

goals. The closely related urban functions of water supply and sewage disposal, described in chapter 4, have many intergovernmental ramifications. As a result, they serve as a useful illustration of the specific measures that can be taken to deal with problems of urban services.

1. INCREASED LOCAL INVESTMENTS FOR SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES

The Commission recommends that public officials in urban areas make greater efforts to increase public investments in urban water facilities, particularly for sewage treatment.

Sewage treatment and water quality are more pressing problems than water supply and distribution. The failure of a community or industry to treat wastes usually burdens others, while an inadequate water supply directly affects the welfare of the community or industry itself.

In most instances the failure to invest in water and sewer utilities, particularly sewage treatment facilities, is not the result of such factors as legal restrictions on the community's ability to float bonds or increase taxes. Instead it is a product of the unwillingness of the localities to spend money. This unwillingness is a product of apathy, dislike of new taxes, and competing demands on the public and private dollar.

2. CENTRAL CITIES' RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPREHENSIVE AREA-WIDE UTILITY PLANNING

Where central cities, counties, and other jurisdictions provide water or sewer service to other units of government on a contract basis, they should assume the responsibility for comprehensive area-wide facility planning. In addition, these jurisdictions should encourage the most economical development of service lines to the contracting areas. Supplier-buyer relationships between municipality and suburb might be eased through provision for suburban representation on water and sewer policy agencies.

Only occasionally does the central city value regional considerations over its own economic interests. Fear of aggravating the Lake Erie pollution caused by inadequate sewage treatment in the suburbs led Cleveland to ban extending water services to suburban developments not also served by sewage disposal systems. A few central cities, such as Nashville and Seattle, which provide water for nearly the entire metropolitan area, have engaged in long-range planning on a metropolitan basis and have avoided many of the shortcomings found in other areas where contracting is prevalent.

3. COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING FOR INTEGRATING WATER AND SEWER SERVICE PLANS WITH OTHER METROPOLITAN FUNCTIONS AND CO-ORDINATED POLICYMAKING BY ELECTED OFFICIALS IN MEETING AREA WATER AND SEWER NEEDS

Comprehensive water utility planning, based on the metropolitan area as well as on watersheds and drainage basins, should be undertaken in each metropolitan area. This planning should integrate the provision of water and sewer services with other metropolitan functions, insure economies of scale, and promote sound overall patterns