

**BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON
HIGHLANDS MUNICIPAL REFERRAL ORDINANCE FOR THE PLANNING AREA**

**BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
ORDINANCE 2024-08**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND USE ORDINANCE OF THE
BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON TO UPDATE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR
APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act (“Highlands Act,” N.J.S.A. 13:20-1 et seq.) was enacted by the State Legislature on August 10, 2004 for the purpose of protecting, enhancing, and restoring the natural resources of the New Jersey Highlands Region, in particular the water resources, which provide drinking water to over 5 million New Jersey residents; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Act created the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council (the “Highlands Council”) and charged it with crafting a comprehensive master plan for the New Jersey Highlands Region; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Regional Master Plan was adopted by the Highlands Council through the adoption of Resolution 2008-27 on July 17, 2008, and became effective on September 8, 2008 as the product of a long-term, participatory, and region-wide planning effort; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2008-27 included the adoption of Highlands Regional Master Plan as well as the adoption of various technical reports and guidelines that accompanied the Plan including the 2008 Plan Conformance Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the Plan Conformance Guidelines provide an overview of the Highlands Act’s bifurcated system for municipal conformance with the Highlands Regional Master Plan – mandatory Plan Conformance for any portion (or if applicable, the whole) of a municipality located within the Preservation Area and voluntary Plan Conformance for any portion (or if applicable, the whole) of a municipality lying within the Planning Area; and

WHEREAS, Section 15 of the Highlands Act provides for voluntary Plan Conformance where any municipality located wholly or partially in the Planning Area may at any time voluntarily revise and conform its local master plan and development regulations, as related to the development and use of land in the Planning Area, with the goals, requirements and provisions of the Regional Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Plan Conformance Guidelines detail the requirements for Plan Conformance including amendments to the Environmental Resource Inventory, Master Plan, and Land Use Ordinance, which together are intended to achieve conformance with the Regional Master Plan and provide immediate protections to vital Highlands Resources; and

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WHEREAS, the Plan Conformance Guidelines require conforming municipalities to adopt Initial Revisions as a first step of Plan Conformance; the initial revisions are revisions of the existing master plan and development regulations which are deemed necessary by the Highlands Council for prompt enactment by a petitioning local government in order to ensure the protection and enhancement of the resources of the Highlands Region; and

WHEREAS, the Plan Conformance Guidelines include the adoption of a Development Application Referral Ordinance as an Initial Revision in order to ensure that any Application for Development not be deemed complete until such time as certain documents have been submitted by the Applicant and to ensure that Applications for Development are consistent or revised to be consistent with the Regional Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Washington is located in the Highlands Region with lands lying within the Planning Area only, as defined by section 7 of the Highlands Act; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of Washington has, on behalf of the municipality, petitioned the Highlands Council for Plan Conformance with respect to Borough lands located within the Planning Area portion of the Highlands Region; and

WHEREAS, the Petition filed with the Highlands Council contains proposed amendments to the municipal planning program, including amendments to the Environmental Resource Inventory, Master Plan, and Land Use Ordinance, which together are intended to achieve conformance with the Regional Master Plan and provide immediate protections to vital Highlands Resources located within the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body finds that the proposed changes to the municipal planning program are of broad and significant effect, are vital to the protection of the Highlands resources of the municipal Highlands Area, and are compelling to the interests and general welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body recognizes that the formal municipal adoption of each component of the revised planning program must take place, in sequential order in accordance with all statutory requirements, involving public hearings and deliberation by the Land Use Board and Governing Body; a process that will require an additional undetermined period of time; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body is aware that lands within the Planning Area are not regulated by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Preservation Area Rules (N.J.A.C. 7:38-1 et seq.) and, with the exception of Wastewater Management Plans and Water Allocation Permits, would remain without the full suite of Highlands Regional Master Plan protections during the interim period between the date of filing of the Petition for Plan Conformance and the adoption of ordinances and regulations that will provide such protections; and

WHEREAS, an immediate level of protection to the resources located within the Highlands Region by adoption of revised submission requirements pertinent to Applications for Development therein is required by the Plan Conformance Guidelines; and

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WHEREAS, the adoption of revised submission requirements pertinent to Applications for Development therein is essential to ensuring that Applicants achieve compliance with the standards and protections required under the Highland Regional Master Plan despite the interim status of the municipal Plan Conformance ordinances and regulations, this interim period not constituting an appropriate instance in which municipal approvals based upon existing municipal regulatory requirements, can appropriately be issued conditioned upon subsequent approval by the Highlands Council, as may occur under usual circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body finds that the adoption of such submission requirements are important not only to provide such immediate resource protections, but to ensure the proper management of Applications for Development involving lands within the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Highland Council deems the immediate protections ascribed by this Ordinance to lands in the Planning Area, which include the whole of the municipality, eligible for application of the provisions of the Highlands Act at N.J.S.A. 13:20-22 and N.J.S.A. 13:20-24 regarding legal representation to municipalities filing for Plan Conformance and regarding the strong presumption of validity and extraordinary deference afforded to such ordinances;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Washington that the Land Use Ordinance of the Borough of Washington and is hereby amended to incorporate the following provisions:

SECTION 1. APPLICABILITY

This Ordinance shall apply to any Application for Development involving lands located within (or partially within) the Borough Highlands Area (as illustrated in Exhibit 1, “Borough of Washington Highlands Area”) that seeks approval of a site plan, subdivision, or change in use, where approval of such Application would:

- A. For residential development, create three (3) or more dwelling units;
- B. For non-residential development:
 - 1. Result in the ultimate disturbance of one (1) acre or more of land;
 - 2. Produce a cumulative impervious surface area of one-quarter (1/4) acre, or more; or
 - 3. Introduce or expand on any of the following land uses/facilities:
 - a) Landfills;
 - b) Permanent storage or disposal of hazardous wastes, industrial or municipal sludge or radioactive materials, including solid waste landfills;
 - c) Collection and transfer facilities for hazardous wastes, solid wastes that contain hazardous materials, and radioactive materials;

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- d) Industrial treatment facility lagoons; or
- e) Any Major or Minor Potential Contaminant Source (as identified in Appendix A and Appendix B of this Ordinance, respectively) on lands located within 200 feet of the wellhead of any public community well or public non-community well, as these are defined at Section 4 below.

All thresholds in A. and B., above, shall be interpreted to apply cumulatively over time, beginning as of the effective date of this Ordinance. If or when any one of the thresholds is reached, the Ordinance shall apply to any and all development in excess of that threshold. Where an application proposes a mixed use, the thresholds in B., for non-residential development shall apply to the whole of the project, while that in A., shall apply to the residential component. For purposes of this Ordinance, the phrases “Application for Development,” “Highlands Area,” “residential development,” “ultimate disturbance,” and “cumulative impervious surface area” shall be defined as provided at Section 4 below.

SECTION 2. ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLETENESS

A. **CONSISTENCY DETERMINATIONS REQUIRED.** No Application for Development included in Section 1 above, shall be deemed complete or considered for review by the applicable Borough Land Use Board until and unless the Applicant has obtained and provided a copy of:

- 1. A Consistency Determination from the Highlands Council indicating that the application is consistent with the Highlands Regional Master Plan; or
- 2. A Consistency Determination from the Highlands Council indicating that the application is not consistent with the Highlands Regional Master Plan, accompanied by a certification, as detailed in Section 1.B below, by the Applicant’s professional(s) that the application has been since review by the Highlands Council revised to achieve consistency with the Highlands Regional Master Plan.

B. **FINDINGS OF INCONSISTENCY.** Where a Highlands Council Consistency Determination indicates that an Application for Development is inconsistent with the Highlands Regional Master Plan, no such application shall be deemed complete or considered for review by the applicable Borough Land Use Board, until or unless the Applicant has obtained from the professional(s) responsible for preparation of the Applicant’s plans, a certification indicating that to the best of the knowledge and abilities of such professional(s), the application has been revised to achieve consistency with the Highlands Regional Master Plan and specifically describing the revisions made to achieve such consistency.

C. **REFERRAL WAIVER.** The Borough may issue a waiver from the provisions of this Section where it can be established by the Applicant and can be verified by the designated representative(s) of the Borough that:

- 1. The activity, improvement or development proposed by the subject Application for Development has not yet been formally determined to be exempt from the

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Highlands Act (see Section 3.B, below), but eligibility for an exemption has been sufficiently established by the Applicant; or

2. The activity, improvement or development proposed in the Application for Development will neither encroach upon a Highlands Resource or Highlands Resource Area, nor be of detrimental impact to any Highlands resource or Highlands Resource Area as these are identified and delineated in the Highlands Regional Master Plan. The Applicant's professional(s) responsible for preparation of the Applicant's plan shall establish compliance of the above through a formal certification specifically addressing the Highlands Resources and Resource Areas and related policies and objectives as identified in Chapter 4 of the Highlands Regional Master Plan.

D. HIGHLANDS COUNCIL CALL-UP. All municipal waivers or findings of application completeness issued pursuant to this Section shall be issued in writing, inclusive of a statement indicating the rationale for the determination. All such determinations shall be subject to Highlands Council call-up review and shall specifically include conditions requiring same consistent with this paragraph. The municipality shall within five (5) calendar days of issuance of all such determinations, provide a copy of the decision to the Applicant and to the Highlands Council. The Highlands Council call-up review period shall expire 15 calendar days following its receipt of same. Upon determining to exercise this authority for call-up review, the Highlands Council shall transmit notice to the Applicant and the municipality. Absent any such notification from the Highlands Council within that timeframe, the application shall be considered complete, with the date of the waiver or application completeness to be as of the date of first issuance by the municipality.

SECTION 3. EXCLUSIONS AND EXEMPTIONS

A. EXCLUSIONS. The following specific improvements and related applications shall be excluded from the provisions of this Ordinance:

1. The reconstruction, within the same footprint, of any building or other structure lawfully existing as of the effective date of this Ordinance, in the event of its destruction or partial destruction by fire, storm, natural disaster, or any other unintended circumstance.
2. Any improvement or alteration to a building or other structure lawfully existing as of the effective date of this Ordinance, where such improvement or alteration is necessary for compliance with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, or to otherwise provide accessibility to the disabled.
3. Any Agricultural or Horticultural Use or Development that would not result in either:
 - a. An increase, since the date of enactment of the Highlands Act (August 10, 2004), either individually or cumulatively, of new agricultural impervious cover of greater than three percent (3%) to the total land area of a Farm

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Management Unit. Solar panels shall not be included in any calculation of agricultural impervious cover (all terms as defined in Section 4, below); or

- b. Construction of three (3) or more residential dwelling units (including accessory dwelling units) served by individual on-site septic system(s).

B. EXEMPTIONS. Any activity, improvement or development project listed and demonstrated to constitute a Highlands Act exemption shall be exempt from the provisions of this Ordinance. Formal demonstration of a Highlands Act exemption for an Application for Development involving lands located (or partially located) in the Highlands Area shall consist of one of the following:

1. *State Agency Determination.* State Agency Determinations shall consist of a Highlands Exemption Determination issued by the Highlands Council indicating that the proposal qualifies as a Highlands Act Exemption.
2. *Municipal Determination.* For any application under this Ordinance involving Highlands Act Exemptions #4, #6, #7, or #8 (Appendix C), the applicant may request and shall be deemed to have satisfied the evidentiary requirement by obtaining a Municipal Referral Ordinance Determination issued by the Municipal Exemption Designee (Appendix D), provided such Determination indicates that the proposal qualifies as a Highlands Act Exemption. The applicant may rely upon the findings of a Municipal Exemption Determination to the same extent and with the same protections as would apply in the case of a Highlands Exemption Determination issued by the Highlands Council.

SECTION 4. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Ordinance, the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivations shall have the meanings stated herein unless their use in the text of this Ordinance clearly demonstrates a different meaning. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words used in the plural number include the singular number, and words used in the singular number include the plural number. The word “shall” is always mandatory and not merely directory.

Agricultural or Horticultural Development – means construction for the purposes of supporting common farmsite activities, including but not limited to, the production, harvesting, storage, grading, packaging, processing, and the wholesale and retail marketing of crops, plants, animals, and other related commodities and the use and application of techniques and methods of soil preparation and management, fertilization, weed, disease, and pest control, disposal of farm waste, irrigation, drainage and water management, and grazing.

Agricultural or Horticultural Use – means the use of land for common farmsite activities, including but not limited to, the production, harvesting, storage, grading, packaging, processing, and the wholesale and retail marketing of crops, plants, animals, and other related commodities and the use and application of techniques and methods of soil

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preparation and management, fertilization, weed, disease, and pest control, disposal of farm waste, irrigation, drainage and water management, and grazing.

Agricultural Impervious Cover – means agricultural or horticultural buildings, structures or facilities with or without flooring, residential buildings and paved areas, but not meaning temporary coverings.

Applicant – means a developer submitting an Application for Development.

Application for Development – means the application form and all accompanying documents required by ordinance for approval of a subdivision plat, site plan, planned development, conditional use, zoning variance, or direction of the issuance of a permits pursuant to section 25 or section 27 of P.L.1975, c.291 (C.40:55D-34 or C.40:55D-36).t

Disturbance – means the placement of impervious surface, the exposure or movement of soil or bedrock, or the clearing, cutting, or removing of vegetation.

Disturbance, Ultimate – means the total existing or proposed area of disturbance of a lot, parcel, or other legally designated (or otherwise legally recognized) tract or subdivision of land, for the purpose of, and in connection with, any human activity, property improvement, or development, including the surface area of all buildings and structures, all impervious surfaces, and all associated land disturbances such as excavated, filled, and graded areas, and all lawn and landscape areas. Ultimate disturbance shall not include areas of prior land disturbance which at the time of evaluation: a) contain no known man-made structures (whether above or below the surface of the ground) other than such features as old stone rows or farm field fencing; and b) consist of exposed rock outcroppings, or areas which, through exposure to natural processes (such as weathering, erosion, siltation, deposition, fire, flood, growth of trees or other vegetation) are no longer impervious or visually obvious, or ecologically restored areas which will henceforth be preserved as natural areas under conservation restrictions.

Farm Management Unit – means a parcel or parcels of land, whether contiguous or noncontiguous, together with agricultural or horticultural buildings, structures and facilities, producing agricultural or horticultural products, and operated as a single enterprise.

Highlands Council – means the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council.

Highlands Act – means the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act, P.L. 2004, c.120, as amended, codified in part at N.J.S.A. 13:20-1 *et seq.*

Highlands Area – means that portion of the municipality for which the land use planning and regulation are in conformance with, or are intended or proposed to be in conformance with, the Highlands Regional Master Plan.

Highlands Region – means all that area within the boundaries of the municipalities listed in subsection a. of section 7 of the Highlands Act.

Impervious Surface – means any structure, surface, or improvement that reduces or prevents absorption of stormwater into land, including, but not limited to, porous paving, paver blocks, gravel, crushed stone, decks, patios, elevated structures, and other similar structures, surfaces, or improvements.

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Impervious Surfaces, Cumulative – means the total area of all existing or proposed impervious surfaces situated or proposed to be situated within the boundary lines of a lot, parcel, or other legally recognized subdivision of land, expressed either as a measure of land area such as acreage, or square feet, or as a percentage of the total lot or parcel area.

Major Potential Contaminant Sources (PCS) – means land uses and activities determined by the Highlands Council to pose a major risk of ground water contamination (see Appendix A).

Minor Potential Contaminant Sources (PCS) – means land uses and activities determined by the Highlands Council to pose a minor risk of ground water contamination (see Appendix B).

Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL) – means the New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law, N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1 *et seq.*

NJDEP – New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Planning Area – means lands within the Highlands Region not within the Preservation Area (N.J.S.A. 13:20-7).

Plan Conformance – means the process by which a municipality revises the master plan, development regulations and other regulations related to the development and use of land to conform them with the goals, requirements, and provisions of the Regional Master Plan in accordance with the Highlands Plan Conformance Guidelines.

Preservation Area – means that portion of the Highlands Region so designated by subsection b. of section 7 of the Highlands Act.

Public Community Well – means a well that provides water to a public water system serving at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serving at least 25 year-round residents.

Public Non-Community Well – means a well that is not a public community well and that provides water to a public water system regularly serving at least 25 individuals for at least 60 days in any given calendar year.

Regional Master Plan (RMP) – means the Highlands Regional Master Plan or any revision thereof adopted by the Highlands Council pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:20-8.

Solar Panel – means an elevated panel or plate, or a canopy or array thereof, that captures and converts solar radiation to produce power, and includes flat plate, focusing solar collectors, or photovoltaic solar cells and excludes the base or foundation of the panel, plate, canopy, or array. (As defined by the Highlands Act, N.J.S.A. 13:20-1 *et seq.*, as amended.)

Structure – means a combination of materials to form a construction for occupancy, use or ornamentation whether installed on, above, or below the surface of a parcel of land.

SECTION 5

If any portion, paragraph, clause, sentence or phrase of this Ordinance is determined to be invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

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SECTION 6

All ordinances or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency only.

SECTION 7

This Ordinance shall take effect after final passage and publication in the manner prescribed by law.

Introduced: May 21, 2024

Public Hearing/Adoption: June 17, 2024

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APPENDIX A. MAJOR POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT SOURCES

Land uses and activities determined by the Highlands Council (based on New Jersey Safe Drinking Water Act regulations at N.J.A.C. 7:10 and NJDEP regulations) to be Major Potential Contaminant Sources include those listed below.

1. Underground fuel and chemical storage and oil tanks regulated by NJDEP under provisions of the Underground Storage of Hazardous Substances Act (N.J.S.A. 58:10A-21 et seq.).
2. Above-ground storage facility for a hazardous substance or waste with a cumulative capacity greater than 2,000 gallons.
3. Automotive service center (repair & maintenance).
4. Dry cleaning processing facility.
5. Road salt storage facility.
6. Cemetery.
7. Highway maintenance yard.
8. Truck, bus, locomotive maintenance yard.
9. Site for storage and maintenance of heavy construction equipment and materials.
10. Site for storage and maintenance of equipment and materials for landscaping, excluding household storage and maintenance of such equipment.
11. Livestock operation containing 300 or more Animal Units (AU) [1 AU= 1000 pounds of live animal weight] as defined by the NJ Department of Agriculture in its Criteria and Standards for Animal Waste Management, at NJAC 2:91.
12. Quarrying and/or mining facility.
13. Asphalt and/or concrete manufacturing facility.
14. Junkyard/auto recycling and scrap metal facility.
15. Residential or agricultural motor fuel in NJDEP exempted underground storage tanks (i.e., under 1,000 gallons).

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APPENDIX B. MINOR POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT SOURCES

Land uses and activities determined by the Highlands Council (based on New Jersey Safe Drinking Water Act regulations at N.J.A.C. 7:10 and NJDEP regulations) to be Minor Potential Contaminant Sources include the following:

1. Underground storage of hazardous substance or waste of less than 50 gallons.
2. Underground heating oil storage tank with a capacity of less than 2,000 gallons.
3. Sewage treatment facility regulated by a NJPDES permit granted under NJAC 7:14A.
4. Industrial waste line.
5. Septic system disposal field.
6. Facility requiring a ground water discharge permit issued by the NJDEP pursuant to N.J.A.C 7:14A et seq.
7. Stormwater retention-recharge basin on an industrial property receiving runoff from surfaces other than roof areas.
8. Dry well on an industrial property receiving runoff from surfaces other than roof areas.
9. Waste oil collection, storage and recycling facility.
10. Agricultural chemical bulk storage and mixing or loading facility including crop dusting facilities.
11. Above-ground storage of hazardous substance or waste in quantities of less than 2,000 gallons.
12. Livestock operation containing 8 or more Animal Units (AU) [1 AU= 1000 pounds of live animal weight] or those receiving 142 or more tons of animal waste per year as defined by the NJ Department of Agriculture pursuant to its Criteria and Standards for Animal Waste Management, at NJAC 2:91.

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APPENDIX C. HIGHLANDS ACT EXEMPTIONS

The Highlands Act includes seventeen exemptions from the provisions of the Act and Regional Master Plan, which include:

1. **Construction of a single family dwelling for own use or family use:** The construction of a single family dwelling, for an individual's own use or the use of an immediate family member, on a lot owned by the individual on the date of enactment of this act or on a lot for which the individual has on or before May 17, 2004 entered into a binding contract of sale to purchase that lot;
2. **Construction of a single family dwelling on existing lot:** The construction of a single family dwelling on a lot in existence on the date of enactment of this act, provided that the construction does not result in the ultimate disturbance of one acre or more of land or a cumulative increase in impervious surface by one-quarter acre or more;
3. **Developments with prior Municipal and DEP Approvals:** A major Highlands development that received on or before March 29, 2004:
 - a. one of the following approvals pursuant to the "Municipal Land Use Law," L.1975, c. 291 (C.40:55D-1 et seq.):
 - i. preliminary or final site plan approval;
 - ii. final municipal building or construction permit;
 - iii. minor subdivision approval where no subsequent site plan approval is required;
 - iv. final subdivision approval where no subsequent site plan approval is required; or
 - v. preliminary subdivision approval where no subsequent site plan approval is required;

and

- b. at least one of the following permits from the Department of Environmental Protection, if applicable to the proposed major Highlands development:
 - i. a permit or certification pursuant to the "Water Supply Management Act," P.L.1981, c. 262 (C.58:1A-1 et seq.);
 - ii. a water extension permit or other approval or authorization pursuant to the "Safe Drinking Water Act," P.L.1977, c. 224 (C.58:12A-1 et seq.);
 - iii. a certification or other approval or authorization issued pursuant to the "The Realty Improvement Sewerage and Facilities Act (1954)," P.L.1954, c. 199 (C.58:11-23 et seq.); or
 - iv. a treatment works approval pursuant to the "Water Pollution Control Act," P.L.1977, c. 74 (C.58:10A-1 et seq.);

or

- c. one of the following permits from the Department of Environmental Protection, if applicable to the proposed major Highlands development, and if the proposed major Highlands development does not require one of the permits listed in sub-subparagraphs (i) through (iv) of subparagraph (b) of this paragraph:

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- i. a permit or other approval or authorization issued pursuant to the "Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act," P.L.1987, c. 156 (C.13:9B-1 et seq.);
 - or
 - ii. a permit or other approval or authorization issued pursuant to the "Flood Hazard Area Control Act," P.L.1962, c. 19 (C.58:16A-50 et seq.).
 - iii. The exemption provided in this paragraph shall apply only to the land area and the scope of the major Highlands development addressed by the qualifying approvals pursuant to subparagraphs (a) and (b), or (c) if applicable, of this paragraph, shall expire if any of those qualifying approvals expire, and shall expire if construction beyond site preparation does not commence within three years after the date of enactment of this act;
4. **Reconstruction of buildings or structures within 125% of the footprint:** The reconstruction of any building or structure for any reason within 125% of the footprint of the lawfully existing impervious surfaces on the site, provided that the reconstruction does not increase the lawfully existing impervious surface by one-quarter acre or This exemption shall not apply to the reconstruction of any agricultural or horticultural building or structure for a non-agricultural or non-horticultural use;
5. **Improvement to a single family dwelling:** Any improvement to a single family dwelling in existence on the date of enactment of this act, including but not limited to an addition, garage, shed, driveway, porch, deck, patio, swimming pool, or septic system;
6. **Places of worship, schools, or a hospitals:** Any improvement, for non-residential purposes, to a place of worship owned by a nonprofit entity, society or association, or association organized primarily for religious purposes, or a public or private school, or a hospital, in existence on the date of enactment of this act, including but not limited to new structures, an addition to an existing building or structure, a site improvement, or a sanitary facility;
7. **Woodland and Forest management plans:** An activity conducted in accordance with an approved woodland management plan pursuant to section 3 of L.1964, c. 48 (C.54:4-23.3) or the normal harvesting of forest products in accordance with a forest management plan approved by the State Forester;
8. **Trails on public or private lands:** The construction or extension of trails with non-impervious surfaces on publicly owned lands or on privately owned lands where a conservation or recreational use easement has been established;
9. **Repair of transportation or infrastructure systems:** The routine maintenance and operations, rehabilitation, preservation, reconstruction, or repair of transportation or infrastructure systems by a State entity or local government unit, provided that the activity is consistent with the goals and purposes of this act and does not result in the construction of any new through-capacity travel lanes;
10. **Transportation safety projects:** The construction of transportation safety projects and bicycle and pedestrian facilities by a State entity or local government unit, provided that the activity does not result in the construction of any new through-capacity travel lanes;
11. **Public utility lines, rights of way, or systems:** The routine maintenance and operations, rehabilitation, preservation, reconstruction, repair, or upgrade of public utility lines, rights of

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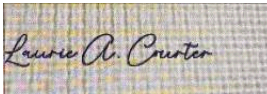
way, or systems, by a public utility, provided that the activity is consistent with the goals and purposes of this act;

12. **Reactivation of rail lines/rail beds:** The reactivation of rail lines and rail beds existing on the date of enactment of this act;
13. **Public Infrastructure:** The construction of a public infrastructure project approved by public referendum prior to January 1, 2005 or a capital project approved by public referendum prior to January 1, 2005;
14. **Mining or Quarrying:** The mining, quarrying, or production of ready mix concrete, bituminous concrete, or Class B recycling materials occurring or which are permitted to occur on any mine, mine site, or construction materials facility existing on June 7, 2004;
15. **Site Remediation:** The remediation of any contaminated site pursuant to L.1993, c. 139 (C.58:10B-1 et seq.);
16. **Military lands:** Any lands of a federal military installation existing on the date of enactment of this act that lie within the Highlands Region;
17. **Affordable Housing:** A major Highlands development located within an area designated as Planning Area 1 (Metropolitan), or Planning Area 2 (Suburban), as designated pursuant to P.L.1985, c. 398 (C.52:18A-196 et seq.) as of March 29, 2004, that on or before March 29, 2004 has been the subject of a settlement agreement and stipulation of dismissal filed in the Superior Court, or a builder's remedy issued by the Superior Court, to satisfy the constitutional requirement to provide for the fulfillment of the fair share obligation of the municipality in which the development is located. The exemption provided pursuant to this paragraph shall expire if construction beyond site preparation does not commence within three years after receiving all final approvals required pursuant to the "Municipal Land Use Law," P.L.1975, c. 291 (C.40:55D-1 et seq.).

Certification:

I, Laurie A. Barton, Clerk of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance is a true and exact copy adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Washington on June 18, 2024

 Recoverable Signature

X 

Laurie A. Courter, RMC
Borough Clerk

Signed by: e6b8ace5-a628-410e-a933-111f1ec968b9

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of the Borough this

18th day of June , 2024.

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APPENDIX D. MUNICIPAL REFERRAL ORDINANCE DETERMINATION

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Date:

Applicant Information:

Re: [Application Number _____]

The Borough’s Zoning Officer has reviewed the materials submitted to determine the applicability of Borough Ordinance No. _____ (“Highlands Municipal Referral Ordinance”). If applicable, this Ordinance requires the submission of a Highlands Council Consistency Determination as a component of completeness of any Application for Development. The Zoning Officer’s determination is provided below.

General Applicability

| | Y/N |
|--|-----|
| 1. Application is an Application for Development (as defined by MLUL) | |
| 2. Subject property lies within the municipal conformance Planning Area | |
| 3. Referral Ordinance was effective on the date the application was filed | |
| 4. Application seeks approval of: Site Plan <input type="checkbox"/> , Subdivision <input type="checkbox"/> , or Change in Use <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 5. Application meets/exceeds any of the applicability thresholds: Proposes Ultimate Disturbance \geq 1 AC <input type="checkbox"/> Proposes Cumulative Impervious Surface \geq ¼ AC <input type="checkbox"/> Creates 3 or More Dwelling Units <input type="checkbox"/> Introduces/Expands a Listed Use or Facility (see “Highlands Municipal Referral Ordinance” Section 1) <input type="checkbox"/> | |

If the answer to any item in #1-4 above is “no,” the Development Application is not subject to the Highlands Referral Ordinance.

Exclusions

Any improvement listed in the Highlands Municipal Referral Ordinance as an “Exclusion” (see Section 3.A) is not subject to the Ordinance and therefore does not require submission of a Highlands Council Consistency Determination as a condition of completeness.

1. The Application consists of a project/improvement that is excluded from the provisions of the Highlands Municipal Referral Ordinance. ___Yes ___No
2. The applicable exclusion(s) is/are: _____

**BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON
HIGHLANDS MUNICIPAL REFERRAL ORDINANCE FOR THE PLANNING AREA**

Highlands Act Exemptions

Any proposed activity, improvement, or development project listed as an exemption in the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act (N.J.S.A. 13:20-1 et seq., "Highlands Act") is not subject to the submission requirements of the Highlands Municipal Referral Ordinance (see Section 3.B). Evidence of a formal exemption determination must be provided by submission of a Highlands Exemption Determination issued by the Highlands Council.

1. The Application is accompanied by a Highlands Exemption Determination issued by the Highlands Council indicating that the proposed project is exempt from the Highlands Act.
_____Yes _____No

If the answer to question 1, above, is "yes," the Applicant has satisfactorily demonstrated that the Application is exempt from the Highlands Act and is therefore not subject to the Highlands Referral Ordinance. In such instances, the Application may be deemed complete without submission of a Highlands Council Consistency Determination.

3. The applicable exemption(s) is/are: _____

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Waivers

Under specific circumstances, the Applicant may be entitled to a waiver from the Highlands Municipal Referral Ordinance, in which case the application may be deemed complete without submission of a Highlands Council Consistency Determination. Pursuant to Section 2.C of the Highlands Municipal Referral Ordinance, these include the following:

A. The activity, improvement or development proposed by the subject Application for Development has not yet been formally determined to be exempt from the Highlands Act, but eligibility for an exemption has been sufficiently established by the Applicant; or

B. The activity, improvement or development proposed in the Application for Development will neither encroach upon a Highlands Resource or Highlands Resource Area, nor be of detrimental impact to any Highlands resource or Highlands Resource Area as these are identified and delineated in the Highlands Regional Master Plan. The Applicant's professional(s) responsible for preparation of the Applicant's plan shall establish compliance of the above through a formal certification specifically addressing the Highlands Resources and Resource Areas and related policies and objectives as identified in Chapter 4 of the Highlands Regional Master Plan. The "formal certification" should be a written statement by the applicant's professional(s) that represents his or her professional opinion.

1. The Applicant is eligible for a waiver. ____Yes ____No
2. If applicable, the waiver is hereby granted under standard ____ (A, above) ____ (B, above) of the Highlands Municipal Referral Ordinance.
 - a. For a waiver pursuant to A above, the applicable exemption(s) is/are:

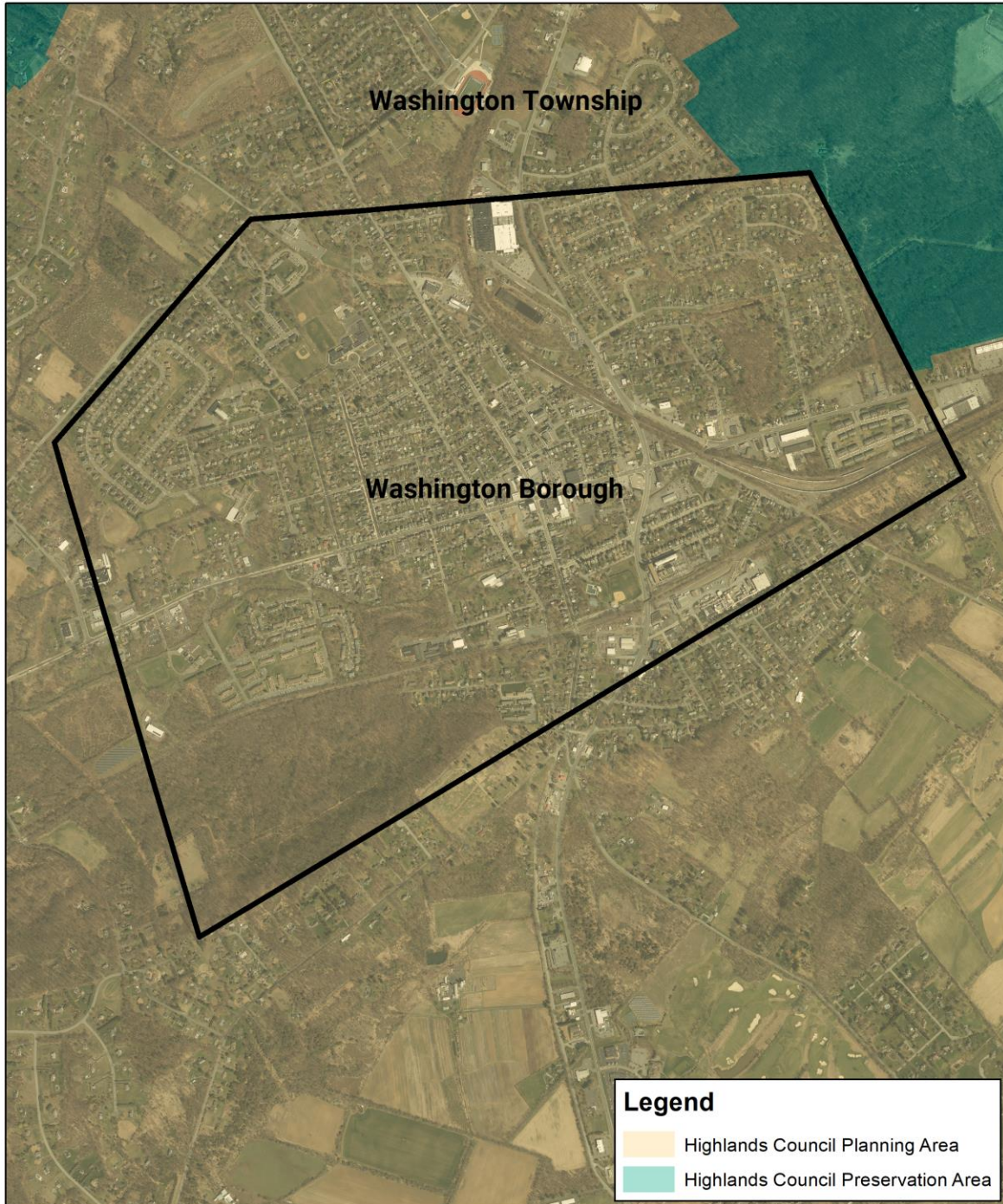
- b. For a waiver pursuant to B above, the items submitted and the rationale for approval are:

Name (Print)
Borough Zoning Officer

Signature

BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON
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EXHIBIT 1. BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON HIGHLANDS AREA



Legend

- Highlands Council Planning Area
- Highlands Council Preservation Area

0 750 1,500 Feet

Source: NJOGIS, NJGIN, NJDEP, NJDOT

Borough of Washington - Highlands Area
Warren County, NJ

HGA
HEYER, GRUEL & ASSOCIATES
March 2024