

## Civil Works Planning Overview

- Civil Works (CW) Planning offers a structured, rational approach to solving water resources problems and results in sound, credible recommendations by the Chief of Engineers to Congress and within the Administration.
- CW Planning is performed within the purview of several statutes (i.e. Water Resources Planning Act of 1965, Water Resources Development Acts, Flood Control and Rivers and Harbors Acts, National Environmental Policy Act of 1970, National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, etc.); an executive order (Principles and Guidelines for Water and Land Related Resources Implementation Studies); and several implementing policies.
- CW Planning is the start of the “pipeline” for addressing water resources needs. All projects start with planners answering the questions of Federal interest; engineering feasibility; economic justification and environmental acceptability. CW planners help decision-makers identify water resources problems, conceive solutions, and compare the importance of the inevitable conflicting values inherent in any solution and shape recommendations.
- CW Planning is a creative process requiring knowledge of water resources laws and regulations, public involvement methods and processes, engineering, economics and social impacts of water resources projects. CW Planners must respond to complex and interrelated processes of social, economic, cultural, environmental and political change at every scale from the local to the global and be able to integrate these factors in the formulation of solutions to water resources problems and opportunities. Their specialized expertise derives from their ability to relate scientific and technical knowledge to action in the public domain. No one discipline singularly prepares a person to be a planner.
- The fundamental difference between CW and Military Programs is that CW is driven by non-Federal sponsors seeking out projects for authorization and appropriation. For example, the current design and construction program is largely a result of project authorizations.
- Planning comprises all the work associated with the six-step planning process:
  1. Specify Problems and Opportunities
  2. Inventory and Forecast Conditions
  3. Formulate Alternative Plans
  4. Evaluate Effects of Alternative Plans
  5. Compare Alternative Plans
  6. Select Recommended Plan
- CW Planning Functions include plan formulation, economics, environmental and public involvement.