

About one-quarter operate under formal interagency agreements for sharing review responsibilities for plans or projects, and slightly more than one-quarter have legislatively established working relationships. Less than one-fifth have working relationships established by formal Presidential policy. There is no evidence of any general urban development policy for coordinating all Federal programs in the field.

Congressional action should state a basic urban development objective and make it the unifying principle applicable to all Federal programs affecting urban development. The statement should incorporate desirable objectives of individual programs that have stood the test of time, political consensus, and administrative workability. In addition, individual programs should state the positive objective of helping to fulfill the locally prepared and adopted development plans for urban areas.

Federal measures to unify policy and administration of programs can be illustrated in the field of water resource development, where administrative responsibility is distributed among a number of departments and agencies. Congress has taken action in the Flood Control Act, the River and Harbor Act, and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, among others, to direct that interagency coordination take place before the approval of projects.

The interagency water resource policy appears in many respects to set a useful precedent for a unified urban development policy. It establishes planning objectives in terms of physical and economic development, natural resource preservation, and the well-being of people. It establishes planning policies and procedures under the headings of (a) National, regional, State, and local viewpoints, (b) multiple-purpose planning, (c) river basin planning, (d) individual project planning, (e) coordination within the Federal Government and with non-Federal interests, and (f) relation to existing law and Executive orders. It establishes functional standards for water resource planning. Finally, it requires that plans and project proposals comply with the objectives, policies, and standards thus established. More recently, culminating nearly 30 years of interagency efforts, an interagency coordination, policy affecting water and related land resources was promulgated.¹⁷ It is a combination of a formal interagency agreement, a presidentially approved interagency coordination policy, and a legislatively established policy which provides not only unified policy guidelines for all water projects but also specific interagency review procedures.

The Bureau of the Budget, on behalf of the President, reviews water resources programs and projects for compliance.

SHARING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR WATER SUPPLY AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The above recommendations are directed at general improvements in the ability of governments to handle urban problems. The resources of the federal system need to be marshaled in slightly different ways to cope with particular service problems rather than general structural

¹⁷ U.S. President's Water Resources Council, "Policies, Standards, and Procedures in the Formulation, Evaluation, and Review of Plans for Use and Development of Water and Related Land Resources," S. Doc. 97, 87th Cong., 2d sess. (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1962).