

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3349



Introduced by **Honorable PEDRO M. PANCHO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The present shortage of water for irrigation in the provinces of Bulacan and Pampanga may result to an extensive damage to our agricultural crops if no remedial measure is taken as soon as possible.

To augment what little amount of water is available for the farmers' needs, we propose that a Watergate be constructed at the mouth of the river to prevent the salt water from joining or mixing with the fresh water of the Guiguinto, Balagtas and Sta. Maria rivers in Bulacan. Blocking of the salt water will mean that the fresh water can be used for irrigation than being wasted by flowing back to the sea. Thousands of hectares of rice fields will be benefited in soil cultivation. Instead of building mini dams or using water pumps which do not give the assurance that water will be siphoned off to irrigate thousands of hectares of farmland. The method of preserving the big volume of river water will be a substantial relief during the dry season due to the large amount of stored water in the long rivers and along the rice lands plus the

little supply from the National Irrigation Administration to irrigate the 26,000 hectares of farmland in Bulacan and Pampanga.

For controlling the fresh water that flows to the sea, it can also be used for commercial purposes like planting vegetables, construct fishponds or for conducting studies for an effective proportion of mixture which can be profitable to the crop production. The little amount of salt water can kill soil bacteria or can be turn into a chemical and fertilizer.

In salted seawater, tons of big fishes can be harvested as compared to the fresh water. This method has never been given much attention by our laboratories unlike in Arab countries where salt water is used for food production, men cannot eat unsalted food as well as they can eat food with well balanced salinity.

To remedy the insufficient amount of water for agricultural use, approval of this attached bill is requested.


PEDRO M. PANCHO
Congressman
2nd District of Bulacan

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"AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CONSTRUCTION OF WATERGATES AT THE MOUTH OF THE BALAGTAS, STA. MARIA AND GUIGUINTO RIVERS IN BULACAN TO PREVENT THE SALT WATER FROM JOINING OR MIXING WITH THE FRESH WATER IN THE PROVINCE OF BULACAN."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. The construction of Watergates at the mouth of the Balagtas, Sta. Maria and Guiguinto Rivers to prevent the joining or mixing of the salt water from with the fresh water of the rivers in Bulacan is hereby authorized.

SEC. 2. The Department of Public Works and Highways, National Irrigation Administration and Department of Agriculture shall conduct the proper studies for the appropriate implementation of this act.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED,