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## **OGS HONORED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT OF THE YEAR Latham site preparation recognized by American Public Works Association**

New York State Office of General Services (OGS) Commissioner John C. Egan today announced that OGS received the *Environmental Project of the Year* from the capital branch of the American Public Works Association (APWA) for its site preparation work at the future headquarters site of New York State Police Troop G in Latham.

"This award is in line with Governor Paterson's continued commitment to sustainability in New York State operations and inventories," Commissioner Egan said. "It has been a pleasure to work with the New York State Police on this project, as they have been an active partner in advocating for green design practices for their new building. Within our strategic plan, OGS has made environmentally responsible projects an integral part of our design processes and business practices; from the collection of cafeteria waste for composting, to the use of renewable materials and practices in our vast construction portfolio. We are pleased that our efforts on this project have been recognized by the APWA."

For decades, the 43 acre site on Route 7 in Latham had been the repository of demolition and landscaping debris. More than half of the site is federal and state wetlands. In six months, OGS mitigated a myriad of existing problems, from the demolition and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) compatible removal of green houses, farm buildings and roadways; to the removal and replacement of almost 50,000 cubic yards of unsuitable soils.

Donald Lake, a recognized expert on soil erosion prevention and watershed management and the author of New York State's handbook on erosion control, noted in a letter to the OGS project team, "This site is a showcase on how to complete complex construction while at the same time protecting many natural resources."

The design phase of the project is currently underway and OGS expects to advertise for construction bids in May, open bids on June 23 and proceed to construction this summer.

The American Public Works Association is an international educational and professional association of public agencies, private sector companies, and individuals dedicated to providing high quality public works goods and services.

The New York State Office of General Services (OGS) provides a broad range of core services that facilitate the operation of state and local government in areas that include: property management, design and construction, procurement, and essential support services.

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