NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Guidelines for Notification and Review of State Agency Actions Where Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs are in Effect

I. PURPOSES OF GUIDELINES

A. The Waterfront Revitalization of Coastal Areas and Inland Waterways Act (Article 42 of the Executive Law) and the Department of State's regulations (19 NYCRR Part 600) require certain state agency actions identified by the Secretary of State to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the policies and purposes of approved Local Waterfront Revitaliza-tion Programs (LWRPs). These guidelines are intended to assist state agencies in meeting that statutory consistency obligation.

B. The Act also requires that state agencies provide timely notice to the situs local government whenever an identified action will occur within an area covered by an approved LWRP. These guidelines describe a process for complying with this notification requirement. They also provide procedures to assist local governments in carrying out their review responsibilities in a timely manner.

C. The Secretary of State is required by the Act to confer with state agencies and local governments when notified by a local government that a proposed state agency action may conflict with the policies and purposes of its approved LWRP. These guidelines establish a procedure for resolving such conflicts.

II. DEFINITIONS

A. Action means:

1. A "Type 1" or "Unlisted" action as defined by the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA);

2. Occurring within the boundaries of an approved LWRP; and

3. Being taken pursuant to a state agency program or activity which has been identified by the Secretary of State as likely to affect the policies and purposes of the LWRP.

B. Consistent to the maximum extent practicable means that an action will not substantially hinder the achievement of any of the policies and purposes of an approved LWRP and, whenever practicable, will advance one or more of such policies. If an action will substantially hinder any of the policies or purposes of an approved LWRP, then the action must be one:

1. For which no reasonable alternatives exist that would avoid or overcome any substantial hindrance;

2. That will minimize all adverse effects on the policies or purposes of the LWRP to the maximum extent practicable; and

3. That will result in an overriding regional or statewide public benefit.

C. Local Waterfront Revitalization Program or LWRP means a program prepared and adopted by a local government and approved by the Secretary of State pursuant to Executive Law, Article 42; which program contains policies on the management of land, water and man-made resources, proposed land uses and specific projects that are essential to program implementation.

III. NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

A. When a state agency is considering an action as described in II above, the state agency shall notify the affected local government.

B. Notification of a proposed action by a state agency:

1. Shall fully describe the nature and location of the action;

2. Shall be accomplished by use of either the State Clearinghouse, other existing state agency notification procedures, or through an alternative procedure agreed upon by the state agency and local government;

3. Should be provided to the local official identified in the LWRP of the situs local government as early in the planning stages of the action as possible, but in any event at least 30 days prior to the agency's decision on the action. (The timely filing of a copy of a completed Coastal Assessment Form with the local LWRP official should be considered adequate notification of a proposed action.)

C. If the proposed action will require the preparation of a draft environ-mental impact statement, the filing of this draft document with the chief executive officer can serve as the state agency's notification to the situs local government.

IV. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW PROCEDURE

A. Upon receipt of notification from a state agency, the situs local govern-ment will be responsible for evaluating a proposed action against the policies and purposes of its approved LWRP. Upon request of the local official identified in the LWRP, the state agency should promptly provide the situs local government with whatever additional information is available which will assist the situs local government to evaluate the proposed action.

B. If the situs local government cannot identify any conflicts between the proposed action and the applicable policies and purposes of its approved LWRP, it should inform the state agency in writing of its finding. Upon receipt of the local government's finding, the state agency may proceed with its consideration of the proposed action in accordance with 19 NYCRR Part 600.

C. If the situs local government does not notify the state agency in writing of its finding within the established review period, the state agency may then presume that the proposed action does not conflict with the policies and purposes of the municipality's approved LWRP.

D. If the situs local government notifies the state agency in writing that the proposed action does conflict with the policies and/or purposes of its approved LWRP, the state agency shall not proceed with its consi-deration of, or decision on, the proposed action as long as the Resolution of Conflicts procedure established in V below shall apply. The local government shall forward a copy of the identified conflicts to the Secretary of State at the time when the state agency is notified. In notifying the state agency, the local government shall identify the specific policies and purposes of the LWRP with which the proposed action conflicts.

V. RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTS

A. The following procedure applies whenever a local government has notified the Secretary of State and state agency that a proposed action conflicts with the policies and purposes of its approved LWRP:

1. Upon receipt of notification from a local government that a proposed action conflicts with its approved LWRP, the state agency should contact the local LWRP official to discuss the content of the identified conflicts and the means for resolving them. A meeting of state agency and local government repre-sentatives may be necessary to discuss and resolve the identified conflicts. This discussion should take place within 30 days of the receipt of a conflict notification from the local government.

2. If the discussion between the situs local government and the state agency results in the resolution of the identified conflicts, then, within seven days of the discussion, the situs local government shall notify the state agency in writing, with a copy forwarded to the Secretary of State, that all of the identified conflicts have been resolved. The state agency can then proceed with its consideration of the proposed action in accordance with 19 NYCRR Part 600.

3. If the consultation between the situs local government and the state agency does not lead to the resolution of the identified conflicts, either party may request, in writing, the assistance of the Secretary of State to resolve any or all of the identified conflicts. This request must be received by the Secretary within 15 days following the discussion between the situs local government and the state agency. The party requesting the assistance of the Secretary of State shall forward a copy of their request to the other party.

4. Within 30 days following the receipt of a request for assistance, the Secretary or a Department of State official or employee designated by the Secretary, will discuss the identified conflicts and circumstances preventing their resolution with appropriate representatives from the state agency and situs local government.

5. If agreement among all parties cannot be reached during this discussion, the Secretary shall, within 15 days, notify both parties of his/her findings and recommendations.

6. The state agency shall not proceed with its consideration of, or decision on, the proposed action as long as the foregoing Resolution of Conflicts procedures shall apply.

PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES FOR COORDINATING
NYS DEPARTMENT OF STATE (DOS) & LWRP
CONSISTENCY REVIEW OF FEDERAL AGENCY ACTIONS

DIRECT ACTIONS

1. After acknowledging the receipt of a consistency determination and supporting documentation from a federal agency, DOS will forward copies of the determination and other descriptive information on the proposed direct action to the program coordinator (of an approved LWRP) and other interested parties.

2. This notification will indicate the date by which all comments and recommenda-tions must be submitted to DOS and will identify the Department's principal reviewer for the proposed action.

3. The review period will be about twenty-five (25) days. If comments and recommendations are not received by the date indicated in the notification, DOS will presume that the municipality has "no opinion" on the consistency of the proposed direct federal agency action with local coastal policies.

4. If DOS does not fully concur with and/or has any questions on the comments and recommendations submitted by the municipality, DOS will contact the municipality to discuss any differences of opinion or questions prior to agreeing or disagreeing with the federal agency's consistency determination on the proposed direct action.

5. A copy of DOS' "agreement" or "disagreement" letter to the federal agency will be forwarded to the local program coordinator.

PERMIT AND LICENSE ACTIONS

1. DOS will acknowledge the receipt of an applicant's consistency certification and application materials. At that time, DOS will forward a copy of the submitted documentation to the program coordinator an will identify the Department's principal reviewer for the proposed action.

2. Within thirty (30) days of receiving such information, the program coordinator will contact the principal reviewer for DOS to discuss: (a) the need to request additional information for review purposes; and (b) any possible problems pertaining to the consistency of a proposed action with local coastal policies.

3. When DOS and the program coordinator agree that additional information is necessary, DOS will request the applicant to provide the information. A copy of this information will be provided to the program coordinator upon receipt.

4. Within thirty (30) days of receiving the requested additional information or discussing possible problems of a proposed action with the principal reviewer for DOS, whichever is later, the program coordinator will notify DOS of the reasons why a proposed action may be inconsistent or consistent with local coastal policies.

5. After the notification, the program coordinator will submit the municipality's written comments and recommendations on a proposed permit action to DOS before or at the conclusion of the official public comment period. If such comments and recommendations are not forwarded to DOS by the end of the public comment period,

DOS will presume that the municipality has "no opinion" on the consistency of the proposed action with local coastal policies.

6. If DOS does not fully concur with and/or has any questions on the comments and recommendations submitted by the municipality on a proposed permit action, DOS will contact the program coordinator to discuss any differences of opinion prior to issuing a letter of "concurrence" or "objection" letter to the applicant.

7. A copy of DOS' "concurrence" or "objective" letter to the applicant will be forwarded to the program coordinator.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ACTIONS

1. Upon receiving notification of a proposed federal financial assistance action, DOS will request information on the action from the applicant for consistency review purposes. As appropriate, DOS will also request the applicant to provide a copy of the application documentation to the program coordinator. A copy of this letter will be forwarded to the coordinator and will serve as notification that the proposed action may be subject to review.

2. DOS will acknowledge the receipt of the requested information and provide a copy of this acknowledgement to the program coordinator. DOS may, at this time, request the applicant to submit additional information for review purposes.

3. The review period will conclude thirty (30) days after the date on DOS' letter of acknowledgement or the receipt of requested additional information, whichever is later. The review period may be extended for major financial assistance actions.

4. The program coordinator must submit the municipality's comments and recommendations on the proposed action to DOS within twenty days (or other time agreed to by DOS and the program coordinator) from the start of the review period. If comments and recommendations are not received within this period, DOS will presume that the municipality has "no opinion" on the consistency of the proposed financial assistance action with local coastal policies.

5. If DOS does not fully concur with and/or has any questions on the comments and recommendations submitted by the municipality, DOS will contact the program coordinator to discuss any differences of opinion or questions prior to notifying the applicant of DOS' consistency decision.

6. A copy of DOS' consistency decision letter to the applicant will be forwarded to the program coordinator.