

## Quality of Water Supply Sources

The American Water Works Association strongly supports securing drinking water from the highest-quality sources available and protecting those sources to the maximum degree possible. AWWA is committed to protecting public health through scientific research education, and effective utility management. Accordingly, in matters regarding the quality of water supply sources, the policy of AWWA is as follows:

1. The quality of existing and all potential sources of drinking water supply shall be actively and aggressively protected, enhanced, and maintained.
2. Protection and enhancement measures include, but are not limited to, land purchase; conservation easements; land use zoning and best management practices; multiple or new source water withdrawal audits; mixing; aeration; algae control; security measures and patrols; identification, investigation and cooperative resolution of pollution issues; participation in point and non-point pollution regulatory development permits and source assessments; public education; and early warning and long-term baseline monitoring.
3. When more than one alternative source of water is available for public drinking water supply, water should be taken from the highest-quality source.
4. When public drinking water supply is among competing uses for a single water source, the public water supply use is of the highest priority.
5. When decisions regarding resource use and resource development include alternatives that would adversely affect the quality of drinking water supply sources, preference should be given to the alternatives that maintain, protect, or enhance the quality of the affected sources.
6. Factors to be considered in making a decision between alternative sources include quality of the sources; exposure of the sources to contamination; political (e.g., if source crosses multiple borders), social, and environmental impact of the alternatives.
7. Where possible, source water protection should be accomplished through stakeholder involvement leading to the establishment of effective and comprehensive management programs backed by law.
8. AWWA works in close cooperation with appropriate government authorities in the development of standards and regulations aimed at ensuring the highest quality and maximum protection of those sources.