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11.007 Day 24 Notes: **Consensus-Based Decision Making**

## **COLLABORATION**

What is collaboration, or consensus building—how would you define the *process*?

What is consensus—that is, what’s the *result* of a consensus-building process?

According to the authors you read for today, what are the key ingredients of a consensus-building process?

What are the benefits of consensus building, according to its proponents? Why is it, in theory, a better way of resolving public disputes?

Cary Coglianese asks whether consensus, in and of itself, is a good thing. What are the potential hazards of basing decisions on consensus?

Why, according to Coglianese, is consensus unnecessary?

Why might consensus building be undesirable?

## **CASE: THE SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY PROJECT**

This was a collaborative process that took place in northern California, in the “highly conflictual area of California water politics.” What happened in this case?

What were some of the benefits the consensus-building process yielded in this case?

In what respects were the outcomes of this case consistent with the fears of critics?