

## **Guiding Principles - 1<sup>st</sup> Draft – Nov 15, 2004**

*In selecting the water quality protection measures contained in the Plan, and in making decisions about who should shoulder the burden of implementing these measures, we will adhere to the following GUIDING PRINCIPLES:*

- 1. The economy and environment of this unique part of Texas depend upon the preservation, conservation and management of dependable supplies of clean water. We all recognize the unacceptable consequences that would result if we take no action to protect our water. [\[See Note 1.\]](#)*
- 2. Both private individuals and the Public have a responsibility to respect the legitimate interests of others and to do no harm in their activities.*
- 3. Those who benefit from an activity must bear the responsibility for the costs and impacts of that activity.*
- 4. We will favor measures which, all else being equal, minimize the risk of failure or of damage to the watershed.*
- 5. The water quality protection measures we recommend will strive to balance Government regulations with appropriate economic incentives.*
- 6. The regulatory measures we recommend must ~~incorporate a system of administration and enforcement that~~ provides as much certainty as possible, while discouraging exemptions and exceptions. [\[See Note 2.\]](#)*
- 7. We will make all our decisions being mindful of the economic impact of the measures recommended and strive to achieve a fair and reasonable balance among the various interests.*
- 8. We will not permit any party or group in this process to have undue or unfair control over the outcome.*

### **Notes:**

- 1. [By E. D.]: The discussion about the importance of clean water and the unacceptable consequences of doing nothing is VERY important and should be given prominence in the Plan. However, it is not true that “all recognize the unacceptable consequences of doing nothing”; The E. D. has had a number of conversations with individual stakeholders who expressed their doubt about risks to the watershed and the need for the Plan. The E. D. proposes that we incorporate this statement into a more complete discussion of why the Plan is needed and what will happen if we do nothing. This should**

go up front in the Plan and has the objective to persuade the doubtful reader of the true need to do something.

2. **[By E. D.]:** There was a concern by the Dev. Gp. that the proposed wording seemed to assume that an additional authority would be created, rather than letting the process determine whether or not one was needed. To address this concern, the E. D. proposes amending the wording as shown.