



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
441 G STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20314-1000

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

CECW-PC

2 July 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Application and Compliance of SMART Planning and the 3x3x3 Rule to Watershed Assessment Studies

1. Reference:

- a. Planning Bulletin (PB) 2014-01, 14 March 2014, subject: Application and Compliance of SMART Planning and the 3x3x3 Rule;
- b. EC 1105-2-411 (expired 15 January 2012), subject: Watershed Plans;
- c. ER 1105-2-100, Appendix H, 20 November 2007, subject: Planning Guidance Notebook; and
- d. ER-1165-2-502, 31 March 2007, subject: Delegation of Review and Approval Authority for Post-Authorization Decision Documents.

2. Reference 1a requires that all watershed assessment studies apply SMART Planning principles, while recognizing that the unique nature of watershed assessment studies will result in a variety of cost, scope, schedule and complexity among assessments. Reference 1a also requires that before a district can proceed with a watershed assessment study, the Initial Watershed Assessment be submitted to CECW-P with a Watershed Memorandum that consists of the MSC Planning Chief's endorsement of vertical alignment and a schedule including the scope and funding stream for the watershed assessment study. Vertical alignment will be confirmed through the participation of MSC resources as members of the HQUSACE policy review team.

3. Reference 1b prescribes that the review and approval process for Watershed Plans will generally follow the procedures outlined in Appendix H of ER 1105-2-100. The initial watershed assessment and associated Watershed Assessment Management Plan (a PMP) are approved at the MSC. HQUSACE will be involved in scoping watershed assessments similar to that of a feasibility study to include a scoping meeting and a review prior to the release of the draft assessment for public review. The HQUSACE review role will be to ascertain that appropriate considerations have been made and that conclusions are consistent with overall Corps of Engineers policy. The Chief, Planning and Policy Division, HQUSACE, will approve the final document and the appropriate RIT will coordinate the report with the Assistant Secretary of the Army for transmittal to Congress for information in response to the study authority.

4. Reference 1c provides that a HQUSACE policy review team may include subject matter experts from a district, MSC, or Planning Centers of Expertise, subject to need and availability. Further, reference 1d requires that each MSC maintain fully functional planning and engineering

staffs to fulfill the requirements under delegated authority. This includes a GS-15 Planning Community of Practice Leader and additional GS-14 or higher staff positions in plan formulation, economics and environmental (though the grade structure in Pacific Ocean Division may be lower due to the size of its Civil Works program).

5. MSC resources used in the approval of the initial watershed assessment and associated Watershed Assessment Management Plan may continue in a review role as a member of the HQUSACE policy review team. Planners will report directly to HQUSACE plan formulation, economics and environmental team leaders in the Office of Water Project Review. Per Reference 1b, a comprehensive watershed study that identifies potential projects for Corps implementation requires that a separate and more detailed feasibility study be initiated through the new start feasibility process in accordance with the annual budget circular. If the watershed study leads to a separate project-focused feasibility study, the make-up of the HQUSACE policy review team may be re-evaluated.

WESLEY E. COLEMAN, JR  
Chief, Office of Water Project Review  
Directorate of Civil Works

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