§ 1198-e. Responsibilities of the authority. The authority shall have the responsibility to: 1. investigate, analyse and evaluate various options for the distribution of water to the district, including, but not limited to, the following:

(a) The purchase, in the name of the authority, or in the name of any municipality or municipalities, of any water facility or distribution system or parts thereof involved in the supply of water to the district;

(b) The operation of any water facility or distribution system or parts thereof by any public water suppliers which operate in geographic areas adjacent to the district;

(c) The creation of additional water authorities to supply water to portions of the district as described in section eleven hundred ninety-eight-c of this article; and

(d) The retention of the water supply system within the district which is in existence as of the effective date of this title.

2. Following any purchase pursuant to paragraph (a) of subdivision one of this section:

(a) Meter service to its customers; and

(b) Repair and maintain that portion of a water supply pipe extending from the water mains to the water meter. For purposes of this paragraph "water supply pipe" shall mean a pipe or line which connects the water mains directly to a customer's water meter.