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Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C. 20013

August 24, 2006

NATIONAL WATERSHED MANUAL, SECOND EDITION

390-V

Circular No. 9, (Part 500)

SUBJECT: PDM – Watershed Operations

Purpose. Transmit changes in policy on an interim basis until the December 1992 version of the National Watershed Manual is revised.

Effective Date. This Circular is effective upon receipt.

Background. Subpart 500.11 (b) of the National Watershed Manual provides policy for 75 percent cost-sharing of non-structural flood protection measures based on P.L. 99-662. The Office of General Council provided concurrence to provide cost-sharing for all flood protection measures at 100 percent as required by P.L. 83-566.

Policy. Watershed Program funds shall provide 100 percent of construction and engineering costs for works of improvement for flood protection measures. No cost-sharing is available to acquire land, easements or rights of way needed in connection with works of improvement for this purpose, except for acquisition of wetland or floodplain conservation easements and, in some cases, for acquisition as a nonstructural measure.

Watershed Program assistance involving non-structural flood protection in flood plains may be used to move or reposition residential, commercial, industrial, and farm buildings to flood-free areas or to flood proof or otherwise protect such buildings from flood damage, when determined to be the most economically, socially, and environmentally acceptable means of reducing or preventing flood damages. Actual movement or repositioning and related costs eligible for assistance shall include replacement of comparable facilities or features, such as basements, driveways, heating systems, and decks. The cost of additional improvements beyond the decent, safe, and sanitary requirements is a non-project cost ineligible for program assistance.

Watershed Program assistance may include funds necessary to acquire and demolish residential, commercial, industrial, farm buildings and similar installations including other associated costs of site restoration where it is more cost-effective than moving, repositioning or flood proofing the facilities and features. Watershed Program assistance will be based upon the appraised market value of the facilities and associated acquisition and site restoration costs.

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Please note that Watershed Program funds may be used for cost-sharing wetland and floodplain conservation easements in an amount not less than 50 percent of the cost of acquiring the conservation easements. Real property acquired for nonstructural flood damage reduction using Watershed Program cost-sharing will be acquired by the Sponsoring Local Organization in fee title or as a perpetual easement with deed restrictions to be compatible with the purposes for which the land was acquired.

Contact. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the National Watershed Program Manager, at 202-720-3413.

/s/ Ronald C. Williams for

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