



**Principles & Standards  
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## **Proposed Revisions to the Principles and Standards Applicable to the Development and Planning of Water Resources Projects**

Objective: the development of a clear, concise and workable set of Principles applicable to the planning and development of water resources projects which appropriately reflect the national interest in water resources, grounded upon the foundation of net-beneficial effects derived after a thorough analysis of all alternatives, and recognizing the critical role of non-federal sponsors in this process.

The Council on Environmental Quality is in the process of revising the Principles and Standards governing the planning of water resources projects. CEQ's *Proposed National Objectives, Principles and Standards* fundamentally fails to achieve the stated goal of establishing a national planning policy and framework for an effective planning process. In order to provide for a viable, long-term planning model, we urge the Administration to set aside its initial effort and restart this initiative.

◆ Recognizing the critical role of our water resources infrastructure to a robust economy and environmental well-being, it is imperative that the resulting Principles establish a clear, concise, and workable framework to guide the development of these essential projects. Such Principles should:

- Utilize cost-benefit analysis and other such recognized ***and proven*** analytical tools as a basis to compare options,
- Provide for the consideration of all alternatives, and not exclude classes of alternatives from consideration,
- Require that decisions are made based on an assessment of net beneficial effects, and
- Establish a peer review process that is appropriate to the potential impacts of the project and seamlessly integrated into the planning process.

◆ The National Objectives must provide for maximizing economic, environmental and social benefits, while not requiring additional features which result in a waste of scarce financial and natural resources.

◆ Projects should be developed on a collaborative, watershed basis, rather than project-by-project.

◆ Cost-sharing, recognizing the important role of non-federal sponsors as well as federal planners, must be incorporated into the planning process to ensure a transparent, predictable and comprehensive process.

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*The National Waterways Conference, established in 1960, is dedicated to a greater understanding of the widespread public benefits of our nation's water resources infrastructure. Our mission is to effect common sense policies and programs, recognizing the public value of our Nation's water resources and their contribution to public safety, a competitive economy, national security, environmental quality and energy conservation. Conference membership is comprised of the full spectrum of water resources stakeholders, including flood control associations, levee boards, waterways shippers and carriers, industry and regional associations, port authorities, shipyards, dredging contractors, regional water districts, engineering consultants, and state and local governments.*