

Planning Guidance Letter #97-08

Watershed Management, Restoration, and Development

CECW-PD (3 JUL 97)

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, MAJOR SUBORDINATE AND DISTRICT COMMANDS

SUBJECT: Planning Guidance Letter No. 97-8, Watershed Management, Restoration, and Development

1. Purpose. This letter provides implementing guidance for Section 503 (Watershed Management, Restoration, and Development) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996(WRDA 96).
2. Background. The WRDA 96 authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to provide technical, planning and design assistance to non-Federal interests for carrying out watershed management, restoration and development projects at 13 specific locations.

a. Authorized locations include:

- Gila River and Tributaries, Santa Cruz River, Arizona
- Rio Salado, Salt River, Phoenix and Tempe, Arizona
- Colusa basin, California
- Los Angeles River watershed, California
- Napa Valley watershed, California
- Russian River watershed, California
- Sacramento River watershed, California
- San Pablo Bay watershed, California
- Santa Clara Valley watershed, California
- Nancy Creek, Utoy Creek, and North Peachtree Creek and South Peachtree Creek basin, Georgia
- Lower Platte River watershed, Nebraska
- Juniata River watershed, Pennsylvania, including Raystown Lake
- Upper Potomac River watershed, Grant and Mineral Counties, West Virginia

b. Assistance may be in support of non-Federal projects for the following purposes:

- Management and restoration of water quality
- Control and remediation of toxic sediments

- Restoration of degraded streams, rivers, wetlands, and other water bodies to their natural condition as a means to control flooding, excessive erosion, and sedimentation
- Protection and restoration of watersheds, including urban watersheds
- Demonstration of technologies for nonstructural measures to reduce destructive impacts of flooding

c. The non-Federal share of the cost of assistance provided is 50 percent.

3. Guidance. Traditional reconnaissance or feasibility studies are underway at most of the locations listed in section 503. For those locations, where there are currently no studies underway, you should contact local sponsors to determine if there is an interest in pursuing a study. If sponsor interest is identified and if the potential study appears to be in accordance with current program guidance and budget priorities, the study should be considered for implementation as a traditional reconnaissance study under the normal budget process.

4. Discussion. Detailed guidance concerning the full range of potential watershed studies which may be conducted by the Corps is currently under development and will be provided under separate cover in the near future.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

(Signed) RUSSELL L. FUHRMAN, Major General, USA, Director of Civil Works