

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

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO REVISE 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, as well as local streams and rivers, including the Potomac and the Anacostia Rivers; and

WHEREAS, local governments and water 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, as well as local streams and rivers; and

WHEREAS, in Resolution R20-2009, the Board established four policy principles to guide COG's work on Chesapeake Bay programs and policies and local governments, utilities, and other organizations, implementing a suite of projects and programs to address water quality, should have the flexibility to utilize the widest possible range of innovative mechanisms (e.g., public-private partnerships, integrated permitting, water quality trading, cooperative research and purchasing) so as to maximize cost-effectiveness and address multiple environmental benefits; and

WHEREAS, COG's Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee recently reviewed the 2009 principles, and determined that an additional policy principle supporting flexibility and innovation for project implementation is warranted.

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

The following fifth policy principle be added to the existing four principles:

- I. 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.
- II. 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.
- III. 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.
- IV. Communication and Voice – Programs and policies 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.
- V. **Implementation Flexibility and Innovation – Programs and policies to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, whether regulatory or not, should be structured so that local governments, wastewater utilities, and other organizations have the flexibility to use a wide range of technologies, practices and innovative implementation approaches to meet environmental objectives.**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing resolution was adopted by the COG Board of Directors on September 14, 2016.

Laura Ambrosio
COG Communications Specialist