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## Definitions for Decision-Making Terms used in Strategic Planning

1. Engagement Protocols –
  - a. Defines how stakeholders will work together, rules for engagement, and what consensus means.
2. Guiding Principles –
  - a. Represent a set of core values that stakeholders use to guide the development of the plan, usually 3-5 statements that convey the following:
    - i. Why is the plan being done? What are the constraints to work within? What does success look like?
3. Objectives –
  - a. Represent specific, measurable goals for the plan that are usually aligned to each guiding principle. There may be more than one objective for each guiding principle.
4. Criteria or Metrics –
  - a. The specific measurements of success in meeting the objectives.
5. Alternatives/Strategies –
  - a. The proposed actions or combinations of actions that will be evaluated against criteria/metrics.
6. Portfolios –
  - a. The groupings of alternatives that are considered for the final plan.

**Engagement Protocols:** Listed below are our agreed upon engagement protocols for the steering committee. These define how we will work together over the course of this project.

- We agree that there will be one voice for each organization.
- We will actively listen to others and take turns while speaking.
- We will represent our organizations, as well as those with similar challenges, and the region.
- Regulators will join us to provide feasibility insights, lessons from other regions, guardrails, and their own education about the needs in the region.
- We will seek to arrive at a point where we can advocate for the plan.
- As a group, we will make recommendations, not necessarily decisions.
- We will be patient with the pace of this project.
- Debate and disagreement are part of this process, but they must be constructive, forward looking, and respectful.
- For resolving conflict:

- We will recommend what we agree on, based on regional progress toward objectives.
- We will forge “pathways” for next steps on issues not resolvable within this timeframe.
- We will document opinions on all sides of unresolved issues in the plan.

**Guiding Principles:** Listed below are the draft guiding principles for this project which were based on the discussion at the Steering Committee Meeting February 28, 2024. These represent a set of core values used to guide the development of the plan.

1. Recommend sustainable water supply strategies that balance social, environmental, and economic needs for the region.
2. Align with values of good stewardship and wise use of water.
3. Reflect the limits of our natural resources and current/anticipated regulations.
4. Incorporate uncertainties so implementation of recommendations can adapt over time.
5. Strive for equity and social justice within and among the communities.
6. Produce a list of “early-win” projects that can be aligned with available outside funding.

**Objectives, Alternatives and Strategies, and Portfolios will be developed by the Steering Committee and CDM Smith throughout the course of this project, using the guiding principles to accomplish the vision statement.**