Appendix I
SEQRA Documents

I-3: Positive Declaration

(Note: This is renamed from the original Appendix I title)

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW

Determination of Significance

POSITIVE DECLARATION

Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement

October 7, 2015

Lead Agency: New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12238

This notice is issued pursuant to Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act) of the Environmental Conservation Law. The NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) as Lead Agency has determined that the action described in this notice may have a significant impact on the environment, and that a Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) will be prepared.

Title of Action: **Adoption of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Master Plan/Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS)**

SEQR Status: Type I Action under 6NYCRR Part 617, of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review) of the Environmental Conservation Law.

Location of Action: Trail runs from the City of Beacon Train Station and Main Street (Dutchess County) south to the Village of Cold Spring Train Station and Main Street (Putnam County).

Description of Action: The action involves the adoption of a master plan for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail. The plan involves development of an approximately 9 mile long non-motorized multi-use trail connecting the City of Beacon to the Village of Cold Spring and partially running within or adjacent to Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve. The trail will utilize some existing sidewalks, pathways and trails in addition to developing new trail sections. The Plan also proposes Route 9D corridor improvements including upgrades to and expansion of parking and trailhead facilities, painted shoulders for biking, improved signage, narrowed traffic lanes, and other traffic calming measures.

Reasons Supporting this Determination:

The development of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail is considered an action which may have significant impacts on the environment. Four public meetings were held during the development of a preliminary Draft Master Plan. The public meetings served as a forum for identification and scoping of issues and potential environmental impacts to be addressed in the Draft GEIS. The trail corridor is adjacent to the Hudson River and wetland complexes and crosses the Fishkill Creek. The corridor contains significant natural and scenic resources. There are seven significant ecological communities noted in the trail corridor as identified by the New York Natural Heritage Program. There are also several endangered, threatened or special concern species. The project area is located in the Hudson River National Heritage Area and a Scenic Area of Statewide Significance. There are many sites in the vicinity of the project area listed on the National Register for Historic Places, and there are documented archaeological resources. Multiple remediation sites have been identified in the corridor as well. OPRHP has compared the issues and impacts with the significance criteria listed in Part 617.7. The GEIS process will allow OPRHP and partners to evaluate alternatives by assessing potential impacts to these resources and select the best plan for the development of the trail and the protection of the natural, scenic and cultural resources along the corridor.

For Further Information:

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A copy of this Notice has been sent to:

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Environmental Notice Bulletin