

RESOLUTION 2023-13

NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONSULTATION

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, the Highlands Council is tasked with implementing the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act, N.J.S.A. 13:20-1 et seq.; 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, the Regional Master Plan (RMP) includes goals, policies, and objectives relating to the constitutional obligation to provide affordable housing; specifically Policy 6O7 requires that conforming municipalities implement both the resource protection requirements of the RMP along with constitutional obligation to provide a realistic opportunity for affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, on July 17, 2008, the Fair Housing Act was amended by P.L. 2008, c. 46, to create a responsibility for the Highlands Council to identify and coordinate opportunities for affordable housing on a regional basis with consideration for infrastructure, employment opportunities, and transportation and to require a 20 percent affordable housing set-aside in residential developments; and

WHEREAS, Section 18 of P.L.2008, c.46 calls on the Highlands Council to coordinate the provision of affordable housing in the Highlands Region; and

WHEREAS, on September 5, 2008, Governor Corzine signed Executive Order 114 to further protect the Highlands Region and to further ensure the coordinated implementation of the Highlands Act and the Fair Housing Act; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council prepared a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) seeking a firm to advise and assist the Highlands Council with the aforementioned requirements as well as guidance for the fourth round municipal affordable housing obligations, including but not limited to a review and recommendations on existing and potential build out analyses, vacant land analyses, and water and wastewater capacity and locational analyses; and

WHEREAS, the RFQ was released to the public on January 24, 2023, and five (5) firms submitted responses and proposals on or before the deadline of March 17, 2023; and

WHEREAS, after reviewing responses, staff selected three (3) respondents to participate in in-depth interviews to determine the extent of their qualifications, their ideas regarding the inter-relationship between policies to provide affordable housing and protection of the Highlands region, and their overall suitability to provide the services contemplated in the RFQ; and

WHEREAS, Highlands Council staff recommends that Colliers Engineering & Design is best suited to meet the needs articulated by the Highlands Council's RFQ, along with a Subconsultant of Surenian, Edwards, Buzak & Nolan LLC, and further recommends that the Highlands Council

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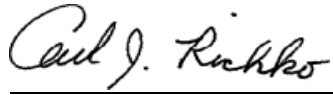
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authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Colliers Engineering & Design for affordable housing consulting services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Highlands Council that the Executive Director, or their designee, is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with Colliers Engineering & Design for an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Highlands Council at its regular meeting held on the 18th day of May 2023.



Carl J. Richko, Chairman

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			✓			