

**Economic Protection
or
Environmental
Protection?**

Why have a Workshop about the Economics of Environmental Enforcement?



What does Economics have to do with Enforcement?

Who is this group?

- A city council member or mayor
- A county supervisor
- A person associated with water supply, conservation, and production
- A person associated with irrigated agriculture
- A person associated with industrial water use
- A person from a responsible NGO associated with recreation, fish, or wildlife
- Two people with special competence in areas related to water quality problems
- A person without any specific required experience

Who is this group?

- An attorney qualified in water supply and water rights law
- A civil engineer qualified in water supply and water rights
- An engineer experienced in sanitary engineering and water quality
- A person qualified in water quality

(One of the above must also be qualified in water supply and water quality relating to irrigated agriculture)

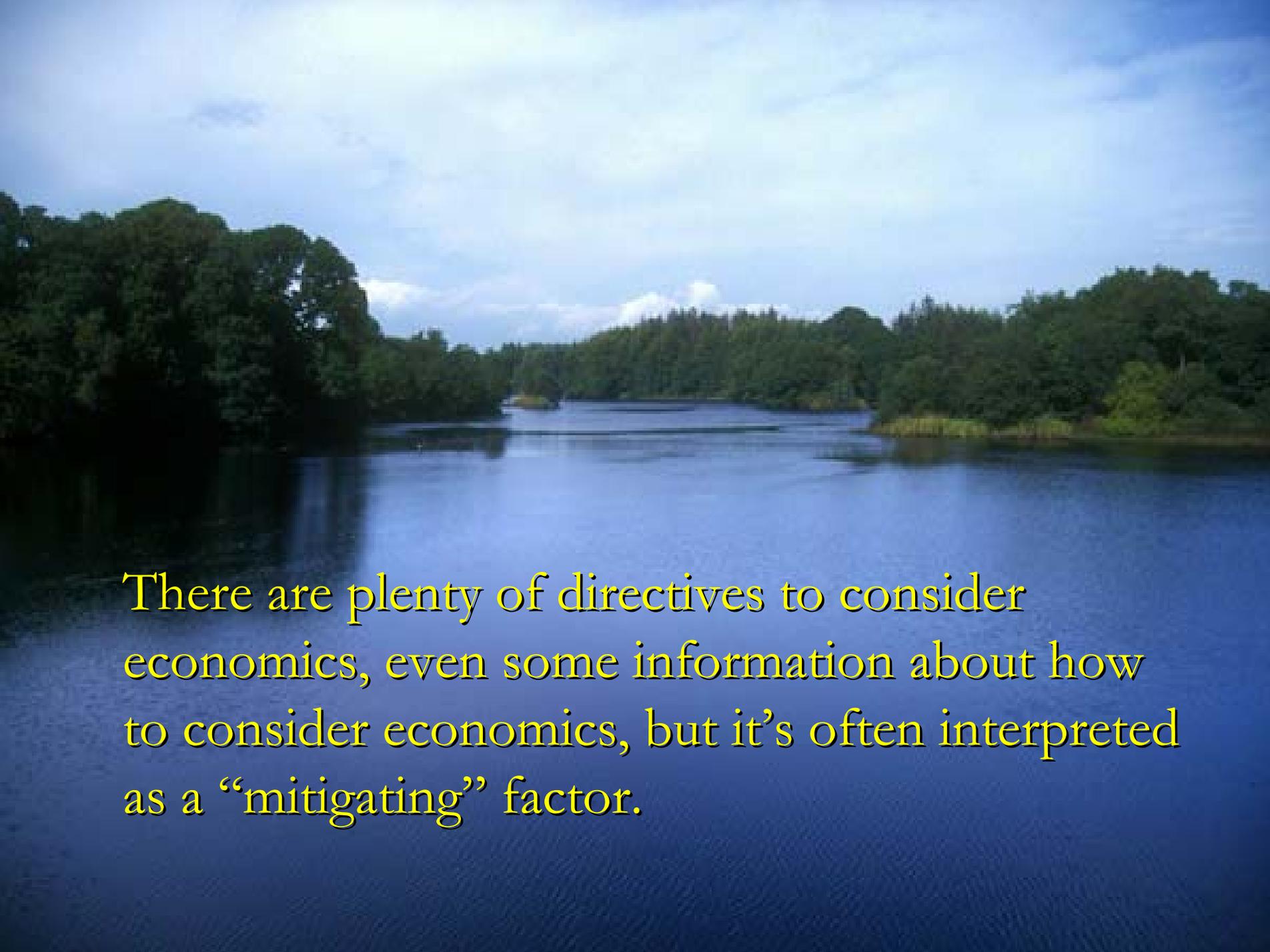
- A person without any specific required experience

What's missing from those groups?

What about our Regulations?

- Federal Requirements to assess the costs, benefits, and economic impacts of regulation
- State requirements to assess the economic costs and feasibility of regulation
- Penalty considerations of small communities with financial hardship
- Penalty considerations of ability to pay, ability to continue in business, recovery of economic benefit



A scenic view of a wide river flowing through a dense forest under a cloudy sky. The river is the central focus, reflecting the light from the sky. The banks are lined with lush green trees and vegetation. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, suggesting a bright but slightly overcast day. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

There are plenty of directives to consider economics, even some information about how to consider economics, but it's often interpreted as a “mitigating” factor.

So why do we view this as a
choice between Economic
Protection

and

Environmental
Protection?



Who's interest does it serve to
allow these to be separate,
competing issues?





Should a business be allowed to pollute if they're located in a place where they cannot economically meet environmental requirements?

Who actually pays the cost of environmental degradation?

How can we integrate economic considerations, so that when we look at a permit or an enforcement action we don't fall into the trap of competing interests, but instead see the who picture and the whole cost?