

Part 603 – Watershed Project Plan Modifications

Subpart A – Preparation of Revised and Supplemental Plans

603.0 Introduction

This section of the handbook contains examples for exchanges of correspondence, supplemental watershed agreements, and revised watershed agreements. Additional guidance is provided on engineering criteria and environmental concerns.

603.1 Revised Watershed Project Plan

- A. A revised plan should have the same format and content as that of a new plan (see Title 390, National Watershed Program Manual (NWPM), Part 501, and Title 390, National Watershed Program Handbook (NWPH), Part 601).
- B. Section 503.1 of 390-NWPM describes methods of modifying watershed project plans. A revised watershed agreement is used to document the new responsibilities when a watershed plan has been completely revised. For an example, see “Revised Watershed Agreement” in 390-NWPH, Part 606, Subpart D, Section 606.52.

603.2 Supplemental Watershed Project Plan

- A. A supplemental plan should begin with a section entitled “Changes Requiring Preparation of a Supplement” (390-NWPM, Part 503, Subpart A, Section 503.2). This should be followed by those sections from the original plan that are appropriate to document the changes proposed. The amount of detail given should be in keeping with the complexity of the proposed changes.
- B. A change in major features may include significantly changing the number, location, extent, or capacity of project measures; substituting one type of structural measure for another; or substituting nonstructural measures for structural measures.
- C. If revised tables (390-NWPM, Part 506, Subpart B, Sections 506.10 through 506.21) are needed to document the changes, current cost estimates for works of improvement remaining to be installed should be used. As-built costs should be used for measures already installed and contract costs for those measures under construction. In most cases, remaining works should be evaluated as a separate increment. If an evaluation unit includes both completed and remaining work, then the as-built values should be indexed to current dollar values.
- D. Any comparison of benefits and costs must have a consistent dollar value for benefits and costs to be valid. This adjustment may involve other changes that have developed since the approved plan was prepared.
- E. Use current engineering criteria for—
 - (1) Any new structural measures.
 - (2) Measures that, if installed according to original criteria, would endanger the new or modified measures.
 - (3) Measures where the hazard classification has changed since originally planned (see Title 210, National Engineering Manual (NEM), Part 510, Subpart A, Section 510.04).

F. NEPA Considerations.—Additional information regarding NEPA compliance can be found in National Environmental Compliance Handbook.

G. NHPA Considerations.—Additional information regarding compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) is found in the NRCS National Cultural Resources Procedures Handbook.

H. A supplemental watershed agreement should be used to document an agreement to supplement an existing watershed plan when only a portion of the plan is modified. See example “Supplemental Watershed Agreement” in 390-NWPH, Part 606, Subpart D, Section 606.51.

603.3 Exchange of Correspondence

One method is by exchange of correspondence. An example of an “Exchange of Correspondence” is shown in 390-NWPH, Part 606, Subpart D, Section 606.50, of this handbook.

603.4 Project Agreement

There is no further guidance in the handbook corresponding to this section in the manual.