

EXECUTIVE ORDERS

STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 56

WHEREAS, The New Jersey Pinelands is an area of special environmental, scenic, recreational, educational, historic and agricultural interest; and

WHEREAS, The Pinelands provides a habitat for the preservation of wildlife in forests, streams and wetlands and contains vast surface and ground water supplies; and

WHEREAS, The Pinelands is vital to the agricultural resources of the State through extensive cultivation of blueberries, cranberries and other agricultural products; and

WHEREAS, Existing State law recognizes the special environmental, scenic, recreational, educational, historic and agricultural resources of the Pinelands; and

WHEREAS, The protection of the unique resources of the Pinelands is in the interest of the State and Nation which requires the planning and coordination of State actions affecting such resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Brendan Byrne, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the statutes of this State, do hereby Order and Direct:

1. (a) There is hereby established a Pinelands Review Committee ("the Committee") consisting of the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs, and the Secretary of Agriculture, or their designated representatives, and such citizens who may be appointed by and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The Governor shall designate the chairman of the Committee. The Division of State and Regional Planning in the Department of Community Affairs shall serve as staff to the Committee.

(b) The Committee shall review all major State activities significantly affecting the special and unique environmental resources of the Pinelands. Consistent with Federal and State law, the Committee shall approve only projects consistent with the protection of the unique resources of the Pinelands.

(c) All State departments and agencies shall submit for review to the Committee pending or proposed major State actions significantly affecting the Pinelands. These actions shall include, without limitation, State capital construction projects, construction regulations, soil erosion standards, environmental quality regulations, acquisition of open space lands and all public or private actions requiring State review or funding.

(d) Within 90 days of the date of this Order, all State departments and agencies shall submit to the Committee an inventory of all pending or proposed projects, programs or regulations administered by the department or agency which may affect the Pinelands. The Committee shall review the inventory, and may approve or propose plans, guidelines or standards necessary to make departmental plans consistent with the purposes of this Order. The Committee shall develop a plan and program to guide and control State actions affecting the Pinelands. The Committee may approve departmental plans, guidelines or standards for the administration of programs affecting the Pinelands, and authorize the department to review particular projects or regulations consistent with such approved plans.

(e) The Committee shall advise the Governor if it determines that any action would be inconsistent with the protection of the unique resources of the Pinelands.

2. Within 90 days of the date of this Order, the Division of State and Regional Planning shall submit to the Committee a report outlining the options for delineation of the Pinelands; this report may designate areas within the Pinelands which require special treatment or strategies to achieve the purposes of this Order. The Committee shall review this report, and hold a public hearing to receive comments concerning the report. The Committee shall recommend to the Governor a delineation of the Pinelands needed to accomplish the purposes of this Order. Upon approval by the Governor, the recommendation shall be utilized to define the Pinelands for purposes of this Order. Until a revised delineation is approved, the Pinelands shall be defined as the area included in P. L. 1971, c. 417 (C. 13:18-6).

3. Within one year of the date of this Order, the Division of State and Regional Planning shall submit to the Committee a plan for approval which shall guide State actions affecting the Pinelands. This plan shall be developed after public hearing and consultation with relevant public and private agencies and groups, in-

cluding county and local governing bodies, planning boards, agricultural, environmental and sportsmen groups. The plan shall have the following primary objectives:

(a) The preservation of the unique environmental resources of the Pinelands;

(b) The promotion of agricultural, forestry and recreational uses compatible with the protection of the environment;

(c) The encouragement of needed commercial, residential or other development within existing developed areas or other areas which may be developed compatible with preservation of unique environmental resources;

(d) The discouragement of scattered and piecemeal development in open space areas.

4. The Committee shall review the effect of all State actions on private property rights and values. It shall prepare a report summarizing these effects and analyzing the justification and options for compensation of private property owners, including direct payments, tax credits or adjustments and the use of development rights or other land-use concepts. The report shall also review the effect of all State actions on county and municipal tax revenues and analyze the feasibility of financial or other assistance to counties or municipalities which incur substantial revenue losses as a result of State actions to protect the Pinelands. In preparing this report, the Committee shall consult with and be assisted by the Treasurer, the Attorney General, the Director of the Division of Local Government Services and other relevant State officials.

5. The Department of Environmental Protection shall, after receiving public comments and consultation with interested officials, groups and individuals:

(a) Adopt water quality standards and regulations for the rivers and waters in the Pinelands required to maintain and protect the purity of these waters;

(b) Designate the Pinelands as a critical area for sewerage purposes, and develop regulations for the approval and control of all sewage and septic systems;

(c) Review existing State-owned lands in the Pinelands and designate appropriate "natural areas" pursuant to the Natural Areas Systems Act, P. L. 1975, c. 363 (C. 13:1B-15.12a et seq.);

(d) Identify potential sites eligible for designation as historic preservation areas.

6. Within 90 days of the date of this Order, the Department of Agriculture shall review and identify agricultural activities and uses within the Pinelands and submit to the Committee a report recommending methods and actions to preserve and strengthen agricultural activities and uses consistent with the protection of other resources.

7. The Department of Education and the Department of Higher Education shall promote appropriate educational and research activities involving the Pinelands with an emphasis on bringing urban primary and secondary school students to the region for ecological education.

8. This Order shall take effect immediately.

[SEAL] Given, under my hand and seal this 28th day of May
in the year of Our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and
seventy-seven, and of the Independence of the United
States, the two hundredth and first.

/s/ BRENDAN BYRNE,
Governor.

Attest:

/s/ JOHN J. DEGNAN,
Executive Secretary to the Governor.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 57

WHEREAS, The support of new construction in New Jersey is a continuing and important need vital to the public health, safety and welfare;

WHEREAS, The promotion of new construction requires prompt and efficient administration by the State government of permit application and review procedures;

WHEREAS, The objective of the State government should be to consolidate and simplify application procedures and forms in order to serve the public interest;