

LAKE-00030

November 26, 2007

Ben Spinelli, Executive Director
NJDCA—Office of Smart Growth
101 South Broad Street, 7th Floor
P.O. Box 204
Trenton, NJ 08625-0204

**Re: Proposed Action Plan Extension
Township of Lakewood, Ocean County**

Dear Mr. Spinelli:

The Township of Lakewood is requesting that the Office of Smart Growth grant Lakewood an extension to July 1, 2008 to complete its Action Plan and amended initial plan endorsement petition. If additional extensions are required, Lakewood will request those in writing to the Office of Smart Growth (OSG).

The Township is in receipt of OSG's proposed Action Plan, dated August 21, 2007 which would replace the Action Plan previously agreed to by Lakewood and OSG. As OSG is aware, Lakewood met with NJDEP to discuss potential areas for open space preservation in the Township. At this time, Lakewood is awaiting a response from NJDEP regarding the Township's proposed comprehensive and open space strategy, which was submitted to NJDEP on September 6, 2007. Lakewood's proposed open space strategy will be a key component of the Township's comprehensive plan for its Regional Center. Therefore, it is critical that an agreement be reached between OSG, NJDEP and Lakewood on this issue before proceeding with the community visioning as required by the new Action Plan.

Once the Township receives a response from NJDEP, Lakewood will be able to establish a specific schedule and submission deadlines in the Action Plan. Assuming that Lakewood receives NJDEP's response by December 7, 2007, the Township will submit its comments on the proposed Action Plan to OSG by December 21, 2007.

Lakewood will continue to request that OSG and its State agency partners provide timely and substantive feedback on the Township's proposals and plans and schedule a sufficient number of meetings so that Lakewood can submit its amended initial plan endorsement petition for consideration by the State Planning Commission in a timely fashion.

We look forward to working together with your office and the State Planning Commission to promote smart growth in Lakewood.

Very truly yours,

T&M ASSOCIATES



STAN SLACHETKA, AICP, PP
PLANNING CONSULTANT

SCS:VZM:lbw

cc: Raymond Coles, Township Mayor
Meir Lichtenstein, Township Deputy Mayor
Frank Edwards, Township Manager
Russell Corby, Executive Director, Lakewood Development Corporation
Bernadette Standowski, Township Clerk
Rich Brown, NJDEP
Lorissa Whitaker, OSG Area Planner

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