



Public Hearing

Highlands Open Space Partnership Funding Program and Highlands Development Credit Purchase Program Proposed Rule

Thursday, September 17, 2015



Highlands Open Space Partnership Funding Program and Highlands Development Credit Purchase Program

- Addresses preservation and land owner equity goals of Highlands Act and RMP
- Two primary components:
 - Open Space Matching Grant Program
 - Highlands Development Credit (HDC) Purchase Program
- Highlands Council will review Open Space Grants, HDC Bank will review HDC purchases



Open Space Matching Grant

- Eligible partnership entities
 - State, county, or municipal government
 - Nonprofit/charitable organizations
- Eligible properties/activities
 - Fee simple acquisition of land for conservation and/or passive recreation purposes
 - Acquisition of development easements for conservation purposes
- Up to 50% contribution of total purchase price.



HDC Purchase Program

- For individual property owners
- In coordination with HDC Bank
- Purchase of HDCs on priority basis:
 - As established by this Rulemaking process
 - Any resource- specific mitigation funding requirements
- Conservation restriction on property prohibits future development



Rule Public Comment Period

- August 17 to October 16: Public Comment Period
- Submit written comments by email, fax or mail by October 16 to:
 - Copy of Rule available at: www.nj.gov/njhighlands
 - james.humphries@highlands.nj.gov
 - 100 North Road, Chester, NJ 07930
 - Fax: 908-879-4205
- September 17: Highlands Council Public Hearing
- December 3 (anticipated): Highlands Council review of public comments and responses, vote on resolution approving program



Public Comments

Highlands Open Space Partnership Funding Program and Highlands Development Credit Purchase Program

- Please limit comments to 3 minutes
- Written comments accepted through October 16 via email, mail or fax:
 - james.humphries@highlands.nj.gov
 - 100 North Road, Chester, NJ 07930
 - Fax: 908-879-4205
- Responses will be provided at close of comment period via comment/response document posted on Highlands Council website