

Albany County
Dept. of Economic Development, Conservation & Planning
112 State Street
Albany, NY 12207-2021
Telephone: (518) 655-7932
<https://www.albanycountyny.gov/home>

MEMORANDUM

TO: Michael Lalli, Director of Operations
CC:
FROM: Gopika Muddappa, Deputy Director of Economic Development, Conservation & Planning
DATE: August 13, 2025
RE: SEQR Compliance
SUBJECT: Albany County Pine Hills Land

Upon reviewing the project proposal provided by the County Executive's office, the project meets the criteria established for SEQR Unlisted Actions. The project includes the purchase of buildings located at 394 Western Avenue (64.68-1-1) and 420 Western Avenue (64.60-2-3) to repurpose it as a community center with interior renovations and redevelopment including new HVAC, possible replacement of flooring and windows, lighting/electrical, wiring and additional IT upgrades, furniture with areas of carpeting, equipping the space for activities, covered walkway to the Events and Athletic Center and potentially adding a cafeteria in the future.

This center will serve as a vital hub for residents of all ages, fostering intergenerational connections, providing valuable resources and programming, and contributing to the overall well-being and revitalization of our community. The County anticipates that the properties will require \$6.6 million to acquire (\$2.0 million for the former library at 394 Western Avenue and \$4.6 million for the former Event and Athletic Center at 420 Western Avenue) and an additional \$11.4 million to redesign and outfit. NYS BRICKS funding would assist primarily with purchasing the properties and building out the properties to repurpose from a former library and updating the former EAC to create a thriving Community Center. The heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) and information technology (IT) systems require complete updating, space would be re-designed and updated, and resources purchased in order to provide programming and services. Making the buildings ADA accessible for key amenities is a primary focus. Albany County would then budget for the staff, utilities, and other recurring capital costs in the annual operating budget.

A Short Environmental Assessment Form (SEAF) has been completed and based on the information provided it is determined that there will be no significant negative impact on the environment. Part II and III of the Environmental Assessment Form also has been completed. No procedural compliance beyond this determination is required at this time.

If you have any questions or further information is needed, please feel free to reach me.