

CITY OF VINELAND

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-_____

RESOLUTION ENDORSING AND SUPPORTING AN APPLICATION TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE COMMUNITY FOREST AND OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION PROGRAM AND OTHER FUND RAISING EFFORTS BY THE NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION FOR THE ACQUISITION OF BLOCK 6503 LOT 35, BLOCK 7304 LOT 35.1 IN THE CITY OF VINELAND

WHEREAS, The New Jersey Conservation Foundation has made application to the USDA Forest Service Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program for the acquisition of 602 acres of land known as Block 6503, Lot 35 and Block 7304, Lot 35.1 in the City of Vineland, Cumberland County; and

WHEREAS, the property is adjacent to preserved farmland and lands held by the City of Vineland, and nearby to preserved lands held by The State of New Jersey and The Nature Conservancy, which create a regional network of open spaces to preserve the ecologically unique Menantico and Manumuskin Watersheds, and

WHEREAS, a portion of the property is located in the river protection zone of the Maurice River National Scenic and Recreational River, a designated waterway of the US National Park Service Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program; and

WHEREAS, preservation of the property is in line with the visions, goals, zoning and standards of the Vineland City Master Plan, Land Use Code and Zoning Regulations, the Cumberland County Open Space and Recreation Master Plan as well as other natural and community resource planning and protection efforts; and

WHEREAS, preservation of the property will protect water quality, enhance wildlife habitat, preserve the City's open space landscape and promote long-term community sustainability and efficiency of government services and uses such as hiking, hunting and other outside recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey Conservation Foundation intends to apply to and partner with other agencies and organizations, including the Cumberland County Open Space Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund, the State of New Jersey Green Acres Program, the William Penn Foundation and the Open Space Institute, to fund acquisition of the property; and

WHEREAS, the Open Space and Conservation goals of the City of Vineland include the protection of public open space, creation of recreational activities and acquisitions which protect sensitive environmental resources including stream corridors, forests and native vegetation, while providing for outside recreational activities and to support and partner with State and non-profit conservation programs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Vineland that City Council endorses and supports the New Jersey Conservation Foundation's application to the USDA Forest Service and future grant applications and fundraising efforts to facilitate acquisition of this property for the purposes set forth hereinabove.

Adopted:

President of Council

ATTEST:

City Clerk