

Sent: Monday, April 26, 2010 8:29 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Water Act Modernization Discussion Paper Feedback

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
() on 2010 04 26, at 08:28:32

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ContactMethod: Email

Principles_Support: Strongly Disagree

Principles_Comments: The first priorities must be to protect water quality, watershed habitat and local and global water cycles. Water is not a commodity, is an essential element of all life.

Goal1_Support: Strongly Disagree

Goal1_Comments: The term "environmental flow" appears to be rather contrived. I imagine it means that water bodies can be redirected at will for whatever purposes. That will have substantial environmental consequences. I can only repeat that water is not a commodity.

EnviroFlow_Comments: That really depends on the what the guidelines or standards say and who is to be bound by them. Governments can rewrite the rules anytime they like, so I imagine we are talking about directions to the public? In that case they must be standards.

DecisionMaker_Comments: There needs to be a priority scale - not all water use is equally important. for instance, any projects that disturb the natural flow of waters, watersheds, or lead to large scale environmental changes (including potential pollution) must be at the bottom of the list. Water is not a commodity. We must think global!

WaterAllocationPlan_Conditions: See above

DumpingProhibition: Amend

DumpingProhibition_Comments: This is a hypothetical question - who is going to remove all the pollutants from the water and how? Who is going to restore stream banks eroded from extreme water flows due to destruction of watersheds? Water dynamics are so complex that it is not possible to isolate single causes to extreme problems.

Goal2_Support: Strongly Disagree

Goal2_Comments: Why should any non-government organizations have any rights with respect to water management decisions? Water is not a commodity. Who are the partners? The question sounds like there is the intent to establish public-private partnerships. That would be a grave mistake. Water cannot be owned, and our job is to steward this global essential element of life.

Goal2_Options: Shared

ScaleForWatershedPlanning: Global, regional

GovernanceFundingSolutions: Public funding and public ownership

Accountability: A common purpose. Goodwill and openness. No hidden agendas. No delegation of responsibilities.

BenefitsOfSharedRoles: Acting for the benefit of all life, as human life depends on healthy global water cycles.

Goal3_Support: Strongly Disagree

Goal3_Comments: Address the underlying causes of threatened stream health - logging, watershed disruption, diversion of water for commercial uses, pollution. This entire goal is based on the assumption that water is a commodity - that is a very serious mistake that will haunt future generations, and probably even our own.

WaterUseEfficiency_Comments: Water is not a commodity. Nothing in here addresses the vital need to prevent water shortages, these seems to be ground rules for how to allocate a dwindling resource. Big mistakes.

AdminEfficiencyOptions_PermittedUse: Permitted use different

AdminEfficiencyOptions_SelfReg: Required self-registration

AdministrativeEfficiency_Comments: The underlying issue is what uses are permitted, and under what circumstances a use would be permissible.

PermittedUseConsiderations: Uses that do not deteriorate water and environmental quality must have priority.

AdminEfficiencyOptions_WaterUse: Detailed Information

AdminEfficiencyWaterUse_Comments: Water quantity and quality is affected by type of vegetation. If dwindling resources are of concern then current logging and reforestation practices (watershed management) must be reconsidered.

Flexibility_Support: Neutral

WaterAllocationSystem_Options: Priority use

WaterScarcityTemporary_Options: Hierarchy of uses

WaterScarcityPermanent_Options: Water Management Planning upon request

WaterScarcityPermanent_Comments: Because water resource management is an integrated approach, affected communities require the collaboration of non-affected communities and non-water related activities. Water is not a local resource.

Goal4_Support: Strongly Support

Thresholds_Comments: Withdrawal must not exceed aquifer replenishment. The resource must not be diminished for future generations.

PriorityAreas_Options: Combine priority areas

FedAndProvLegIntegration: Watershed management must be integrated with forest management as well as housing development. Some of these are under municipal governance. Upstream activity creates downstream affects - the connection needs to be made at the governance level.

AdequatelyEquipFutureGenerations: I see nothing in the proposed solutions that protects water resources for future generations.

WhatHaveWeMissed: Criteria for replenishing, restoring, regenerating water resources. This is all about how to divide a dwindling resource - a missed opportunity.