

RESOLUTION 2024-16

NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL ADOPTION OF “RMP ADDENDUM 2024-2: LAND USE CAPABILITY ZONE MAP AND TECHNICAL REPORT UPDATE” AS AN AMENDMENT OF, AND ADDENDUM TO, THE HIGHLANDS REGIONAL MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act (Highlands Act or Act), N.J.S.A. 13:20-1 et seq., created a public body corporate and politic with corporate succession known as the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council (“Highlands Council” or “Council”); and

WHEREAS, Section 8(a) of the Highlands Act mandates that the Council prepare and adopt a Regional Master Plan (“RMP”) for the Highlands Region; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Act provides that the RMP may be periodically revised and updated after “public hearings;” and

WHEREAS, on September 27, 2018, the Council adopted Resolution 2018-11 “RMP Addendum 2018-1 Procedure for Considering Proposals to Amend Highlands Regional Master Plan” (the “Amendment Procedure”) as an amendment of, and addendum to, the RMP, establishing procedures to be followed by the Council for amending the RMP; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the Council originally adopted the Land Use Capability Zone (LUCZ) Map as part of the RMP and as an associated Technical Report, which provides the guiding policy map for the RMP; and

WHEREAS, the LUCZ Map was developed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:20-11 whereby the Highlands Council includes in the RMP, a land use capability map and a comprehensive statement of policies for planning and managing the development and use of land; and

WHEREAS, since 2008, most of the source data underlying the LUCZ Map has been updated, including the 2020 update of the Land Use Land Cover data prepared by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection; and

WHEREAS, the “Land Use Capability Zone Map and Technical Report Update,” incorporates the new 2020 Land Use Land Cover data, along with other updated data sources, to recalculate the LUCZ Map; and

WHEREAS, the Council followed the Amendment Procedure to release the “Land Use Capability Zone Map and Technical Report Update” for five (5) public hearings, announced by Public Notice on January 29, 2024 and held in various locations in the Highlands Region, as well as one (1) public hearing in Trenton during February 2024, to solicit public comment on the aforementioned RMP Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the 60-day public comment period concluded on April 1, 2024, and Council staff has provided the Highlands Council with its responses to all comments and other input received from interested parties during the public comment period, including any proposed changes to the “Land Use Capability Zone Map and Technical Report Update” based upon the public comments received; and

WHEREAS, the RMP Amendment Committee has considered all proposed changes to the “Land Use Capability Zone Map and Technical Report Update” and has forwarded its recommendation to the Council that it adopt the final “Land Use Capability Zone Map and Technical Report Update” as an amendment of, and addendum to, the RMP; and

RESOLUTION 2024-16

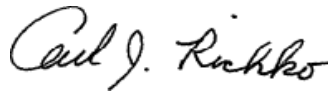
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WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:20-5.j, no action authorized by the Highlands Council to amend the RMP shall have force or effect until thirty (30) days, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays excepted, after a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Council has been delivered to the Governor for review, unless prior to the expiration of the review period the Governor shall approve same, in which case the action shall become effective upon such approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Highlands Council hereby adopts the final “Land Use Capability Zone Map and Technical Report Update” as an amendment of, and addendum to, the RMP.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Highlands Council at its regular meeting held on the 18th day of April 2024.



Carl J. Richko, Chairman

Vote on the Approval of This Resolution	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Councilmember Alstede	√		√			
Councilmember Bush		√	√			
Councilmember Dougherty			√			
Councilmember Dressler			√			
Councilmember Francis			√			
Councilmember James			√			
Councilmember Sebetich						√
Councilmember Van Abs			√			
Councilmember Visioli			√			
Councilmember Vohden			√			
Chairman Richko			√			