

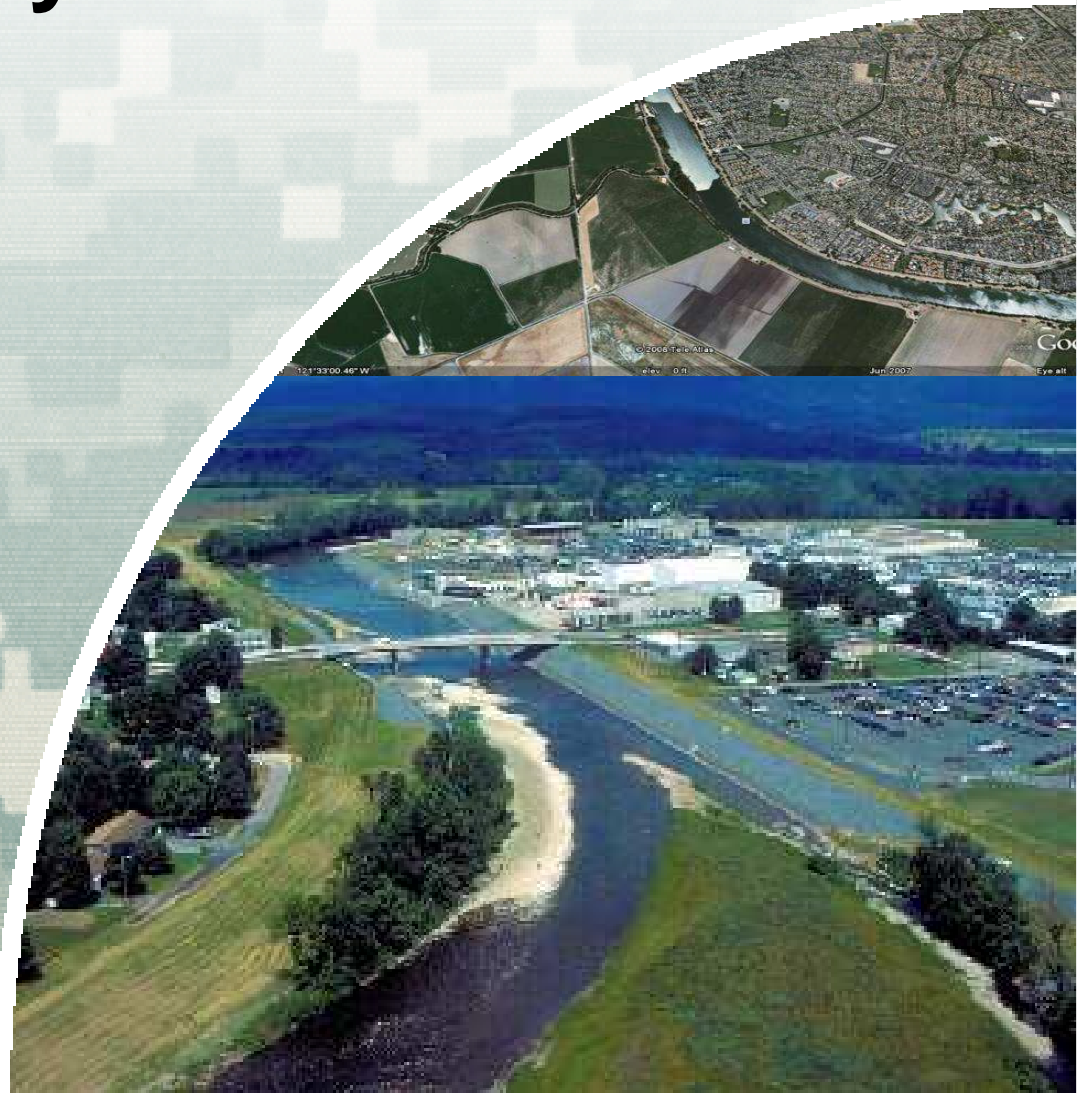
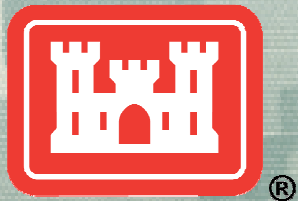
U.S. Vision and Alignment: Principles and Guidelines and Federal Interagency Task Force

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Principles and Guidelines

What are they?

- Rules that govern how Federal agencies evaluate proposed water resource development projects
- Basis for planning and other studies conducted to secure Congressional authorization

Current principles and guidelines went into effect March 1983



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Principles and Guidelines

- Development of new principles and guidelines directed by Congress in 2007
- Effort to modernize the approach to water resources development
- Expanded scope: all Federal agencies that undertake water resource projects
- Review being led by White House's Council on Environmental Quality



Principles and Guidelines

- **Previous National Policy (P&G):**

“The Federal objective of water and related land resources project planning is to contribute to national economic development consistent with protecting the Nation’s environment, pursuant to national environmental statutes, applicable executive orders, and other Federal planning requirements.”



Principles and Guidelines

- **New National Policy (WRDA 2007):**

“It is the policy of the United States that all water resources projects should reflect national priorities, encourage economic development, and protect the environment.”



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Principles and Guidelines

- **New National Policy (WRDA 2007) directs that the following be addressed:**
 - ▶ Use best economic principles and analytical techniques including risk and uncertainty
 - ▶ Incorporate public safety
 - ▶ Reflect the value of projects for low income communities and use non-structural approaches
 - ▶ Use watershed approach
 - ▶ Use contemporary water resources paradigms (IWRM, adaptive management)



Principles and Guidelines

■ Achieving Co-Equal Goals

- ▶ Federal water resources planning development should both:
 - protect and restore the environment and
 - improve the economic well-being of the nation for present and future generations.
- ▶ **New approach** – calls for projects based on sound science that maximizes net national economic, environmental, and social benefits (instead of emphasizing economic development alone.)



Principles and Guidelines

- **Considering Monetary and Non-Monetary Benefits**

- ▶ **New approach** – Considers both monetary and non-monetary benefits to justify and select a project with greatest net benefits, regardless of whether those benefits are monetary or non-monetary



Principles and Guidelines

- **Avoiding the Unwise Use of Floodplains**
 - ▶ **New approach** – Decision to modify water resources and floodplains will be based on evaluations of the services gained and lost
 - ▶ Only actions with net benefit pursued
 - ▶ Evaluations must give full and equal consideration to non-structural approaches that can solve flooding problems without adversely impacting floodplain functions



Principles and Guidelines

- **Increasing Transparency and "Good Government" Results**
 - ▶ **New approach** – intended to promote transparency of planning and implementation process for water resource development projects
 - ▶ Use of best science, peer review, full transparency will ensure that projects undergo a more rigorous study process, inform authorization and funding decisions



Principles and Guidelines

Process:

- Draft provided to public and National Academy of Sciences (NAS) for peer review (Dec. 2009)
- NAS peer review report published (Dec. 2010)
http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13071
- Further refine by June 2011
- Following anticipated signing by President, expect that agencies will be directed to develop procedures for implementing: challenges remain!



Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force

- Purpose: enhance health, safety and welfare of public by reducing flood losses and protecting the natural environment
- Members include high-level representatives of 11 water-oriented agencies
 - ▶ Co-chaired by USACE and FEMA
- Re-instituted September 2009
- Conducted public listening sessions in the process of developing charter and work plan



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Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force

- Meets quarterly to align and unify federal floodplain and risk management programs and issues
- Developed a work plan identifying 10 activities to pursue over the course of several years



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Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force

- Current activities focus on:
 - ▶ Alignment of Federal programs and policies impacting the floodplain
 - ▶ Valuation of natural and beneficial functions of floodplains
 - ▶ Potential revisions to:
 - Unified National Program for Floodplain Management
 - Executive Order 11988 to guide Federal agency action in floodplains
 - ▶ Development of a communications and outreach strategy



Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force

- Unified National Program for Floodplain Management
 - ▶ Conceptual framework for managing nation's floodplains to reduce loss of life and property and to protect and restore the natural resources of floodplains
 - ▶ First issued in 1976, with revisions in 1979, 1986, and 1994
 - ▶ Reviews of most recent version have suggested it is neither unified nor national



Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force

- Executive Order 11988
 - ▶ Requires agencies to avoid the long- and short-term adverse impacts of occupancy or modification of the floodplain, to the extent possible
 - ▶ Avoid direct or indirect support of floodplain development if practicable alternatives exist
 - ▶ Developed in 1977 and several attempts at updates have been made over the years





Proposed Activities of FIFM Task Force (cont):

- 1. Assess impacts and barriers of Federal programs with regard to achieving the goals of floodplain management**
- 2. Conduct Foresight-style study that can provide information on future conditions that could inform current decisions**
- 3. Assess state of knowledge related to variation of environmental services such as natural and beneficial functions and ecosystem goods and services, identify gaps, and promote efforts to help fill these gaps**
- 4. Develop alternatives for guiding Federal agency actions in flood hazard areas, including updating EO 11988**
- 5. Update and revise the Unified National Program (strategic national framework) for Floodplain Management**



Proposed Activities of FIFM Task Force (cont):

- 6. Develop policy and technical guidance for Federal agencies to encourage sustainable development and appropriate land use within and affecting the floodplains**
- 7. Conduct public listening session(s) on scope, focus areas, and activities of the Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force**
- 8. Continue to coordinate Federal agency input and leadership to ongoing collaborative efforts (Silver Jackets, RiskMAP, EPA Smart Growth/HUD-DOT-EPA Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities, and Intergovernmental Flood Risk Management Committee)**
- 9. Serve as a forum for inter-agency problem solving and alignment on current and emerging issues and opportunities**
- 10. Engage and coordinate on Federal interagency efforts to provide input to other task forces with a nexus to floodplain management**

