

RESOLUTION 2008-29
NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL
AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A PETITION FOR PLAN ENDORSEMENT
TO THE STATE PLANNING COMMISSION

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, pursuant to Section 8.a of the Highlands Act, the Highlands Council is required to develop, adopt and periodically revise a Regional Master Plan (RMP), after consulting with governmental entities, with a goal of protecting and enhancing the significant values of the resources of the Highlands Region; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, the Legislature enacted the State Planning Act recognizing that New Jersey, the nation's most densely populated state, requires sound and integrated Statewide planning and coordination of Statewide planning with local and regional planning in order to conserve the State's natural resources, revitalize its urban centers, protect the quality of its environment, and provide needed housing and adequate public services at a reasonable cost while promoting beneficial economic growth, development and renewal; and

WHEREAS, the State Planning Act requires that the State Planning Commission (SPC) develop, adopt, and periodically revise a State Development and Redevelopment Plan (State Plan) which shall provide a coordinated, integrated and comprehensive plan for the growth, development, renewal and conservation of the State and its regions, and which shall identify areas for growth, agriculture, open space conservation and other appropriate designations to be used as a tool for assessing suitable locations for infrastructure, housing, economic growth, and conservation; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 8.b of the Highlands Act, within 60 days of adoption of the RMP the Highlands Council shall submit the RMP to the SPC for Plan Endorsement for the Planning Area only; and

WHEREAS, the State Planning Act and the Highlands Act mandate that the provisions of the State Planning Act not be construed to affect the plans and regulations of the Highlands Council for the Preservation Area, and therefore, in accordance with Section 69 of the Highlands Act, any portion of a municipality or county located in the Preservation Area is exempt from the SPC Plan Endorsement process; and

WHEREAS, if municipalities and counties in the Planning Area upon the SPC's endorsement of the RMP have master plan and development regulations that are approved by the Highlands Council, those plans shall be deemed the equivalent of having those plans endorsed by the SPC; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council staff recommends that the RMP Plan Endorsement petition for the Planning Area be submitted to the SPC as soon as practicable after adoption of the RMP so as to expedite the Plan Endorsement process and support Planning Area Conformance activities; and

WHEREAS, on July 17, 2008, the Highlands Council adopted the RMP; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Highlands Council hereby authorizes its Executive Director to submit a Petition for Plan Endorsement, for the Planning Area, to the SPC as soon as practicable.