

# **Building Strong Collaborative Relationships for a Sustainable Water Future**

***California Water Plan Update 2013  
Public Advisory Committee***

***March 30, 2011***

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Delta Programs Integration  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**



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# What Drives this Initiative?



- Growing concern about reliability of water infrastructure
  - Intractable water conflicts between States
  - Need to synchronize Federal programs
  - Discretionary funding is declining while entitlement programs are growing
  - Need to leverage resources in a budget-constrained era
- 
- Need to better define Federal, State and local roles and responsibilities
  - The need to build “will” to elevate water resources as a national priority
  - Tee up ideas/initiatives for the Administration to consider: Policy, Authorization and Budget



# Building Strong Collaborative Relationships...for a Sustainable Water Resources Future

- Leverage Federal resources to assist States in their water resources planning and management
- Identify and leverage opportunities for collaborative efforts
- Assist States and Federal agencies in moving toward IWRM
- Create dialogue aimed at developing a National Water Vision

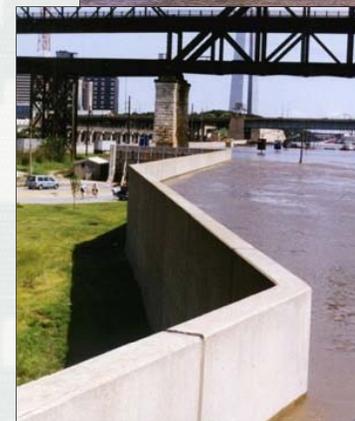


# Our Vision for this Project

***Provide appropriate Federal support to help states and regions tackle America's water problems through collaborative planning, a robust support toolbox and an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) framework***

# Our Strategy: Integrated Water Resources Management

**IWRM** = a holistic focus on water resource challenges and opportunities that reflects **coordinated development and management** of water, land and related resources that maximizes economic services and environmental quality, ensures public safety, and provides for the sustainability of vital ecosystems



# Why Integrated Water Resources Management?

- Corps portfolio is complex and multipurpose
- Many of our assets have multiple functions
- A dam often serves more than one purpose – minimum pool for navigation, storage for flood damage reduction, storage for hydropower releases, pool for recreation, releases for downstream water quality, etc
- Each purpose has different physical and operational requirements



# IWRM Ties It All Together

Inland Marine Transportation System  
Capital Projects Business Model  
Final Report  
Revision 1  
April 13, 2010

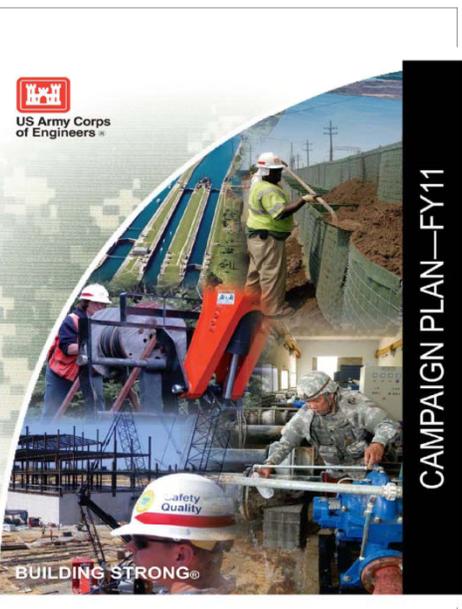


Prepared by:  
IMTS Capital Investment Strategy Team

The views and recommendations contained within this report reflect those of the Inland Marine Transportation System Capital Investment Strategy Team and not necessarily those of the Inland Waterways Users Board, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or the Administration.

Revision 1 includes minor formatting and grammatical changes, and acknowledges the Inland Waterways Users Board approval, addition and subsequent forwarding of the report to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works for consideration by the Administration.

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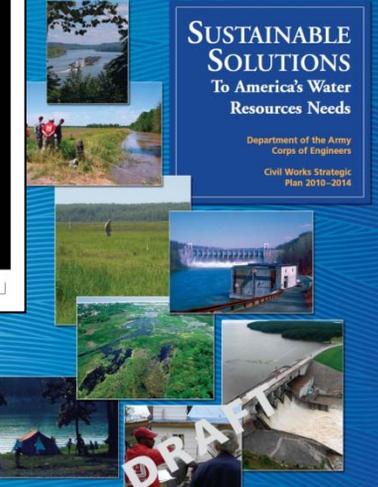


**CAMPAIGN PLAN—FY11**

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SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS  
To America's Water Resources Needs

Department of the Army  
Corps of Engineers  
Civil Works Strategic Plan 2010–2014



DRAFT

US Army Corps of Engineers®

VERSION 4, September 2009

US Army Corps of Engineers®



BUILDING STRONG  
COLLABORATIVE  
RELATIONSHIPS FOR  
A SUSTAINABLE  
WATER RESOURCES  
FUTURE

**National Report:**  
Responding to National  
Water Resources Challenges



# Project Geographical Regions



# Regional Perspective: Western States



- Water rights, often based on Spanish law and history of water use, jealously guarded (“Our first water marshals were Smith & Wesson”)
  - Persistent Tribal water rights issues and needs
- Desire for Federal government to respect States’ role as primary planners, collaborate on water resources planning only at their request



- Well developed State water planning
- Water shortages as result of population and economic growth
  - States offer financial assistance to local water providers
  - Emphasis on conservation, new storage development, enlarging of existing facilities
- Competition among water uses
- Water quality impaired by point, nonpoint source pollution

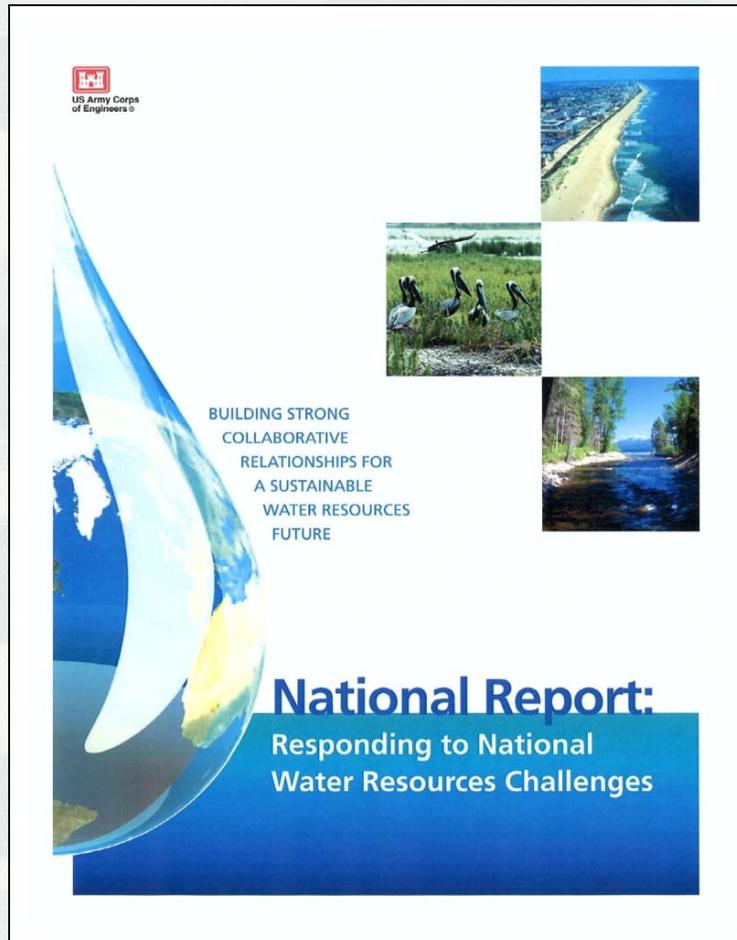


# Regional Water Resources Needs

ACROSS REGIONS		
WESTERN STATES	CENTRAL STATES	EASTERN STATES
Funding	Funding/Resources/ Comprehensive Investments	Funding
Data and Information	Data and Information	Data and Information
Technical assistance	IWRM/Multipurpose Water Management	IWRM/Multipurpose Water Management
IWRM/ Balancing Competing Needs	Infrastructure	Water Supply
Infrastructure	Water Supply/ Water Conservation	Water Quality
Water Supply	Ecosystem Needs	Planning & Policy
Streamflow Gauging	Regulatory/Authorities	Regulatory/Authorities



# *Approach to a More Sustainable Water Future*



- 1) Integrated Water Resources Management
- 2) Governance and Management
- 3) Future National Water Resources Direction
- 4) Collaboration
- 5) Water Resources Investment Strategies
- 6) Managing Extreme Events
- 7) Knowledge & Technology Transfer
- 8) Enhance Water Resources Leadership
- 9) Communications and Education



# Comments from Participants

- *Integrated water resources management is tough. It takes a vision. It takes a comprehensive approach, clear priorities among water users and uses. It takes science-based and adaptive actions and a sound institutional framework. It takes the best and brightest. It may take a change in policies and behavior. We need to start with the “sweet spots.”*

**Dr. Denise Reed, Professor, New Orleans University**

- *We must overcome the ad hoc approach to water policy and work together in interdisciplinary teams toward a national water vision, based on overarching principles and sound science, for better coordination of Federal water resource policies for watershed-scale water resources assessment and planning.*

**Richard Engberg, Technical Director,  
American Water Resources Assn.**



# Comments from Participants

- *We're all in this watershed together. We have to find out how to work together to solidify relationships. Tribes have the chance to lead collaborative efforts to raise awareness of water issues and how they all fit together to better understand the water resources we need.*

**Wes Martel, Chairman,  
the Indian Water Working Group**

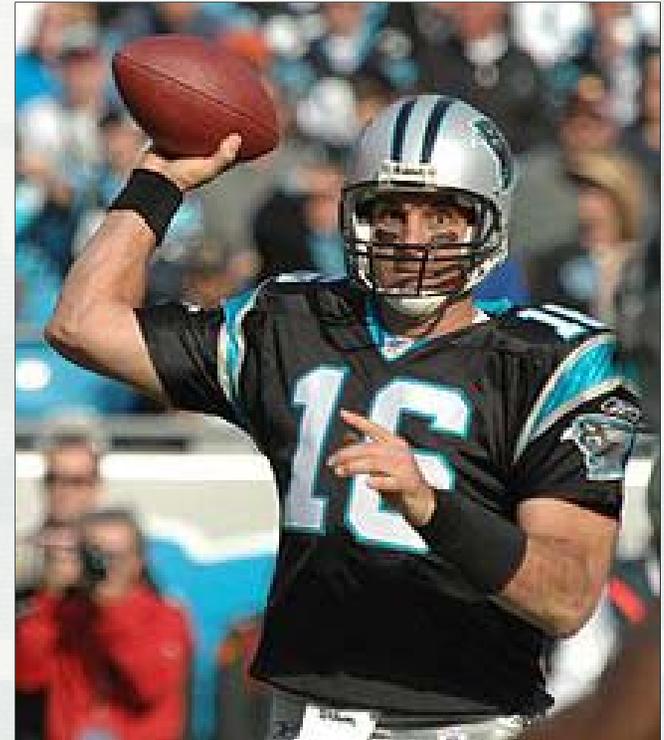
- *You need lots of interlocking arms, sound science, and up-front time to build trust and transparency, and the willingness to be a good listener and to step into another's perspective to make watershed management work.*

**Carol Collier, Executive Director,  
Delaware River Basin Commission**



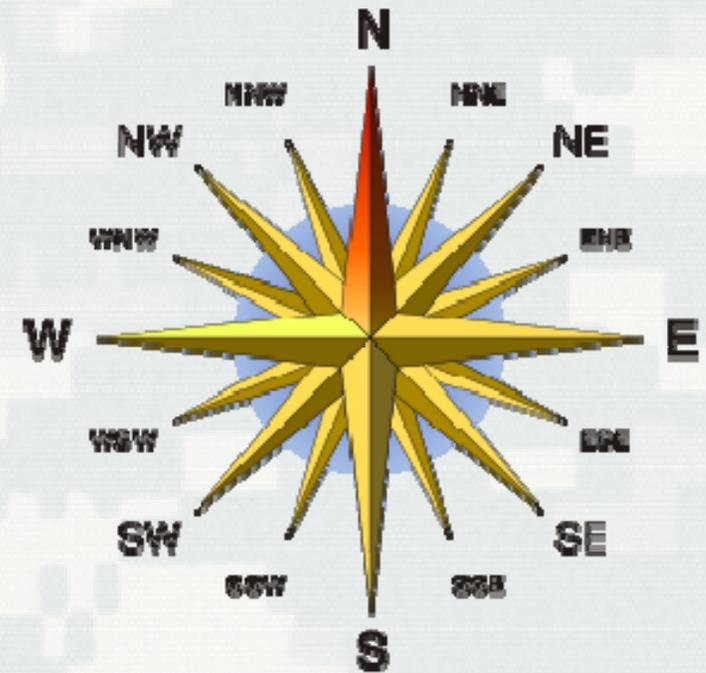
# What Are We Doing to Move IWRM?

- National Report implementation plan
- Influencing National future direction by developing a national water resources vision
- Developing Federal Support Toolbox
- Developing System-based approach and methodology
- Demonstration projects to show benefits of IWRM
- Interagency mechanisms to build collaboration and join effort for efficient results
- Building partnerships nationally and internationally
- Developing tools and processes to support IWRM



# Future National Water Resources Direction

- Foster continued dialogue about a sustainable national water resources future direction and develop supporting strategies to elevate water resources and related water infrastructure as a critical national priority



**Vision**

**Principles**

**Strategies**

**Policies**

**Implementation**



**Actions**



# Federal Support Toolbox

- Leverage existing toolbox of current resources across Federal agencies
- Enhance the Federal family toolbox with regional interstate organizations, NGOs and other Federal agencies
- Develop the Nation’s “will” to offer the States a more robust assistance through collaborative alliances and relationships
- Unify visions for Administration and Congress to make water resources infrastructure a national priority—The toolbox is one solution to improved water management
- MOU between NOAA, USGS and USACE



# IWRM in Action

- Interagency Collaboration
- 9 Ecosystems of National Significance
- Silver Jackets Program
- FEMA/USACE Task Force
- Mississippi River 200-Year Vision
- AWRA June Conference- IWRM focus
- World Water Forum- Best Practices & Solutions



# Next Steps...

- Finalizing the National Report Implementation Plan
- Continue into second phase-implementation:
  - Assemble a small national water team to work on the implementation phase
  - Prioritize actions and determine funding streams (leverage interagency resources)
- Develop guidance for districts and divisions to move out with some of the recommendations/ actions
- *Continue to engage with nationwide partners*

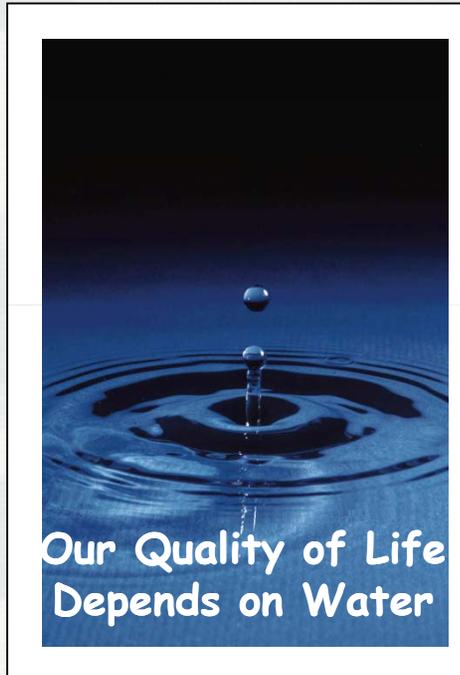


# A Matter of Character

*“In a connected world, countries, governments and companies also have character, and their character — how they do what they do, how they keep promises, how they make decisions, how things really happen inside, how they connect and collaborate, how they engender trust, how they relate to their customers, to the environment and to the communities in which they operate — is now their fate.”*

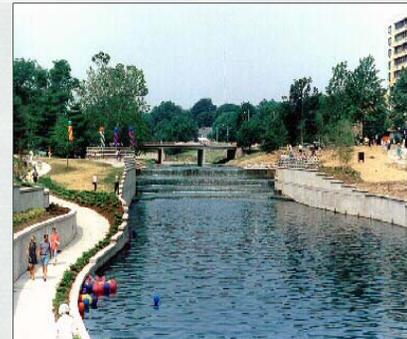
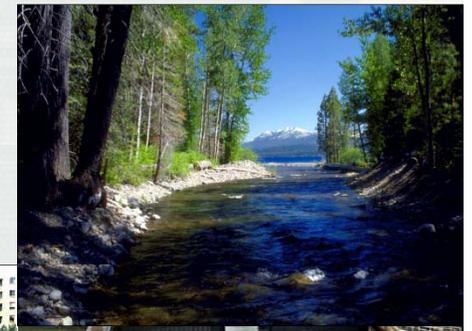
Tom Freidman

# Why Do We Do It?



**Our water infrastructure supports our quality of life. It delivers:**

- prosperity
- safety and protection
- healthy ecosystems
- commerce
- usable water
- energy
- enjoyment
- economy



**Economic Strength = National Security**



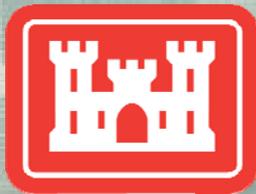
# A Picture of the Future ....

- Stronger partnerships for collaborative problem solving
- A comprehensive strategy to inform and educate
- Smarter regional planning
- Advocacy for critical national water needs
- Joint efforts/resources to achieve common goals
- Life-cycle approach from holistic assessment through O&M
- Risk-based management
- Resilient water infrastructure



**Our Message:**

**Water  
Infrastructure  
Matters**



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# Questions?

[www.building-collaboration-for-water.org](http://www.building-collaboration-for-water.org)

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