

RESOLUTION 2026-
NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL
ACCEPTANCE OF AUDIT REPORT

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, in order to properly perform independent audits as required by State law, the Highlands Council established the Highlands Council's Audit and Evaluation Committee by Resolution 2006-06 on January 19, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council's Evaluation Committee approved a Request for Proposal (RFP) to provide auditing services on April 8, 2021; and

WHEREAS, after the review and recommendations of the Evaluation Committee and the Audit Committee, the Highlands Council approved Resolution 2021-20 on July 15, 2021 authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a contract for auditing services with Mercadien, P.C. (Mercadien) for fiscal year (FY) 2021, with optional FY 2022-2025; and

WHEREAS, Mercadien completed and prepared the final report on the Highlands Council's financial statement and recommended actions for Fiscal Year 2025 and presented it to the Audit Committee of the Highlands Council; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council Audit Committee reviewed the final report and the annual management letter with Mercadien and recommended that the Highlands Council accept the final report; 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:

1. Accepts Mercadien's final audit report for Fiscal Year 2025; and
2. Directs the Audit Committee to continue to oversee the proper implementation of the audit requirements in accordance with State law.

**RESOLUTION 2026-
NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL
ACCEPTANCE OF AUDIT REPORT**

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Highlands Council at its regular meeting held on the 19th day of March, 2026.

Carl J. Richko, Chairman

Vote on the Approval of Resolution	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Councilmember Alstede						
Councilmember Amoroso						
Councilmember Basralian						
Councilmember Bush						
Councilmember Dougherty						
Councilmember James						
Councilmember Kibler						
Councilmember Koop						
Councilmember Le Frois						
Councilmember Marano						
Councilmember Oswald						
Councilmember Smith						
Councilmember Van Abs						
Councilmember Visioli						
Chairman Richko						