



New Jersey Pinelands Commission **PRESS RELEASE**

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Commission Executive Director Barbaccia Stepping Down

NEW LISBON, NJ – Annette M. Barbaccia, today, announced her resignation as Executive Director of the Pinelands Commission after serving more than two and a half years in the position. Assistant Director John C. Stokes will serve as Acting Executive Director while the Commission members decide how to fill the post. At the request of the entire Commission, Barbaccia has agreed to serve as a senior advisor until July 11, 2003, and as a consultant for an additional 90 days starting July 12th.

“It is with great regret that I accept Annette’s resignation,” said Commission Chairman James Florio. “I have enjoyed the short time that we worked together since I became Chairman in November. During that time, her insight and expert guidance has been invaluable to me and I know that the Commission will miss her. In fact, the Commissioners have asked Annette to serve as a senior advisor to assist with some ongoing projects and facilitate a smooth transition. We are very happy that she has agreed to our request.”

Barbaccia stated, “I’ve enjoyed my tenure with the Pinelands Commission and am honored to have had the opportunity to have contributed to the mission of the Commission. While it was a difficult decision, I’ve decided to leave for personal reasons. I will greatly miss the Commission and staff. The citizens of New Jersey should have great confidence in the work of this organization and their protection of the ecological resources that make the million-acre Pinelands a special and unique place.”

“Annette has been an effective Executive Director for the Commission, said Vice-Chair Alan Avery, who has served on the Commission since 1983. “Her expertise and common-sense approach helped to resolve a number of challenging projects and issues. During her tenure, she was able to ensure the construction and completion of the Richard J. Sullivan Center on time and on budget. She sought and procured financial resources to update the Commission’s technology capabilities, make physical improvements to the aging Fenwick Manor and created the Pinelands Excellence Program to support smart growth in the Regional Growth Areas.”

The Executive Director manages the day-to-day operations of the Commission and its staff of 59, and advises the Commission on all matters before it. Barbaccia joined the Commission as Executive Director in August 2000. Prior to that, she served as Director of the New York City Mayor’s Office of Environmental Coordination, where she advised the Mayor regarding environmental policies and coordinated multi-agency environmental reviews. She previously directed the Environmental Assessment and Review Division at the New York City Department of City Planning. Prior to working in the governmental sector, Barbaccia worked with a Long Island environmental consulting firm.

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