RESOLUTION 2025-27
NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL
APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2026
HIGHLANDS PROTECTION FUND CAPITAL BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act (Highlands Act) has created a public body corporate and politic with corporate succession known as the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council (Highlands Council); and

WHEREAS, Section 6.g of the Highlands Act authorizes the Highlands Council to conduct its business as needed to effectuate the purposes of the enabling legislation; and

WHEREAS, Section 18 of the Highlands Act obligates the Highlands Council to establish a grant funding program from funding created by the Highlands Protection Fund to reimburse municipalities and counties for reasonable expenses associated with Plan Conformance; and

WHEREAS, to satisfy its duties, responsibilities and obligations under the Highlands Act, the Council desires to prepare a Highlands Protection Fund Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Budget and Finance Committee has reviewed a proposed Highlands Protection Fund Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2026; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:20-5.j, no action authorized by the Highlands Council shall have force or effect until ten (10) days, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays excepted, after a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Council has been delivered to the Governor for review, unless prior to expiration of the review period the Governor shall approve same, in which case the action shall become effective upon such approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Highlands Council hereby approves the attached Highlands Protection Fund Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Budget and Finance Committee shall review the budget periodically and recommend adjustments to the Council, as appropriate.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Highlands Council at its regular meeting held on the 16th day of October, 2025.

Carl J. Richko

Carl J. Richko, Chairman

RESOLUTION 2025-27

NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL
APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2026
HIGHLANDS PROTECTION FUND CAPITAL BUDGET

Vote on the Approval of This Resolution	Motion		Second		Yes		No		Abstain		Absent
Councilmember Alstede	√				√						
Councilmember Bush					√						
Councilmember Dougherty					√						
Councilmember Dressler											√
Councilmember Francis					√						
Councilmember James					√						
Councilmember Kibler					√						
Councilmember Van Abs			√		√						
Councilmember Visioli											√
Chairman Richko					√						

HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL
HIGHLANDS PROTECTION FUND CAPITAL BUDGET ESTIMATES FY2026

Revenues:	**FY 2026**	
Highlands Protection Fund Grants - Balance of Unexpended Encumbrances: Plan Conformance	$	494,501.53
Highlands Protection Fund Grants - Balance of Unexpended Encumbrances: TDR	$	-
Highlands Unencumbered Funds (rollover from FY2023)	$	-
State of New Jersey FY2024 Appropriation - Highlands Protection Fund Regional Master Plan Compliance Aid	$	2,182,352.00
Total Revenues	**$**	**2,676,853.53**

Expenditures:		
Municipal Plan Conformance Petition Planning and Implementation	$	750,000.00
Highlands Housing Element and Fair Share Plans	$	150,000.00
Highlands MS4 Permiting and Stormwater Plans	$	200,000.00
County Plan Conformance Grants	$	500,000.00
Highlands Protection Fund Grants - Projected Closure of Unexpended Encumbrances	$	(200,000.00)
Highlands Protection Fund Grants - Projected Reimbursements of Encumbered Funds	$	850,000.00
Highlands Protection Fund Grants - Projected Rollover into RMP Account	$	400,000.00
Highlands Protection Fund Grants - Projected Balance of Encumbrances	$	26,853.53
Total Highlands Protection Fund Grant Encumbrances	**$**	**2,676,853.53**

Approved at the October 16, 2025 Highlands Council Meeting