissioner, Dutchess County Planning Department
Mary Lou Carolan, Executive Director, CCE of Dutchess County
Brian Scoralick, District Manager, Dutchess County Soil and Water Cons. District
Susan Hoskins, IRIS

Environment Committee Roll Call

District	*Name*	*Yes*	*No*
District 7 - Hyde Park and Pleasant Valley	Truitt*	✓	
District 25 - Amenia, Washington, Pleasant Valley & Millbrook	Houston*		
District 3 - LaGrange	Polasek*		
District 16 - Fishkill and Beacon	Valdés Smith*		
District 9 - City of Poughkeepsie	Atkins*		
District 1 - Town of Poughkeepsie	Gorman		
District 4 - Hyde Park and Town of Poughkeepsie	Lawler		
District 5 - Town of Poughkeepsie	D'Aquanni (C)		
District 6 - Town of Poughkeepsie	Kaul		
District 13 - East Fishkill and Wappinger	Paoloni (VC)	Absent	
District 18 - City of Beacon and Fishkill	Page	Absent	
District 24 - Dover and Pawling	House		

Present: 10
Absent: 2
Vacant: 0

Resolution: ✓
Motion: ___

Total : 10 Yes | 0 No
Abstentions: 0

2025119 ADOPTION OF NEGATIVE DECLARATION WITH RESPECT TO LANDOWNER REQUESTS TO INCLUDE THEIR PROPERTY WITHIN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT 21

AUGUST 7, 2025

Roll Call Sheets

District	Last Name	YES	NO
District 7 - Hyde Park and Pleasant Valley	Truitt	✓	
District 25 - Amenia, Washington, Pleasant Valley & Millbrook	Houston		
District 3 - LaGrange	Polasek		
District 16 - Fishkill and Beacon	Valdés Smith		
District 9 - City of Poughkeepsie	Atkins		
District 1 - Town of Poughkeepsie	Gorman		
District 2 - LaGrange, Pleasant Valley & Town of Poughkeepsie	Travelpiece	Absent	
District 4 - Hyde Park and Town of Poughkeepsie	Lawler		
District 5 - Town of Poughkeepsie	D'Aquanni		
District 6 - Town of Poughkeepsie	Kaul		
District 8 - City and Town of Poughkeepsie	Brendli		
District 10 - City of Poughkeepsie	Johnson	Absent	
District 11 - Clinton, Pleasant Valley, and Rhinebeck	Kearney		
District 12 - East Fishkill	Metzger		
District 13 - East Fishkill and Wappinger	Paoloni		
District 14 - Wappinger and Town of Poughkeepsie	Versaci		
District 15 - Wappinger	Faust		
District 17 - Town and Village of Fishkill	McHoul		
District 18 - City of Beacon and Fishkill	Page		
District 19 - North East, Stanford, Pine Plains, Milan & Red Hook	Drago	Absent	
District 20 - Red Hook, Tivoli, and Rhinebeck	Munn		
District 21 - East Fishkill	Caswell	Absent	
District 22 - Beekman and Union Vale	Garito		
District 23 - Pawling, Beekman and East Fishkill	Rolison	Absent	
District 24 - Dover and Pawling	House		

Present: 20 **Absent:** 5 **Vacant:** 0

Resolution: ✓ **Motion:** ____

Total : 20 Yes 0 No

Abstentions: 0

2025119 ADOPTION OF NEGATIVE DECLARATION WITH RESPECT TO LANDOWNER REQUESTS TO INCLUDE THEIR PROPERTY WITHIN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT 21

AUGUST 11, 2025