

# Hicks-Ray Associates



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TO: WESTCAS Membership

FROM: Fred B. Hicks and Tom Ray

SUBJECT: BREAKING NEWS!

The water resources community has been waiting for nearly four years for the other shoe to drop on “Principals and Guidelines/Principals and Requirements.” That happened earlier this afternoon when the Council on Environmental Quality issued “Updated Principals and Guidelines for Federal Investments in Water Resources.”

We have attached these documents for your information. And instead of “March Madness” this weekend, we’ll be spending time trying to understand what they contain. Here are two important excerpts from the CEQ press release:

- “The updated P&G consist of a final set of Principals and Requirements that lays out broad principals to guide water investments as well as draft interagency Guidelines for implementing the Principals and Requirements.”
- “The draft Guidelines, developed with Federal interagency input, will be available for 60 days of public comment and will incorporate feedback from the public and stakeholders before being finalized.”

P&G/R policy will apply to the Departments of Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, USEPA, FEMA, Corps of Engineers, and the Tennessee Valley Authority. So virtually any Federal water agency you deal with as a WESTCAS member is about to get a new set of policies governing funding and permitting of water projects.

One of the attached draft documents, under Chapter 1—Principals for Federal Investments in Water Resources” lists the following “Guiding Principles:” A. Healthy and Resilient Ecosystems; B. Sustainable Economic Development; C. Floodplains; D. Public Safety; E. Environmental Justice; and F. Watershed approach.

It is hard for us to imagine any WESTCAS member who should not be concerned with this issue.

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