

**RESOLUTION 2021-32**  
**NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL**  
**APPROVAL TO RELEASE ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act (Highlands Act) has created a public body corporate and politic with corporate succession known as the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council (Highlands Council); and

**WHEREAS**, Section 6.g of the Highlands Act authorizes the Highlands Council to enter into any and all agreements or contracts to effectuate the purposes of the Highlands Act; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 17, 2008, the Highlands Council adopted Resolution 2008-27 thereby adopting the Highlands Regional Master Plan (RMP), which became effective September 8, 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to carry out its duties under the Highlands Act and the RMP, the Highlands Council is charged with creating sustainable communities and a sustainable economic future for the Region; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2018 Monitoring Program Recommendation Report, serving as the Council’s six-year work plan, included a specific recommendation for the development of a “comprehensive economic development plan for the Highlands Region;” and

**WHEREAS**, development of such a plan requires resources and expertise of a specialized nature which are not available within the Highlands Council’s current organization, including specifically, practicing economists with experience in municipal and regional economic analysis, knowledge of and ready access to applicable data sources, and ability to provide economic and demographic projections as well as suitable recommendations and comprehensive planning for sustainable economic development within the Region; and

**WHEREAS**, Highlands Council staff therefore prepared a Request for Proposals (RFP), seeking firms with the required expertise to “Develop an Economic Sustainability Plan for the Highlands Region;” and

**WHEREAS**, seven (7) firms responded by submitting proposals and qualifications on or before the deadline of November 4, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, Highlands Council staff evaluated the proposals (inclusive of qualifications and supporting materials) and provided findings and recommendations regarding same to the Highlands Council’s Budget and Finance Committee on February 6, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Budget and Finance Committee reviewed the staff findings and the process utilized to evaluate the submissions, and determined that funds were available for the award of a contract pursuant to the RFP; and

**WHEREAS**, the Budget and Finance Committee recommended that a contract be awarded to Camoin 310 Associates and that the Highlands Council authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract in connection with the RFP and the proposal of Camoin 310 Associates; and

**WHEREAS**, the Highlands Council voted on June 18, 2020, to award the Contract to Camoin 310 Associates; and

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**WHEREAS**, Camoin 310 Associates, with input from the Steering Committee, a Technical Advisory Committee, Highlands Council staff, and multiple stakeholders, has developed the Economic Sustainability Plan for the Highlands Region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Plan was posted for public review and feedback on the Highlands Council website (<https://www.nj.gov/njhighlands/master/economic-sustainability/>), modified to address the input received, and finalized for consideration by the full membership of the Highlands Council; and

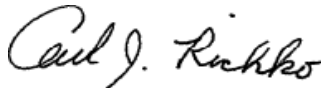
**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:20-5.j, no action authorized by the Highlands Council shall have force or effect until ten (10) days, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays excepted, after a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Council has been delivered to the Governor for review, unless prior to the expiration of the review period the Governor shall approve or take exception with same, in which case the action shall either become effective upon such approval or take no effect.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Highlands Council hereby approves the final Economic Sustainability Plan for the Highlands Region for release to the public and directs that the Executive Director, or her designee, take the following actions:

1. Publicly release the final Economic Sustainability Plan, including all addenda, by posting same to the Council's website; and
2. Transmit the final Economic Sustainability Plan to the governing body of every municipality and county located in the Highlands Region and to the State Planning Commission.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Highlands Council at its regular meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of December 2021.



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Carl J. Richko, Chairman

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