



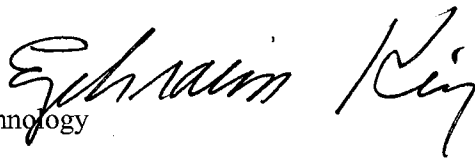
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON D.C., 20460

MAY 30 2006

OFFICE OF WATER

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: **Framework for Developing Suspended and Bedded Sediment (SABS) Water Quality Criteria**

FROM: Ephraim S. King, Director
Office of Science and Technology 

TO: Water Management Division Directors
Regions 1 - 10

I am pleased to send you the enclosed document, *Framework for Developing Suspended and Bedded Sediment (SABS) Water Quality Criteria* (EPA-822-R-06-001). The Office of Water (OW) and the Office of Research and Development (ORD) jointly developed the *Framework*. States, tribes, and territories can use the *Framework* for supporting water quality standards and protecting designated uses from adverse SABS impacts. Imbalanced sediment supply is a major cause of waterbody impairment. The *Framework* and resulting SABS criteria provide a critical foundation for addressing sediment imbalances in the Nation's surface waters.

Please share this document with your state and tribes and encourage them to apply these approaches where they can. A workgroup of federal, regional, state, university, and other expert representatives developed the *Framework*. It presents a basic stepwise process for analyzing available data, setting reasonable SABS goals, assessing current conditions, and documenting progress toward meeting these goals.

OW and ORD plan to conduct a SABS workshop this fall. We hope it will support your efforts and stimulate the interest of states, tribes, and territories in using the tools and approaches described. We look forward to feedback and experiences from you and your states and tribes. To ensure that the criteria development process works well, we will revise the document accordingly and issue another edition if your feedback suggests it would be helpful.

We look forward to working with you in this important area. If you have any questions or need further information on the document, please call me at 202-566-0430 or send me an e-mail at king.ephraim@epa.gov. You can also contact Bob Cantilli at 202-566-1091 (e-mail cantilli.robert@epa.gov) or Bob Spehar in ORD at 218-529-5123 (e-mail spehar.robert@epa.gov).

