

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 N. Capitol St., N.E.
Washington, DC 20002**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION REVISING COG'S PRINCIPLES FOR REGIONAL WATER QUALITY
POLICIES AND PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) has a long history of supporting policies and programs to achieve water quality goals for the Chesapeake Bay, the Potomac River, and the Anacostia River; and

WHEREAS, local governments and wastewater utilities in the COG region are responsible for implementing policies and programs to restore and protect the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries; and

WHEREAS, in Resolution R25-97, the Board established four policy principles to guide COG's perspective on Chesapeake Bay programs and policies; and

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Bay Program's Executive Council has acknowledged that the goal of the Chesapeake 2000 agreement to meet water quality standards in the Bay and the tidal portions of its tributaries by 2010 will not be achieved, which has triggered the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load for the Chesapeake Bay and associated related regulatory actions to achieve water quality standards; and

WHEREAS, other regional water quality concerns, such as the potential impact of organic chemicals and other compounds on aquatic life, are becoming increasingly important, as are concerns that involve both water and other media, such as climate change; and

WHEREAS, COG's Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee recently reviewed the 1997 principles in light of the many changes in the development of regional water quality policies and programs and identified several areas where revisions are warranted.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:**

The following Bay policy principles replace those adopted in 1997.

1. **Holistic Requirements** – Programs and policies to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, whether regulatory or not, shall reflect a holistic, multi-sector analysis of environmental benefits and costs, as well as technical feasibility, before being established.
2. **Equitable Responsibility** – Programs and policies to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries shall strive for equity and cost-effectiveness in allocating responsibilities among regions, counties and municipalities and among the different sources of pollution.
3. **Sound Science** – Programs and policies to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries shall rely on a sound scientific foundation and shall be revised as needed, reflecting advances in that foundation.
4. **Communication and Voice** - Programs and polices to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, whether regulatory or not, should be developed through a cooperative process among stakeholders including local governments and wastewater utilities. Given their implementation responsibilities, local governments and wastewater utilities shall be engaged at the earliest stages of these development processes.