

RESOLUTION 2022-

**NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL
AWARD OF CONTRACT TO DEVELOP A GUIDANCE DOCUMENT AND SCOPE OF SERVICES
FOR MUNICIPAL LAND USE PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY MASTER PLAN
ELEMENTS, INCLUDING A MUNICIPAL CLIMATE CHANGE RELATED HAZARD
VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT**

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 environmentally sustainable communities for the region; and

WHEREAS, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order 89, ordering the State Planning Commission (SPC) to incorporate climate change considerations as a mandatory requirement of Plan Endorsement; and

WHEREAS, as part of the SPC endorsement of the RMP in November of 2020, the Council committed to including compliance with state resiliency planning and equity goals into the RMP; and

WHEREAS, the 2008, 2017, and 2021, legislative amendments to the MLUL added environmental sustainability, climate change and resiliency planning to the components of the municipal master plan; and

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2018, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order 23 requiring all state agencies to incorporate environmental justice into agency official actions and standard practices; and

WHEREAS, in September 2020, Governor Murphy signed legislation requiring the NJDEP to evaluate the environmental and public health impacts of certain facilities on overburdened communities in review of permit applications; and

WHEREAS, at present, limited guidance is available to municipalities to assist in development of effective master plan amendments that meet all of the above requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council does not have sufficient internal resources and expertise to complete the development of a guidance document and scope of services for municipal land use plan and environmental sustainability master plan elements, including a municipal climate change related hazard vulnerability assessment; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council staff prepared a Request for Proposals (RFP) to Develop a Guidance Document and Scope of Services for Municipal Land Use Plan and Environmental Sustainability Master Plan Elements, Including a Municipal Climate Change Related Hazard Vulnerability Assessment, seeking

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firms with expertise to assist the Highlands Council with preparing the guidance document for municipalities;
and

WHEREAS, six (6) firms/teams responded by submitting proposals and qualifications on or before the deadline of September 20, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council staff evaluated the proposals (inclusive of qualifications and supporting materials) and shared its findings with the Highlands Council's Budget and Finance Committee on January 6, 2022; and

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

WHEREAS, the Budget and Finance Committee recommends that a contract be awarded to RFP respondent New Jersey Future, the team for which includes New Jersey Future as well as experts and professionals from Sustainable Jersey, The Land Conservancy of New Jersey, and BRS, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$89,000.00 to complete the scope of work set forth in the RFP and further recommends that the Highlands Council authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract in connection with the RFP and the proposal of the New Jersey Future team; 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 by the Highlands Council that the Executive Director, or his/her designee, is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with New Jersey Future for purposes of developing the subject plan, in an amount not to exceed \$89,000.00.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Highlands Council at its regular meeting held on the 20th day of January 2022.

Carl J. Richko, Chairman

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