

**FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE MAY 19, 2011 MEETING OF THE  
NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL  
Petition for Plan Conformance – Final Consistency Review and Recommendations Report**

**APPENDIX E**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS/HIGHLANDS COUNCIL RESPONSES**

**Petition for Plan Conformance**

**Washington Township, Morris County**

**Public Comment Period: April 18, 2011 – May 3, 2011**

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NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL  
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**PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED**

Written comments regarding the Township of Washington's Petition for Plan Conformance were accepted by the Highlands Council through the close of the Public Comment period on May 3, 2011. Comments were provided by the following individuals/entities:

1. Erica Van Auken, Campaign and Grassroots Coordinator, New Jersey Highlands Coalition
2. Wilma Frey, Senior Policy Manager, New Jersey Conservation Foundation

**Comment:** The New Jersey Highlands Coalition supports Washington Township's petition to designate a Historic Long Valley Highlands Center for promoting sound development. The Coalition does have concerns regarding a prior round site proposed for age restricted, 360 condo units, 45 affordable due to environmental constraints. The Coalition also supports the proposal to build low-income apartments and a municipal complex in the Long Valley section to be incorporated into the Historic Long Valley Highlands Center as long as care is taken to minimize the environmental impact. The Coalition further supports the proposed update to the sewer service areas.

**Comment:** The New Jersey Conservation Foundation supports the proposed Historic Long Valley Highlands Center, as long as constraints in Appendix C of the Final Draft Consistency Review and Recommendations Report are implemented. The NJCF further commented that the prior round site, Block 19, Lots 5, 6, and 7 do not appear to be appropriate for a 360-unit condo development due to Highlands resource constraints.

**Response:** The Highlands Council acknowledges the support from the New Jersey Highlands Coalition and New Jersey Conservation Foundation for the proposed Historic Long Valley Highlands Center and fully expects that all of the conditions within Appendix C of the Final Draft Consistency Review and Recommendations Report will be implemented as the Highlands Center designation process continues. The Highlands Council notes the comments regarding the inclusionary affordable housing project located at Block 19, Lots 5, 6 and 7. This project is in the Planning Area, Conservation Zone and Protection Zone, and does have Highlands resource constraints. However, the project has obtained all local and NJDEP approvals and therefore represents a reasonable potential for development as it pertains to plan conformance.