

Department of Agriculture: Soil Conservation Service

Pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944, as amended and supplemented, and the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law 566—83d Cong.), as amended, the Department of Agriculture cooperates with the States and their political subdivisions in a program to prevent erosion, floodwater, and sediment damages in the watersheds of rivers and streams and to further the conservation, development, utilization and disposal of water. Although watershed protection and flood prevention are basic objectives in watershed projects, other purposes, essential to meeting the watershed community needs, are included in the work plan whenever they can be justified and the local sponsors decide they should be included. These other purposes are improved agricultural drainage, irrigation, public recreational or fish and wildlife developments, water quality control, and municipal or industrial water supply.

The work under the Flood Control Act is carried out in 11 authorized watersheds embracing some 31 million acres in 12 States, whereas authority under Public Law 566 is nationwide. The Soil Conservation Service has general responsibility for administering these programs, except for loans and the repayment of advances. Administration of these provisions is the responsibility of the Farmers Home Administration.

Specific authority to include provisions for municipal or industrial water supply in watershed projects is contained in Public Law 1018, 84th Congress. Included in that legislation also were provisions authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to make loans or advancements to local organizations to finance the local share of costs of carrying out works of improvement included in watershed projects.

Public Law 87-703, September 27, 1962, amending the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to advance funds to local organizations for developing water supply for future use in watershed projects. This authority is the same as the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Interior has under the Water Supply Act of 1958 (Public Law 85-500).

A. NATURE AND COMPOSITION OF PUBLIC WORK OR FACILITY**1. DESCRIPTION OF FACILITIES**

(a) Works of improvement in small watershed projects include multiple-purpose reservoirs for flood prevention, municipal or industrial water supply, irrigation, and fish and wildlife or recreational use. Additional features that may be included as project measures for municipal or industrial water supply are limited to intake and outlet works which are an integral part of the reservoir structure and raw water supply lines leading to a treatment plant. Water treatment plants and distribution systems are not eligible for assistance.

(b) Water supply is provided for rural and urban communities for residential, commercial, and industrial use.

(c) Water supply needs for municipal or industrial use are determined by the sponsoring organization's staff or private consultant and are based on an evaluation of present and foreseeable needs, adequacy of yield from the watershed drainage area, water quality, and cost comparisons with alternative sources.