



## New Jersey Pinelands Commission **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Pinelands Commission Issues 3<sup>rd</sup> Review of Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan**

NEW LISBON, NJ - Annette Barbaccia, Executive Director of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission, today submitted *The Third Progress Report on Plan Implementation* to the Chairman and members of the Commission. The progress report details and assesses the efforts and accomplishments of the Pinelands Commission, with special emphasis on the past decade, describing specific actions taken and summarizing the status of key programs to further Pinelands protection goals. This is the third progress report since the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) took effect in 1980.

The release of the progress report marks an important milestone by kicking off a year-long review of the CMP by the Pinelands Commission. The report will serve as an important reference as the Commission conducts an in-depth analysis of the Pinelands protection program. Required under the 1979 Pinelands Protection Act, the review will examine of the Pinelands Management Plan and it's affiliated programs to provide a basis for future planning and regulatory decisions.

“Although the progress report shows unequivocally that the CMP is achieving its objectives, the Pinelands protection program is far from complete,” Executive Director Barbaccia said. “This review gives the Commission the opportunity to step back and take a fresh look at the Plan. Equally important, it enables those most affected and interested in the Plan to participate in its improvement.”

Pinelands Commission Chairman Jerold Jacobs explained, “The CMP is truly a work in progress and this document will guide future decisions about how to protect the unique ecosystems and critical natural resources of the Pinelands. It is a chance for all of us to come together to deliberate on how best to achieve this important mission”

*The Third Progress Report on Plan Implementation* examines specific functions of the Pinelands Commission, including land use planning, project review, permanent land protection, regulatory programs, public information and outreach, economic monitoring, science programs and protection of historic and cultural resources.

A recommendations chapter outlines possible future initiatives for consideration by the Commission in five broad categories: community development; resource protection and land management; research and planning; operations and permit streamlining; and education and outreach. Among key issues addressed by the report recommendations are: accelerating efforts to permanently protect open space; giving municipalities greater authority in the permit review process; implementing more technology-based services; creating livable and sustainable communities in growth areas, and increasing the use of alternative septic and wastewater treatment systems.