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NEWS RELEASE

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Gov. Whitman Submits Three Nominations for Pinelands Commission; Backgrounds Emphasize Governor's Dedication to Open Space Preservation

Governor Christie Whitman today announced the nominations of Jerrold L. Jacobs of Linwood and Sally Dudley of Harding, and the re-appointment of Theodore Gordon of Southampton, to the Pinelands Commission.

"These three individuals represent the 'many faces, but one family' that we have in New Jersey when it comes to protecting the environmentally sensitive lands of the Pinelands - an area that has long been considered our state's wilderness region," said Gov. Whitman. "Like myself, they are 100 percent committed to upholding a vision of open space preservation along with smart growth, and working together to make our state an even better place in which to live, work and raise a family."

Gov. Whitman has also nominated Jacobs as Chair to replace Daniel L. Kelleher. Kelleher has indicated to the Governor that he did not wish to be re-appointed because of increased job responsibilities.

"On behalf of all New Jerseyans, I thank Dan for his years of service on the Pinelands Commission and to the people of this state. His dedication and vision for creating a better New Jersey has not gone unnoticed throughout his tenure on the Commission."

On her nomination of Jacobs, Gov. Whitman said Jacobs is the former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Atlantic Electric, which is now Connectiv, and presently serves as a member of the State Planning Commission. He is a founding member and past co-chairman of the Stockton Alliance, a public-private partnership that promotes policies to balance environmental and business interests. He is also a trustee of The Nature Conservancy and New Jersey Future.

"The Pinelands Commission has a dual obligation - to preserve the unique ecological system and to ensure landowners receive a fair price for their development rights. Mr. Jacobs will be able to balance the need for land preservation with the economic development components of these sensitive issues," said the Governor.

"Sally Dudley will also bring excellent statewide experience to the Pinelands Commission through her highly-praised leadership role in open space preservation. She is currently Executive Director of the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, but was also a two-term mayor of Harding Township," said Gov. Whitman. "Known for her ability to translate complex laws and concepts into clear, non-technical language, Ms. Dudley's presence on the Commission will be a tremendous benefit to the state with her vast knowledge of our state's environmental concerns."

"I am delighted to see Jerry Jacobs and Sally Dudley appointed to the Commission. They are both people of vision and integrity, who will help lead the Commission into the next century as they carry out their responsibility to protect this unique resource," said Michael Catania, Executive Director of The Nature Conservancy.

Regarding her nomination of Theodore Gordon to another term that would expire in 2002, Gov. Whitman said, "I can't think of a more dedicated individual than Mr. Gordon in his mission to preserve the future well-being of the Pinelands. Throughout his tenure on the Commission, Mr. Gordon has always brought his critical knowledge of the region to the table. An expert in the Pine Barrens, Mr. Gordon knows virtually everything there is to know, from its flora and fauna, to its geology and history." Mr. Gordon is currently Director of Pine Barrens Inventories, Lectures and Tours after having been a school teacher at Northern Burlington Regional High School.

The Pinelands Commission is responsible for drafting, updating and implementing its Comprehensive Management Plan, which covers one million acres in seven counties. A 15-member commission, the Pinelands Commission includes seven members appointed by the Governor, seven members appointed by the counties and one representative of the Department of the Interior. Mr. Jacobs' term would expire 2002 and Ms. Dudley's term would end 2000.

Gov. Whitman's current budget for Fiscal Year 2000 includes \$3 million to purchase the development rights of farms and other lands in the Pinelands. As part of the Governor's vision of preserving one million acres over the next decade, lands in the Pinelands will be bought through Green Acres and the Farmland Preservation Program. And where the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has purchased land for preservation, municipalities will receive Payments-In-Lieu-Of-Taxes - or PILOTS.