



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE FOR PLANNING ADVOCACY
PO BOX 204
TRENTON NJ 08625-0204

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lieutenant Governor

GERRY SCHARFENBERGER, PH.D.
Director

July 11, 2013

The Honorable Daniel J. Hayes, Jr
Mayor, Township of Bridgewater
P.O. Box 6300
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

The Honorable Jo-Ann Liptak
Mayor, Borough of Raritan
Raritan Borough
22 First Street
Raritan, NJ 08869

The Honorable Brian G. Gallagher
Mayor, Borough of Somerville
Borough of Somerville
25 West End Avenue
Somerville, NJ 08876

Re: Somerset Regional Center Plan Endorsement –Waiver Requests

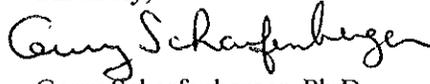
Dear Mayors,

The Office for Planning Advocacy (OPA) has reviewed your requests seeking waivers from providing detailed information about Community Facilities in your respective communities. Based on the information provided you have all met the goal the State Planning Commission wanted communities to consider while pursuing Plan Endorsement.

The Boroughs of Raritan and Somerville also sought waivers from adopting Steep Slope, Wellhead Protection and Water Conservation ordinances prior to receiving Plan Endorsement. There are no Wellheads or Steep Slopes greater than or equal to 20% in your municipalities, so it does not make sense to adopt those protection ordinances. Since neither municipality is located in a HUC deficit sub-watershed nor the water resources have ever been threatened due to local drought conditions, it is not necessary to adopt a Water Conservation Ordinance prior to Plan Endorsement. Since your communities have registered to become certified with Sustainable New Jersey, we will provide a model Water Conservation Ordinance that you can use as a guide in the future if you want to receive points for certification.

We plan to present your final petition and the Recommendation Report from our office to the Plan Implementation Committee (PIC) which has been tentatively scheduled for August 28th. Thank you again for your commitment to the Plan Endorsement process. Barry Ableman, Principal Planner will attend the Regional Center Partnership meeting on Wednesday, July 17th to provide you with more details and answer any questions. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact him at (609) 292-3228 or via email at BAbleman@dca.state.nj.us.

Sincerely,



Gerry Scharfenberger, Ph.D.
Director

GS:ba

- c: Bob Bzik, PP/AICP, Planning Director, Somerset County
- Troy Fischer, Chair, Somerset County Regional Partnership
- Dan Kennedy, PP/AICP, Deputy Director, OPA
- Barry Ableman, Principal Planner, OPA
- State Agency Partners via e-mail