

## **RESOLUTION 2006-17**

### **NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL RATIFICATION OF COUNCIL'S SCHEDULE FOR THE REGIONAL MASTER PLAN**

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

**WHEREAS**, Section 8.a of the Highlands Act requires the Highlands Council to adopt a Regional Master Plan "within 18 months after the date of its first meeting, and after holding at least five public hearings in various locations in the Highlands Region and at least one public hearing in Trenton"; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 8.a of the Highlands Act specifies that the "council shall not adopt the regional master plan unless it recommends receiving zones in the planning area and capacity therefore for each receiving zone pursuant to the transfer of development rights program;" and

**WHEREAS**, Section 9.a of the Highlands Act requires that, during the preparation of the Regional Master Plan, the Highlands Council shall consult with numerous State, regional and federal agencies, with appropriate officials of local government units, with interested professional, scientific, and citizen organizations, and with any advisory groups; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 9.a of the Highlands Act requires that, during the preparation of the Regional Master Plan, the Highlands Council "shall review all relevant federal, State, and private studies of the Highlands Region, the State Development and Redevelopment Plan, municipal, county, and regional plans, applicable federal and State laws and rules and regulations, and other pertinent information on the Highlands Region;" and

**WHEREAS**, Section 11 of the Highlands Act requires the Regional Master Plan to include the following components: a Resource Assessment to determine the "amount and type of human development and activity which the ecosystem of the Highlands Region can sustain while still maintaining the overall ecological values"; a Financial Component to detail "the cost of implementing the regional master plan"; a Local Participation Component to "provide for the maximum feasible local government and public input"; a Coordination and Consistency Component to promote local, county, regional and State program coordination to meet the goals of the Act; a Transportation Component to "plan for transportation system preservation; and a Smart Growth Component to assess "opportunities for appropriate development, redevelopment, and economic growth, and a transfer of development rights program;" and

**WHEREAS**, the Highlands Council has made tremendous progress on the development of the Regional Master Plan with ongoing input of the Highlands Council's sister agencies, consultants, members of the Highlands Council's Technical Advisory Committees, municipal and county officials, and the public; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout the development of the Regional Master Plan, the emphasis has been on the careful advancement of good science and planning; and taking the necessary time to receive input from technical experts, local officials and the public; and

**WHEREAS**, by virtue of these aforementioned efforts, the Highlands Council's staff and the Plan Development Committee reviewed the progress made to date on the Regional Master Plan

and recommended that Council approve a schedule to adopt the Regional Master Plan before the end of the year; and

**WHEREAS**, at its meeting on April 6, 2006, the Highlands Council voted to follow a detailed schedule whereby the Council will, first, release extensive resource and infrastructure analyses in June, then issue a draft Regional Master Plan in the Fall, and, lastly, after a public review process including six public hearings, adopt a final plan by year's end; and

**WHEREAS**, in letters dated April 13, 2006, the Chairman of the Highlands Council provided Governor Corzine and all members of the New Jersey Senate and the New Jersey General Assembly with an analysis of the Highlands Council's decision to follow a detailed schedule designed to adopt a final plan by year's end.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Highlands Council hereby formally ratifies its decision to follow a schedule to adopt the Regional Master Plan before the end of December 2006.

#### CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Highlands Council at its regular meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of April 2006.



---

John Weingart, Chairman