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Providing Tax, Municipal, Examination and Recording Services in New York State

November 30, 2016

To: All A.I.S. Clients

Subject: Suffolk County Water Authority Given Same Rights as Municipal Water Districts

Last month New York Governor Andrew Cuomo signed into law a bill that will give the Suffolk County Water Authority (SCWA) the same rights as municipal water districts throughout Suffolk County. See attached memo from SCWA.

This law allows unpaid customer balances to be placed as liens on subject property and appear on future tax bills. Before the passing of this law, the Suffolk County Water Authority would write off any uncollected water rates, fees and charges due to nonpayment.

The Suffolk County Water Authority services approximately 1.2 million Suffolk County residents. AIS does not have access to the SCWA records to determine if a specific property is or is not being serviced by the SCWA.

Currently AIS tax searches indicate if a property is in a municipal water district and if it is not, our tax searches state the water to be private. Due to the above law and limited access to the SCWA records, if a property is not in a municipal water district, AIS tax searches will now indicate that the water is either private or SCWA.

As with all properties, please be sure to request a final water bill to ensure up to date water readings and confirm if the premises under examination is being serviced by the SCWA.

As always, AIS remains vigilant in its efforts to identify problems, build solutions and report the information that will best serve the title industry. Additional copies of this release, any updates as well as all past alerts can be found on our website <https://nydata.edatatrace.com>.



## Suffolk County Water Authority

# SCWA Bill to Reduce Write-Off Losses Signed into Law

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October 5, 2016

**Not Rated**

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo this week signed a bill into law that will save Suffolk County Water Authority--and by extension its ratepayers--hundreds of thousands of dollars per year.

Sponsored by State Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele Jr. and State Senator Thomas D. Croci, the law allows unpaid customer balances to be placed as liens on property tax bills. Based on an SCWA proposal, this new statute gives the Authority the same rights as municipal water districts, which were already allowed to place liens on property tax bills. SCWA has in recent years been forced to write off on average more than \$580,000 per year in unpaid water bills.

"Every year, SCWA has to write off hundreds of thousands of dollars in uncollected water rates, fees and charges due to nonpayment of water bills," Thiele said. "And ultimately, these costs are passed along to the customers, like you and I, who pay our bills on time. This legislation will help alleviate that burden, and provide a mechanism by which SCWA can legally seek money owed."

"I'm glad to see government actually trying to protect ratepayers instead of just increasing our rates," Croci said. "I'm proud to work with Suffolk County Water Authority to ensure we are doing everything we can to make living on Long Island more affordable."

"This is a tremendous moment for SCWA, its ratepayers, common sense and bipartisanship in the State Legislature," said SCWA Board Secretary Patrick G. Halpin. "I cannot thank Assemblyman Thiele and Senator Croci enough for their efforts in championing this legislation and shepherding it through their respective legislative bodies and Governor Cuomo for signing it into law. This legislation will provide financial relief to SCWA ratepayers and protect our excellent credit rating by guaranteeing that all bills are paid. Our extremely high credit rating results in our low interest rates."

The Suffolk County Water Authority is an independent public-benefit corporation operating under the authority of the Public Authorities Law of the State of New York. Serving approximately 1.2 million Suffolk County residents, the Authority operates without taxing power on a not-for-profit basis.