



Board of Chosen Freeholders

County of Hunterdon
71 Main Street, Building #1
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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hunterdon County Recommends Balancing Environment With Economic Sustainability In Comments To NJDEP

Hunterdon County submitted recommendations to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) on June 3rd supporting environmental upgrades for fourteen rivers and streams in the County, while requesting Category 2 (C-2) status be maintained for five waterways that effect key communities, in an effort to balance environmental protection with economic sustainability.

Freeholder Board Director Suzanne Lagay, who submitted the County's comments to the NJDEP on behalf of the Freeholders, reported at the June 4th Board meeting, "We have heard from and listened to the many residents, government officials, landowners, environmental advocates, and business people who came to our meetings to express their views on the regulations."

Freeholder Lagay and Freeholder Shaun Van Doren also met with Raritan Headwaters Association representatives, proponents of the NJDEP proposal, to discuss its merits.

Lagay continued, "As we have previously stated, the Freeholder Board supports clean water, protecting our streams, and preserving Hunterdon County's natural beauty. We, therefore, recognize the importance of ensuring the protection of the great majority of the waterways in the NJDEP plan.

The County, in fact, has already preserved 4200 acres from development around many of the streams that the NJDEP has proposed for upgrade."

Lagay reported, "We have also heard strong opposition to these regulations from several of our communities, particularly as to the lack of consideration for the new rules' economic impact. After a thorough review, the County has recommended that five streams that impact Raritan, Clinton Town, High Bridge, Clinton Township, and Flemington be continued with C-2 status.



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The County’s environmental consultants advise that C-2 protection means those waterways are prohibited from ever having their water quality lowered which would affect the stream’s uses for swimming, fishing or use by animals. However, the restrictions do not impinge on economic opportunities in those municipalities.”

The County’s comments, list of the waterways affected, maps and resolutions from various municipalities are available on the County website: <http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/pdf/DEP/June04-HunterdonCountyCommentsOnNJDEPRegulations.pdf>

Lagay concluded, “The comments submitted by the County strike the right balance – calling for greater restrictions on fourteen important stream segments, while maintaining the C-2 restrictions already in place on five segments, in order to prevent negative social and economic impacts.

Again, the Board greatly appreciates all the comments we received from residents on this matter over the last several Board meetings.”