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These recommendations were developed with the participation of the following: Sandy Batty, Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions; Jennifer Coffey, Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association; Arnold Cohen, Housing and Community Development Network of NJ; Tim Dillingham, American Littoral Society; Robert Freudenberg, Regional Plan Association, New Jersey Chapter; Amy Goldsmith, New Jersey Environmental Federation; Peter Kasabach, New Jersey Future; Chuck Latini, Courtenay Mercer, American Planning Association/New Jersey Chapter; Joseph Maraziti, Maraziti Falcon & Healey and past Chair, State Planning Commission; David Pringle, New Jersey Environmental Federation; Hannah Shostack; Julia Somers, New Jersey Highlands Coalition; Chris Sturm, New Jersey Future; Jeff Tittel, New Jersey Sierra Club; Lucy Vandenberg, PlanSmartNJ, and submitted to the State Planning Commission along with an [examination of inconsistencies between the State Planning Act and the new State Strategic Plan.](#)

1. Incorporate locational criteria to determine where growth should occur

For the State Strategic Plan to replace the State Development and Redevelopment Plan it must have specific and objective locational criteria that enable the public and government agencies to know where the state will support growth and where it won't. At a minimum, locational criteria will need to be developed and incorporated into the plan that identifies priority growth areas, limited growth areas and priority preservation areas (agricultural and open space). (See #B4 on [consistency review document.](#))

2. Develop planning and design standards to influence how growth should occur

The existing State Development and Redevelopment Plan does a good job of describing the patterns and forms that development should take in various parts of New Jersey. The State Strategic Plan should emphasize the importance of scale and good community design, beyond the discussion in the Garden State Values. The plan should be amended to address this issue. (See #A2 on [consistency review document.](#))

3. Require adherence to the Garden State Values

Economic, environmental, social justice and quality of life values must be met simultaneously in agency strategic plans, not one at the expense of the other. Agency strategic plans should be required to be consistent with the Garden State Values. The Garden State Values should be incorporated into

the “Guiding Principles for State Decision Making” in the State Strategic Plan. Other state implementation measures, such as the municipal and project score cards and state agency capital plans, must also explicitly conform to the Values. (See #A3 on [consistency review document](#).)

4. Strengthen goals for protecting natural resources and public health

The first requirement in the State Planning Act for the State Development and Redevelopment Plan is to “protect the natural resources and qualities of the state . . .” The State Strategic Plan emphasizes land preservation. It does not adequately address the need to protect water, air, wildlife and other natural resources wherever they are located. It does not adequately address environmental quality issues nor the cumulative impact of pollution felt by already overburdened cities cited in the plan for more development and industrialization. The State Strategic Plan should reflect these goals, through revisions to Goal 3 and better integration of the Garden State Values. (See #A1, B2 on [consistency review document](#).)

5. Follow the State Planning Act in both substance and process

The State Strategic Plan, as the new State Development and Redevelopment Plan, draws its legitimacy from the State Planning Act. The State Strategic Plan and its various implementation components must be consistent with the State Planning Act in spirit, intent, and letter of the law with regards to substance and process. There are inconsistencies between the State Strategic Plan and the State Planning Act that could be problematic. (See attached.) The State Planning Commission must maintain its statutory role to ensure transparency and accountability to the State Planning Act. It must have a full contingent of appropriate members qualified to support the goals of the Act, prior to adoption of the Strategic Plan. (See #A5 on [consistency review document](#).)

6. Set a positive and inclusive tone

The State Strategic Plan should be a document that can stand up over time and be used by many different stakeholders as a rallying point. To this end, the language and tone of the plan must be positive. The plan should be re-edited to remove negative or inflammatory language.