

**New Jersey**

**Year 2018**

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July 30, 2018

The Honorable Phil Murphy, Governor  
State of New Jersey, Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor,

The NJ County Planners Association (NJCPA), an affiliate of the New Jersey Association of Counties, is the professional organization where Planners from the 21 counties across the state meet regularly and discuss issues of mutual concern. We are writing to express our interest in working with you to advance the State Development and Redevelopment Plan (SDRP) planning process to support the State's efforts to grow the economy, protect the environment and improve the quality of life for all of New Jersey's residents. County planners have always played a major role in this process and are ready to lend a hand.

A regional framework for guiding future growth and development, infrastructure investments, natural resource conservation and farmland preservation is needed, which aligns and prioritizes plans, programs, resource allocation and investment decisions at all levels of government. A new and vibrant SDRP is essential to the economic competitiveness and quality of life in this state. An updated SDRP can address the statutory requirements of the State Planning Act, balance growth and preservation objectives; reflects current planning practices and information; and uses a coordinated, cooperative process that gives equal voice to all levels of government and engages the public sector. The State Planning process offers an opportunity to establish best practices for effective land uses policies and programs. A successful State Plan creates an open framework for public and private sector investment decisions that create a strengthening economy that supports innovation; offers housing choice and affordability; encourages planning for climate change and resilience; and encourages infrastructure investments and effective transportation systems that support all of these goals.

Contact: New Jersey County Planners Association  
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There are numerous examples of Counties throughout NJ that have used the SDRP framework to implement very successful regional planning projects and programs. The NJCPA has tremendous experience and expertise in regional planning and welcomes the opportunity to assist the State to restart the SDRP planning process. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to meet with our organization to discuss more ways the statewide county planning community can support these efforts.

Sincerely,



Linda J. Brennen, PP, AICP  
President

cc: Ms. Tahesha Way, Secretary of State  
Ms. Melanie Willoughby, Executive Director, New Jersey Business Action Center  
Ms. Colleen McGurk, NJ Office for Planning Advocacy  
County Planning Directors  
Mr. John G. Donnadio, Esq., Executive Director, NJAC