



JON S. CORZINE
Governor

State of New Jersey

Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council
100 North Road (Route 513)
Chester, New Jersey 07930-2322
(908) 879-6737
(908) 879-4205 (fax)
www.highlands.state.nj.us



JOHN R. WEINGART
Chairman

EILEEN SWAN
Executive Director

January 2, 2009

Subject: **2009 Plan Conformance Grant Program**

Dear Highlands Mayor:

The Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council (Highlands Council) has approved a 2009 Plan Conformance Grant Program for Highlands municipalities to fund municipal Plan Conformance. The grant funding will cover the reasonable expenses of Plan Conformance studies for lands within the Preservation Area where conformance is mandatory, as well as in the Planning Area where conformance is voluntary.

Once a municipality has adopted the Notice of Intent they are eligible to apply for the Plan Conformance grants. All the municipality needs to do is to authorize the execution of these grants which do not require matching funds and are not required to be refunded for the Planning Area. These grants will allow municipalities to immediately engage their professionals and staff to address Plan Conformance requirements so that elected officials may have the information necessary to make planning decisions. The Highlands Council has authorized a maximum allocation of \$7.5 million for the 2009 Plan Conformance Grant Program, with individual grant allocations not to exceed \$100,000 for any municipality. Enclosed is a summary of activities detailing the necessary steps a municipality must take to satisfy the goals and objectives of the Regional Master Plan. In addition, specific instructions regarding the first of those steps, Current Municipal Conditions and Build-Out Analysis, is included with the grant application. Given the deadlines for completion of the Build-Out Analysis, it is recommended that the grant application be submitted **as soon as possible**. If you need any further information, please contact Herbert August, Manager of Grants Administration at (908) 879-6737 or via email at herbert.august@highlands.state.nj.us.

We look forward to continued collaboration with you and your municipality in this important effort to protect and preserve the Highlands Region.

Very truly yours,

Eileen Swan, Executive Director