

**DRAFT**  
**WEPSI GROUND RULES FOR COMMUNICATION**

WEPSI is intended to be an open dialogue with participants working cooperatively to find agreement on some difficult and contentious issues. Open communications are essential and members should feel free to express their views and explore new ideas and options without concern that they will be misrepresented or quoted publicly.

It is understood that e-mails and other documents received by public agency participants are, by law, accessible by the public and must be made available if requested. With that limitation, the participants of WEPSI are asked to recognize the following communication ground rules:

- It is critical that all participants address each member's views with respect and work to build common ground when divergent views are expressed.
- Participants must take care not to misrepresent or mischaracterize other's viewpoints, or agreements that are reached.
- Participants should not misrepresent as final, issues that are still under discussion.
- Participants should not quote what others say in meetings or write in internal project communications, or state the positions of others to members of the press or others who may publish or disseminate them.
- It is understood that political advocacy on issues under consideration may continue by members of the dialogue, but WEPSI participants will not use the WEPSI dialogue in that advocacy without the agreement of the stakeholders involved.
- WEPSI documents that include statements of agreement reached, in contrast to working or options documents, shall be approved by the Organizing Committee – or when the result of subgroup activities, by the subgroup – before posting on the website or releasing to the public.