



# LCAR Testimony

**Executive Order 06-25 “Promoting Housing Construction and Rehabilitation”; Vermont Wetland Program proposed Rule Change**

**Presented by Zapata Courage**

# Wetland Identification: Three (3) Parameters



**Hydrology:** presence of water

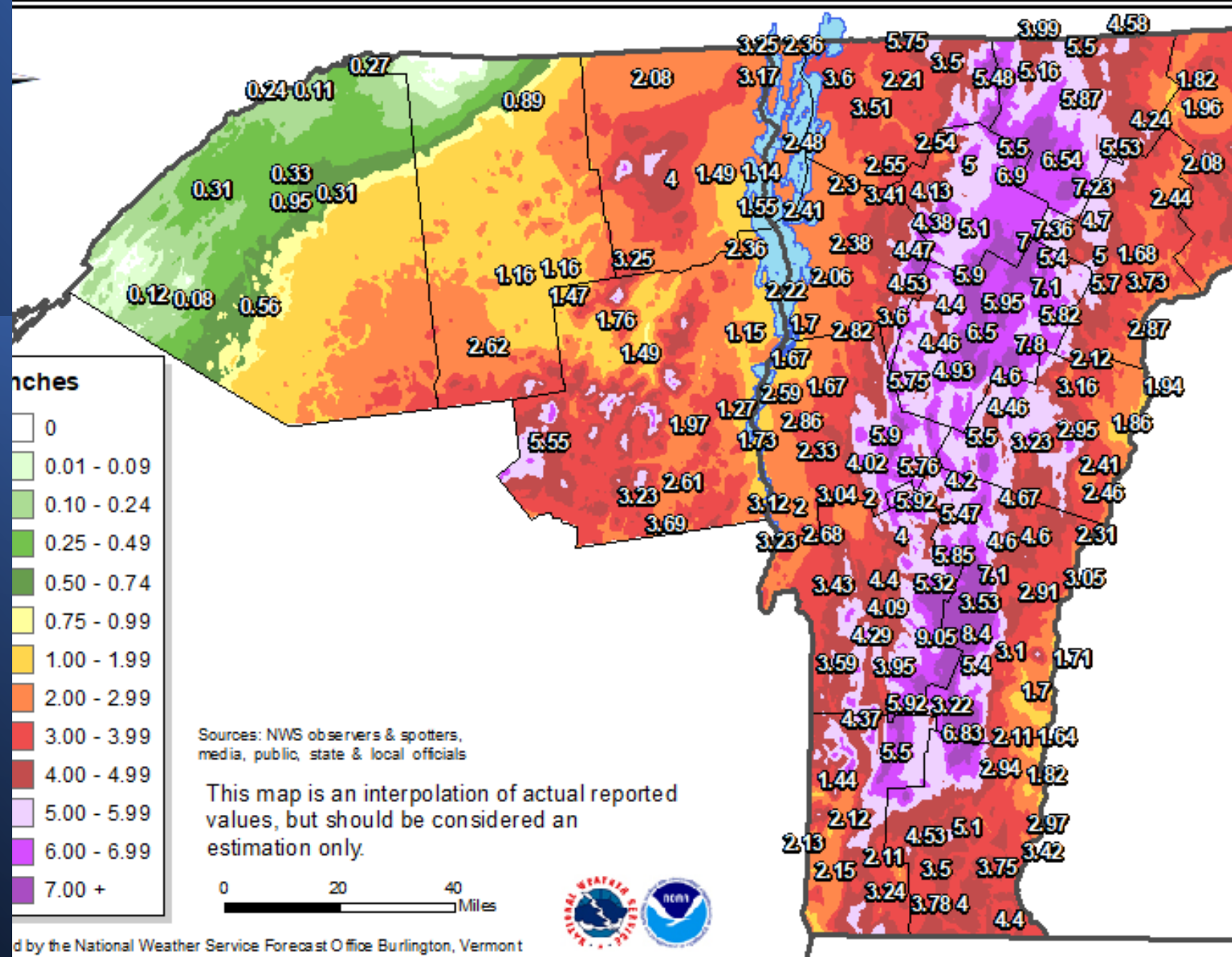


**Hydrophytic Vegetation**  
(water-loving)



**Hydric Soils:** soils showing evidence of water presence-low oxygen

# North Country Storm Total Rainfall July 10-11, 2023



VT is experiencing ~7-9 inches more precipitation per year since the 1970's

How to help increase flood resiliency in our communities



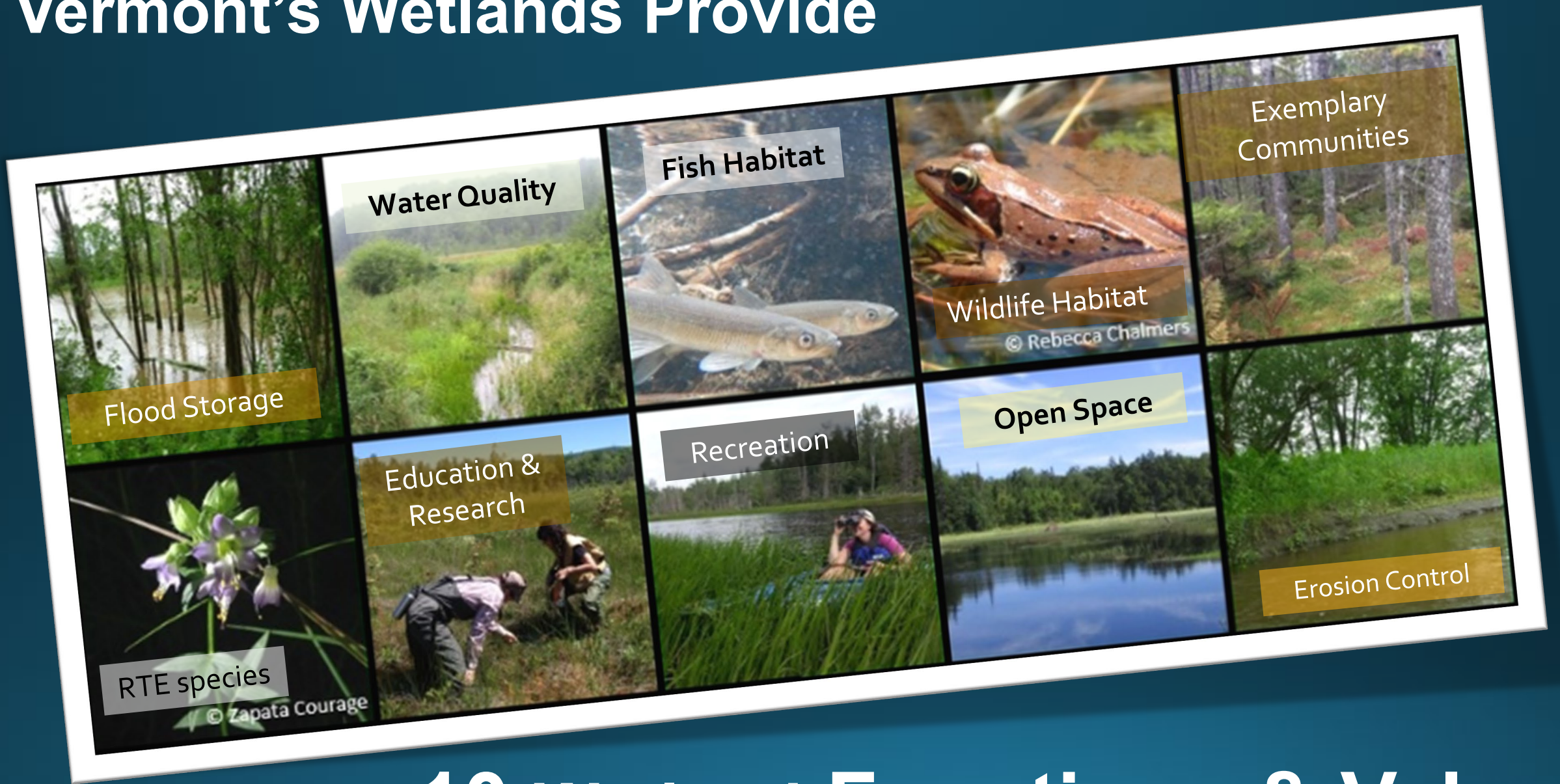
**25-Year-Flood (4% Annual Chance)  
\$430 million in damages**

Where are the environmental and economic analysis for this proposed wetland rule change?

**The Flood Resiliency Act 121**

This Act prioritizes the restoration of wetlands and includes a mandate to achieve wetland gains and net environmental benefit as part of the wetland permitting process.

# Vermont's Wetlands Provide



## 10 Wetland Functions & Values

# Wetlands Types

- Forested swamps
- Scrub/Shrub wetlands
- Emergent marshes
- Bogs & Fens
- Seeps
- Vernal pools
- Wet meadows





# Addison County assesses damage after heavy rains brought on a second wave of flooding

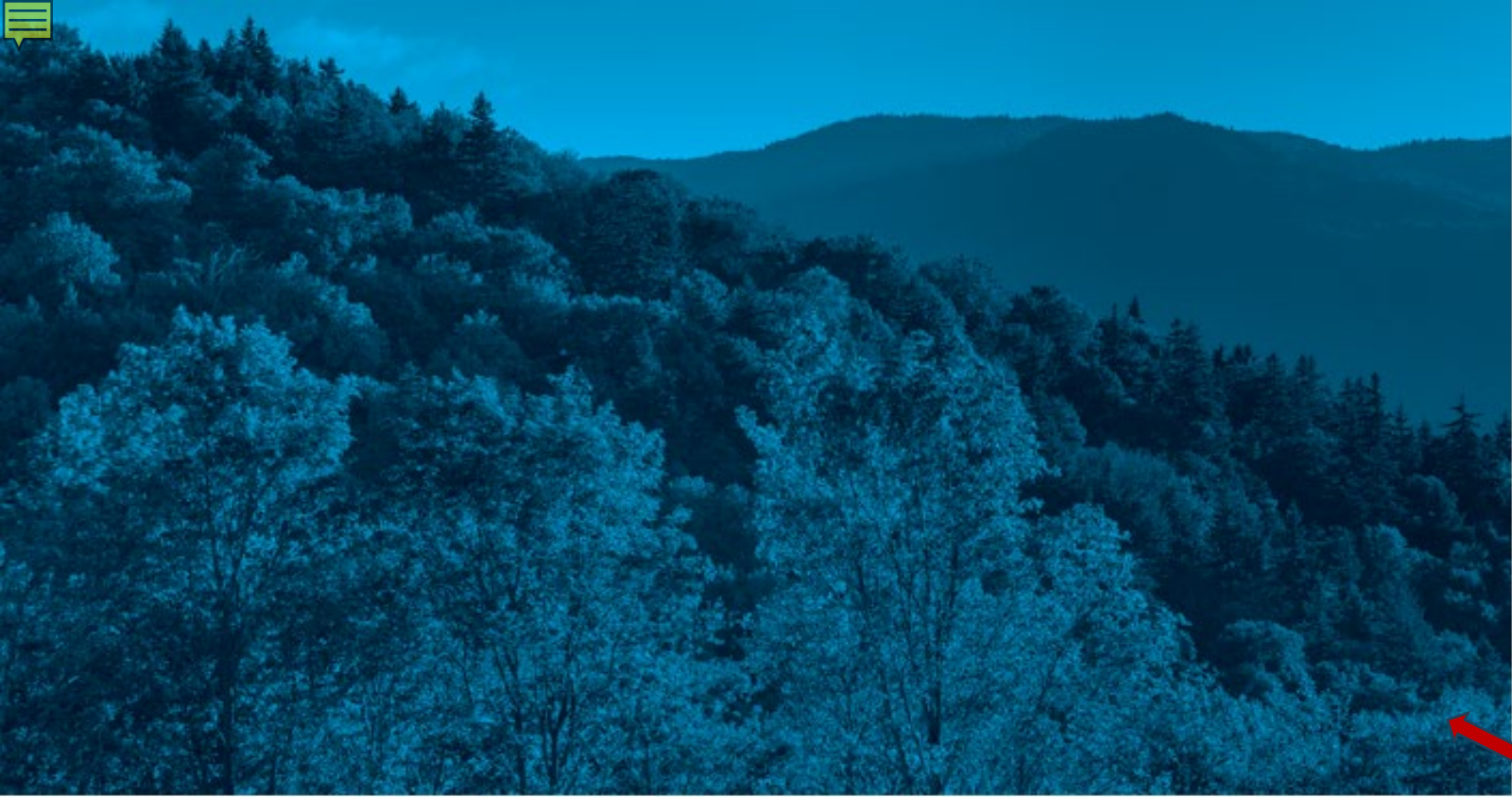
The 3-plus inches of rainfall the county received on Friday night catalyzed a wave of disasters in multiple towns.

By Olivia Q. Pintair  
July 18, 2023, 6:45 pm

## Emergency Management, All Hazards Mitigation and Flood Resilience

Lincoln has worked extensively to prepare its community for disasters.

“All the water that comes through Vergennes on Otter Creek comes out of the **New Haven River, which goes way up into Lincoln and beyond ...** so any overflow that they get it all comes our way,” Jim Larrow, Vergennes Public works



Wetlands reduce flooding, enhance water quality, and support diverse habitats.

- Conserving and restoring wetlands can lead to cost savings when compared to man-made infrastructure solutions.
- This study found that every dollar invested in land conservation by the State of VT returns \$9 in economic value of natural goods and services.
- Broken down into land cover type; wetland conservation has the highest level of a return on investment per acre.

Vermont's return on investment in land conservation



Based on existing research, The Trust for Public Land determined the natural goods and services provided and estimated their values for each land cover type (2018).

UNITED CHURCH OF HINESBURG

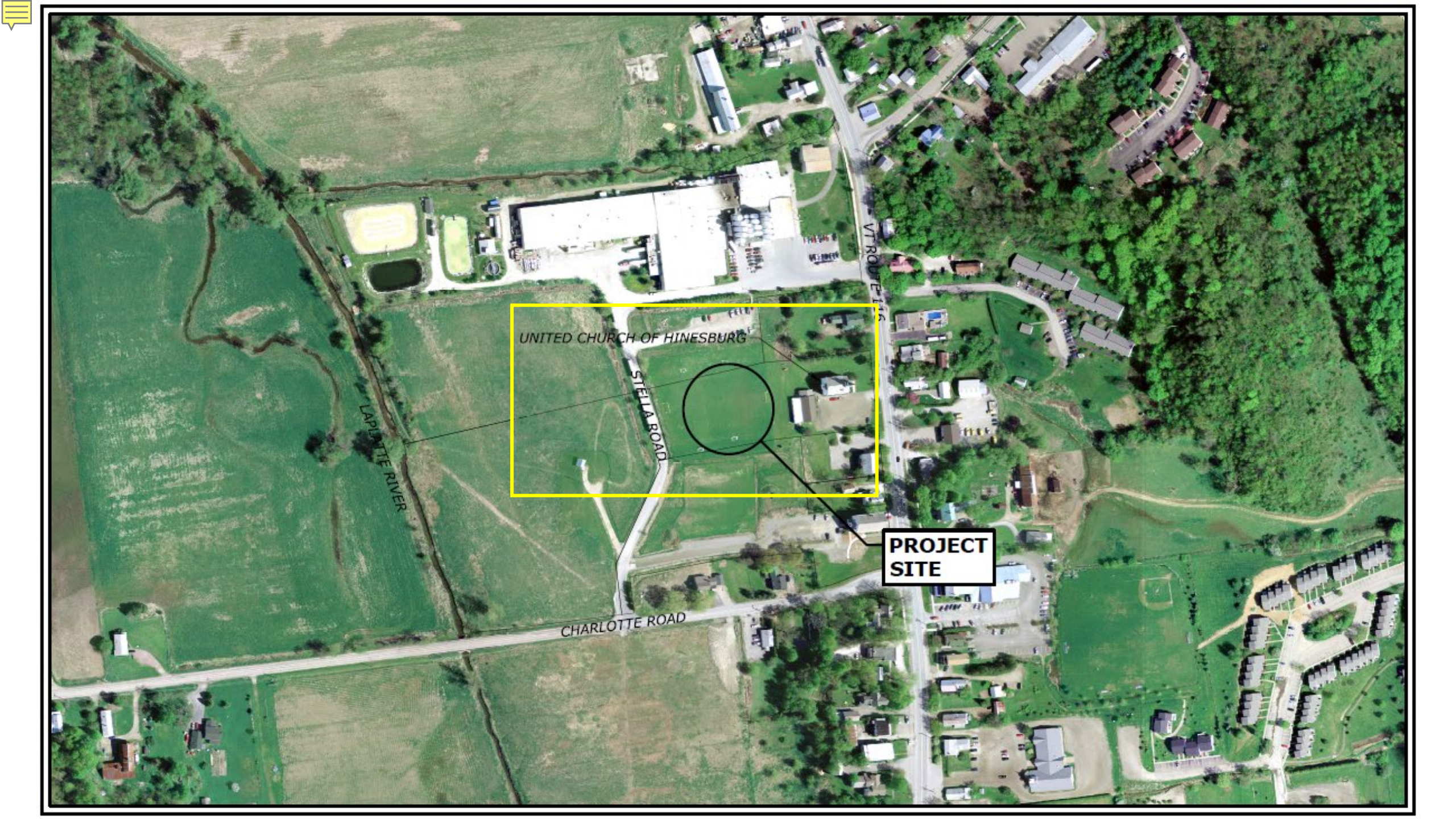
STELLA ROAD

**PROJECT SITE**

LAPLANTIE RIVER

CHARLOTTE ROAD

VT ROUTE 113





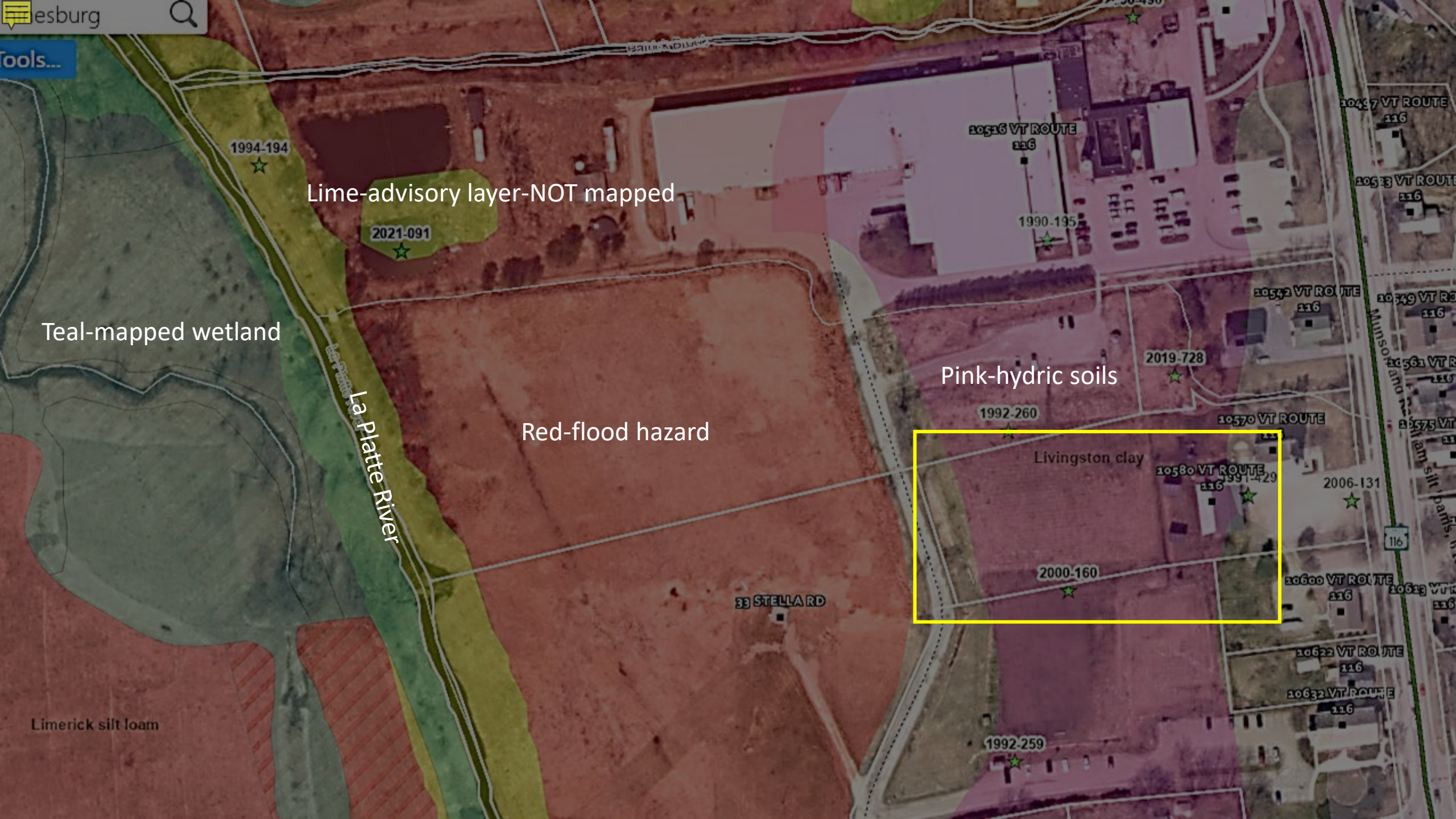
Gray-sewer service area

La Platte River



Pink-town growth/dev. centers

Blue-Village center



Lime-advisory layer-NOT mapped

Teal-mapped wetland

Red-flood hazard

Pink-hydric soils

Livingston clay

Limerick silt loam

1994-194

2021-091

10516 VT ROUTE

1990-195

2019-728

1992-260

10570 VT ROUTE

10580 VT ROUTE

2006-131

2000-160

33 STELLA RD

1992-259

10622 VT ROUTE

10632 VT ROUTE

10467 VT ROUTE

10533 VT ROUTE

10549 VT ROUTE

10561 VT ROUTE

10575 VT ROUTE

10600 VT ROUTE

10613 VT ROUTE

10632 VT ROUTE





Hinesburg United Church

Catamount Law

An aerial photograph of a river winding through a dense forest. The trees are in various stages of autumn, with some showing vibrant orange and red, while others are still green. The river is a light blue-grey color, reflecting the sky. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

## Executive Order No. 6-25 and the proposed Wetland Rule amendments:

The Legislature directed that regulation of wetlands and other water resources “**shall be guided by science**” and that authorized activities must provide a **net environmental benefit** to the State.

A scientific information summary is needed. The environmental and economic impact analysis is incomplete. The proposed rule is arbitrary.

Mapped based wetland regulation is not science and does not protect wetlands and their functions & values

# QUESTIONS?