**New Jersey Pinelands Commission**
# PRESS RELEASE

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## Pinelands Commission to create task force on growth area housing

NEW LISBON, NJ - The Pinelands Commission today authorized creation of a Housing Task Force to recommend how future population projections should be factored into housing opportunities for Pinelands Regional Growth Areas.

Under the project, the Pinelands Commission will request County planning offices in southern New Jersey to review  population projections and help determine how much population growth should be anticipated within the Pinelands.  A broad-based task force of government agencies and non-governmental organizations will then recommend ways to apportion future growth within the 24 Pinelands Regional Growth Area municipalities.

"As part of its charge, the Task Force will assess the abilities of these areas to accommodate future growth, looking at environmental constraints, infrastructure, available land, development patterns as well as other factors that will influence growth,"explained James Florio, Chairman of the Pinelands Commission.  "The task force will look at all of this in the context of the Pinelands development and land-use standards to identify how to best allocate housing opportunities to facilitate smart growth."

The Pinelands Commission will invite the following organizations to participate on the Task Force:
• 	NJ Department of Community Affairs;
• 	NJ Department of Environmental Protection;
• 	NJ Department of Transportation;
• 	7 Pinelands Area County Planning Offices;
• 	Coalition for Housing and the Environment;
• 	NJ builders Association;
• 	Pinelands municipalities (five members to be designated by the Pinelands Municipal Council);
• 	Pinelands Preservation Alliance; and
• 	NJ State Chamber of Commerce

Two members of the Pinelands Commission will serve as the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Task Force.  All Task Force meetings will be open to the public and will provide opportunities for public comment.

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