DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

13 JUN 2001

CECW-PG

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS

SUBJECT: Implementation of Section 220 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 – Beach Recreation and other Benefits

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance implementing Section 220 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000. Section 220 directs the Secretary of the Army to develop and implement procedures to ensure that all of the benefits of a beach restoration project, including those benefits attributable to recreation, hurricane and storm damage reduction, and environmental protection and restoration, are displayed in reports for such projects. This memorandum satisfies the requirement to develop implementing procedures within one year after the date of the enactment of WRDA 2000.

2. It is the intent of Congress and it is U.S. Army Corps of Engineers policy that all Corps studies consider, and as appropriate evaluate and display, all potential project benefits. Project costs and adverse impacts are to be similarly considered. The Principles and Guidelines, as well as Corps Planning Guidance in ER 1105-2-100, contain necessary guidance on the methods and procedures to be used to estimate project benefits. Therefore, there is no need to develop new procedures.

3. Major Subordinate Commands should work with other agencies, stakeholders, community groups, and with project sponsors, to ensure that all reasonable beneficial outputs are evaluated and displayed in the report supporting the project. In addition, Major Subordinate Commands should be receptive to requests from non-Federal interests to evaluate benefits that the Corps might not normally consider, including those that are regional and local in nature. Including all benefits in the evaluation of a project will help facilitate a greater dialogue on the project, and will assist non-Federal sponsors and other interests in assessing local support and in obtaining the necessary financing for the project.

4. Even though regional or local benefits may be evaluated, Corps recommendations must still be based on the "Federal Objective" as provided for in the Principles and Guidelines as well as Corps Planning Guidance. In addition, early and continued coordination should be maintained with the non-Federal sponsor to identify the appropriate scope, methodology, level of detail, and cost of studies required to address Section 220 of WRDA 2000. This guidance is not intended to direct that all benefits be evaluated no matter what the cost or time required to do so. Care must be taken to only conduct those evaluations that are practicable and likely will result in a meaningful beneficial output considering the commitment of time and funds to conduct the studies. Not all project benefits have to be evaluated at the same level of detail.

5. This guidance is to be fully implemented for all studies for which a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement, or Design Agreement is executed after the date of this memorandum. For all other ongoing studies, Major Subordinate Commands should work with non-Federal interests to implement this guidance to the maximum extent practicable. Study and project reviews should ensure that all reasonable project benefits have been included in the formulation and justification of a beach restoration project.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

JAMES F. JOHNSON
Chief, Planning and Policy Division
Directorate of Civil Works

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