



## State of New Jersey

JON S. CORZINE  
*Governor*

Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council  
100 North Road - Route 513  
Chester, New Jersey 07930-2322  
(908) 879-6737  
(908) 879-4205 (Fax)  
[www.highlands.state.nj.us](http://www.highlands.state.nj.us)

JOHN R. WEINGART  
*Chairman*

DANTE DI PIRRO  
*Executive Director*

For Release: February 10, 2006  
Contact: Beth Crusius 908-879-6737 x 129

### **Highlands Council Chooses New Executive Director**

Chester, NJ- The New Jersey Highlands Council selected Dante Di Pirro as its new Executive Director at its February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Council also chose Tom Borden to serve as Deputy Executive Director. This change comes following the appointment of the Council's first Director, Adam Zellner, to the position of Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection.

"The Council believes that Dante and Tom will provide great leadership as the Council moves forward with its important and challenging work," said Highlands Council Chairman John Weingart. "We are fortunate to have been able to promote from within, choosing two talented and experienced public servants who have been on the Council staff since the beginning."

Since the Highlands Council was formed, Di Pirro has served as the Council's Deputy Executive Director. For fifteen years prior, he was a member of the Attorney General's Office where he represented numerous agencies, as well as judges and the judiciary, and handled some of the State's most significant and high profile matters. In the environmental area, he litigated seminal cases protecting natural resources, remediating environmental damages and terminating illegal operations. Di Pirro also served as an Assistant State Environmental Prosecutor. In 2004, Di Pirro worked on the Governor's Highlands Initiative where he worked on the development of the Task Force recommendations and report, and the drafting of the Highlands Act.

Borden was promoted from Chief Council to Deputy Executive Director. A former Associate Clinical Professor of Law at Rutgers School of Law in Newark, Borden brings over seventeen years of environmental and land use law experience to the Council. At the Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic, he represented over forty environmental and community groups throughout New Jersey on a broad range of cases including numerous Highlands Region land use and environmental disputes. Additionally, Borden spent seven years as a Deputy Attorney General and staff attorney representing the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Vice Chairman Jack Schrier praised the decisions. "My fellow Council members exercised wisdom and good judgment with these appointments. In 2004, when we chose Dante Di Pirro as Deputy, we did so because he was superbly qualified to step up to the top job if the occasion arose. Now that he has been named Executive Director he will justify our confidence in every way, I am certain.

"Tom Borden has demonstrated his own special abilities over the past year, as well. Indeed, the Highlands Council has superior staff at every level. And, with only a few months to go before we complete our Regional Master Plan, this continuity of leadership is essential to success."

-###-