



BOROUGH OF RARITAN

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May 3, 2013

Gerry Scharfenberger, Director
NJ Department of State, Office for Planning Advocacy
225 West State Street, P.O. Box 820
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0820

MAY 13 2013 AM 9:43

RE: Somerset Regional Center Plan Endorsement – Borough of Raritan
Waiver Request for Natural Resource Protection Ordinance

Dear Mr. Scharfenberger,

The Borough of Raritan is committed to completing the Plan Endorsement process as documented by the substantial planning documentation submitted to date to fulfill many of the Plan Endorsement Action Plan requirements. To complete the Plan Endorsement process for the Somerset Regional Center, the Borough of Raritan will be entering into a shared service agreement with the Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County for funding assistance to complete the remaining tasks in the latest Plan Endorsement Action Plan for the Borough of Raritan, specifically, updating and adopting the Borough's draft Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) and Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP); and preparing and adopting a riparian corridor protection ordinance, all of which are relevant to the objectives of the Borough Master Plan, the Regional Center Strategic Master Plan and the State Strategic Plan.

As discussed at the April 5 meeting with Barry Ableman of your office, Somerset County planning staff and the planners for the three Regional Center municipalities, there are certain Action Plan items that the Borough of Raritan finds are not applicable to our community which the Borough respectfully requests be waived.

Action Plan Item D2 – Adoption of a suite of resource conservation ordinances

- **Steep Slopes Ordinance.** Except for a very small area near the western end of US Route 202 in the Johnson & Johnson campus, Raritan Borough has no steep slopes as indicated in the steep slopes map that was included in the draft NRI submitted earlier to Barry Ableman.
- **Water Conservation.** Unlike municipalities within the Highlands Region, Raritan Borough is not in a HUC-2 watershed. In addition, Raritan Borough has been working with the NJ Water Supply Authority to educate residents about water conservation and ground water replenishment by hosting rain barrel building workshops, rain garden demonstration projects, and the Peters Brook Residential Rain Barrel Rebate Pilot Program administered by the Regional Center Partnership and funded by NJWSA.
- **Wellhead Protection.** There are no wellhead protection areas in the Borough of Raritan.

Action Plan Item C1 – Community Facilities

Also discussed at the April 5 meeting was Action Plan Item C1 – Community Facilities, which references the local Board of Education's Five-Year Facilities Plan. Raritan Borough is part of the Bridgewater-Raritan Regional School District which also covers Bridgewater Township. The Borough has one elementary school; junior and senior high school age students attend the Bridgewater-Raritan Middle School and High School. Please note that Raritan Borough is almost completely built-out and there are no plans to construct any new schools in the Borough.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with your office and the Regional Center Partnership to complete this important process.

Sincerely,

JoAnn Liptak
JoAnn Liptak, Mayor
Borough of Raritan

Cc: Raritan Borough Council
Michael Schilder, Superintendent; Bridgewater-Raritan School District; 836 Newmans La, Bridgewater, NJ 08807-0030
Dave Maski, Raritan Borough Planner
James Ruggieri, Somerset County Planning Board; 20 Grove St., PO Box 3000, Somerville, NJ 08876