

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5831



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Introduced by **Representative AGATHA PAULA "AGAY" A. CRUZ**

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is a paradox that the Philippines has more than 30 water-related agencies, yet the water sector remains a governance orphan. Overlapping agency mandates and functions produced inconsistent standards and spending inefficiencies. A 2024 World Bank assessment found that fragmentation of policymaking has prevented coordinated planning, allocation, and management of water resources.<sup>1</sup>

The proposed Department of Water Resources (DWR) Act responds to this institutional problem with structural clarity and regulatory coherence.

First, it creates the DWR as the central policy, planning, and coordinating authority for the comprehensive and integrated development, allocation, protection, and climate-resilient management of water resources across basins and jurisdictions.

Second, it establishes an independent Water Regulatory Commission (WRC) to promulgate and set just and reasonable tariffs; license, benchmark, and audit service providers; enforce service-quality and performance standards; and protect consumers through due process and transparency.

Third, it consolidates financing under a Water Trust Fund to prioritize missionary areas, climate-resilient infrastructure, wastewater and septage management, and watershed rehabilitation, with audit safeguards and multi-stakeholder oversight.

The measure also codifies the following principles: (1) water is a basic human right and a vital public resource; (2) all waters belong to the State and must be allocated equitably and efficiently; (3) responsible private participation must be encouraged without tolerating monopolies or anti-competitive behavior; and (4) water and water-related infrastructure are projects imbued with national interest, which must be streamlined, accountable, climate-smart execution.

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<sup>1</sup> The World Bank, *Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Project*, THE WORLD BANK, 2024, available at <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099052624232518179/pdf/P5042571bacf5e001a57316e17763b6f71.pdf>

By marrying policymaking with science, planning with budgeting, and regulation with consumer protection, this bill steers the country back on-track for the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals 6 and climate-resilient development.<sup>2</sup>

This much-needed reform recognizes the constitutional duty of the State as steward of our waters. Stewardship demands coherence, competence, and courage. As climate volatility intensifies droughts and floods, we can no longer maintain the status quo of a fragmented water policy.

For equity, safety, and growth, the immediate passage of the “Department of Water Resources Act” is earnestly sought.



**AGATHA PAULA “AGAY” AGUILAR CRUZ**  
*Representative, Fifth Legislative District of Bulacan*

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<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR WATER RESOURCE**  
**MANAGEMENT AND CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**  
**AND THE WATER REGULATORY COMMISSION, DEFINING THEIR**  
**MANDATES, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS**  
**THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**CHAPTER I**  
**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1  
2  
3  
4       **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Department of Water  
5 Resources (DWR) Act.”  
6

7       **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State that  
8 water is a basic human right and a vital public resource essential to life, health, and  
9 development. All waters belong to the State, which shall ensure their sustainable  
10 development, equitable allocation, effective protection, and utilization for the benefit of  
11 present and future generations.  
12

13       Towards these ends, the State shall:

- 14       (a) Guarantee universal access to safe, affordable, adequate, and sustainable water  
15       supply, sanitation, and septage management services for all communities;  
16       (b) Ensure the protection, conservation, and restoration of water bodies,  
17       watersheds, and related ecosystems through sound environmental governance  
18       and integrated management;  
19       (c) Pursue climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and multi-hazard  
20       resilience in water policy, planning, and infrastructure development;  
21       (d) Encourage responsible private sector participation in water resource  
22       development and service delivery, while safeguarding public interest and

1 ensuring competition in accordance with the principles of equity, transparency,  
2 and accountability;

- 3 (e) Strengthen institutional coordination among national agencies, local  
4 government units, and stakeholders to ensure coherence in policy, regulation,  
5 and investment;  
6 (f) Uphold the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to equitable  
7 access and participation in water governance, consistent with Republic Act No.  
8 8371 or the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997; and  
9 (g) Declare all water and water-related infrastructure projects as imbued with  
10 national interest, prioritizing those that promote inclusive growth, public  
11 health, and climate resilience.

12  
13 **Section 3. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act:  
14

- 15 (a) *Bulk water supplier* refers to any entity, natural or juridical, whether public or  
16 private, supplying or intending to supply large quantities of raw or treated  
17 water to buyers for their own consumption, such as industrial companies, or  
18 for retail distribution to consumers such as water service providers or real  
19 estate developers managing their own distribution network.  
20  
21 (b) *Environmental services* refer to qualitative functions of natural non-produced  
22 assets of land, water, and air, including related ecosystems, and their biota,  
23 and which may be categorized into three basic types: (a) disposal services  
24 which reflect the functions of the natural environment as an absorptive sink  
25 for residuals; (b) productive services which reflect the economic functions of  
26 providing natural resource inputs and space for production and  
27 consumption, and (c) consumer or consumption services which provide for  
28 physiological as well as recreational and related needs of human beings.  
29  
30 (c) *Flood Control* refers to methods, acts, and protocols to be observed in order to  
31 prevent and reduce the detrimental and catastrophic effects of flood waters  
32 which include sediment-laden or turbid flows, and hyper-concentrated flows  
33 or debris flows.  
34  
35 (d) *Flood Risk Management (FRM)* refers to acts of defining and determining the  
36 appropriate methods, acts, and protocols aimed at preventing and reducing  
37 the risk of loss of both life and property due to flood waters. Flood risk  
38 management consists of a cycle of prevention, mitigation, adaptation,  
39 preparedness and early warning, and response and recovery. The elements  
40 of FRM include: integrating land-use planning and coastal zone management  
41 into water management; adopting a holistic approach so that FRM is part of  
42 wider risk or multi-hazard management of earthquakes, landslides,  
43 droughts, and storm surges; managing risk and uncertainty as a whole so it  
44 not only mitigates hydrological uncertainties but also social, economic and

1 political uncertainties on account of human behavior and the cultural  
2 dimensions of FRM.

- 3
- 4 (e) *Gender Equality* refers to the principle asserting the equality of men and  
5 women and their right to enjoy equal conditions realizing their full human  
6 potentials to contribute to and benefit from the results of development, and  
7 with the State recognizing that all human beings are free and equal in dignity  
8 and rights.
- 9
- 10 (f) *Infrastructure and public works* refer only to wholly or primarily water-related  
11 projects and does not include projects that do not fall within the purview of  
12 the objectives, power and duties of the DWR created under this Act.
- 13
- 14 (g) *Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)* refers to a systematic,  
15 collaborative, and multi-stakeholder process which promotes the  
16 coordinated development and management of water, land, and related  
17 resources within geophysical boundaries in order to maximize the resultant  
18 economic and social welfare in an equitable manner, and without  
19 compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.
- 20
- 21 (h) *License* refers to the Water Supply and/or Sanitation Services Operating  
22 License that the Water Regulatory Commission (WRC) is authorized to grant  
23 and issue to service providers.
- 24
- 25 (i) *Licensee* refers to a service provider to whom a license is granted or issued by  
26 the WRC.
- 27
- 28 (j) *Missionary Water Services* refer to water supply or services to areas that have  
29 no existing safe water supply and services due to geographic limitation or  
30 absence of economic and market viability.
- 31
- 32 (k) *National Water Resources Management Plan (NWRMP)* refers to a policy  
33 document that contains a framework to guide the development and  
34 management of all the water resources in the Philippines, the general  
35 strategies and work to be pursued to ensure the sustainability of the resource  
36 towards water security, and top-level direction on the utilization of existing  
37 water resources in line with national development plans, policies, and  
38 programs in accordance with the IWRM framework. The NWRMP shall also  
39 include a water infrastructure development program or all waters of the  
40 country as well as provide general guidance on how this shall be supported  
41 within an integrated financing framework that can draw from public, private,  
42 and international development funding sources.
- 43
- 44 (l) *Net Waste Load* refers to the difference of the initial waste load of the

1 abstracted water and the waste load of the final effluent discharge of an  
2 industry.

- 3
- 4 (m) *River basin* refers to an area of land drained by a stream or body of fixed water  
5 and its tributaries which have a common outlet for surface run-off.
- 6
- 7 (n) *River Basin Organization (RBO)* refers to a multi-stakeholder organization  
8 which plan, coordinate, and monitor activities within a river basin cluster.
- 9
- 10 (o) *Sanitation* refers to the provision of facilities and services for the safe  
11 management of human excreta and wastewater, from collection to  
12 containment, and storage and treatment onsite or conveyance, treatment and  
13 eventual safe end use or disposal, and includes the safe management of solid  
14 waste and animal waste.
- 15
- 16 (p) *Sediment management* refers to control of sediment erosion and deposition in  
17 rivers, reservoirs, and coastal zones through non-structural and structural  
18 measures and control works.
- 19
- 20 (q) *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* also known as the 17 Global Goals refer  
21 to the universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure  
22 that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030 adopted by Member States  
23 of the United Nations in 2015.
- 24
- 25 (r) *Septage* refers to the liquid and solid material pumped from a septic tank,  
26 cesspool, or other primary treatment source.
- 27
- 28 (s) *Septage Management* refers to the provision of proper collection, treatment,  
29 and disposal of septage.
- 30
- 31 (t) *Service Area* refers to the area covered by the water distribution system,  
32 sewerage or septage management services.
- 33
- 34 (u) *Sewage* refers to water borne human or animal wastes, excluding oil or oil  
35 waste, removed from residences, buildings, institutions, and industrial and  
36 commercial establishments together with such groundwater, surface water  
37 and storm water as may be present including such waste from vessels,  
38 offshore structures, other receptacles intended to receive or retain waste or  
39 other places or the combination thereof.
- 40
- 41 (v) *Sewerage* refers to any system or network of pipelines, ditches, channels or  
42 conduits including pumping stations, lift stations and force mains, service  
43 connections including other infrastructure, devices, or appliances  
44 appurtenant thereto, which include the collection, transport, pumping and

1 treatment of sewage to a point of disposal.

2  
3 (w) *Sewers* refer to pipes or such other works or structures which are built and  
4 constructed to carry, transport, and dispose sewage.

5  
6 (x) *Social inclusion* refers to the process of improving the terms for marginalized  
7 and disadvantaged individuals, indigenous peoples, and similar groups to  
8 take part in society.

9  
10 (y) *Tariffs* refer to amounts which may be charged by licensees for their water  
11 supply and sanitation services based on principles, standards, and guidelines  
12 established by the Water Regulatory Commission.

13  
14 (z) *Water Demand Management* refers to any method, whether technical,  
15 economic, administrative, financial, or social, that will accomplish one or  
16 more of the following: (1) Reduce the quantity or quality of water required to  
17 accomplish a specific task; (2) less water or with lower quality water; Adjust  
18 the nature of the task or the way it is undertaken so that it can be  
19 accomplished with (3) Reduce the loss in quantity or quality of water as it  
20 flows from source, through use, to disposal; (4) Shift the timing of use from  
21 peak to off-peak periods; and (5) Increase the ability of the water system to  
22 continue to serve society during times when water is in short supply.

23  
24 (aa) *Water Districts* refer to government-owned and controlled corporations,  
25 organized under Presidential Decree (PD) No. 198, as amended, or the Local  
26 Water Utilities Administration Law, created primarily to acquire, install,  
27 operate, maintain, and improve water supply and distribution systems for  
28 domestic, industrial and municipal uses of residents and to provide, maintain  
29 and operate waste water collection, treatment and disposal facilities within  
30 the boundaries of the district.

31  
32 (bb) *Water pollution* refers to any alteration of the physical, chemical, biological, or  
33 radiological properties of a body of water resulting in the impairment of its  
34 purity or quality.

35  
36 (cc) *Water Resource* refers to water under the ground or groundwater, water above  
37 the ground such as surface water, run-offs, floods, storm water and urban  
38 drainage, treated wastewater, water in the atmosphere or rain water, and the  
39 waters of the sea within the territorial jurisdiction of the Philippines.

40  
41 (dd) *Water resource allocation* refers to the process of sharing the limited water  
42 resources between competing users. This consists of (i) determining water  
43 availability, and (ii) determining how the water should be shared among  
44 competing users. For the purposes of this Act, resource allocation shall also

1 mean water resources allocation.

2  
3 (ee) *Water Resources Regions* refer to the contiguous clusters of river basins which  
4 are grouped together according to the hydrological boundaries,  
5 physiographic features, and homogeneity in climate, whether or not they  
6 straddle different local government units, for administrative purposes under  
7 the DWR.

8  
9 (ff) *Water Service Provider (WSP)* refers to the water district, any local government  
10 unit (LGU)-run water utility, Barangay Waterworks and Sanitation  
11 Association, Rural Waterworks Sanitation Association, cooperatives engaged  
12 in water service provision, or private sector entity that provides water supply  
13 services to any given area.

14  
15 (gg) *Water supply service* refers to any activity comprising Levels I, II and III water  
16 supply including bulk suppliers, suppliers to subdivisions, and other WSPs.

17  
18 **CHAPTER II**  
19 **DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

20  
21 **Section 4. *Establishment of the Department of Water Resources.*** – There is hereby  
22 established the Department of Water Resources (DWR).

23  
24 **Section 5. *Mandate and Objectives.*** – The Department shall be the primary policy,  
25 planning, coordinating, implementing, monitoring, and administrative arm of the  
26 Executive Branch of the government responsible for the comprehensive, sustainable,  
27 climate-resilient, and integrated development, allocation, utilization, and management of  
28 the water resources of the Philippines for domestic and municipal water supply,  
29 sanitation, irrigation, hydropower, industry, navigation, flood management, and  
30 recreation, and water utilization aspects of fisheries or aquaculture.

31  
32 The Department shall also be the primary agency responsible for the planning and  
33 policy formulation towards the attainment of universal access to safe, adequate,  
34 affordable, and sustainable water supply, sanitation, and septage services.

35  
36 The Department shall be the primary national agency to enforce PD 1067,  
37 otherwise known as The Water Code of the Philippines.

38  
39 In the implementation of Republic Act (RA) No. 9275, otherwise known as the  
40 Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004, the Department shall be responsible for preparing,  
41 formulating and implementing a five-year plan of action for a national and a regional  
42 septage management plan, which shall contain measures for the construction of  
43 wastewater treatment facilities and provision, installation, operation and maintenance  
44 and, where practicable, the integration of sewerage, septage management, storm water

1 management and other sanitation facilities. Compliance with the mandate to implement  
2 septage management services and systems by any WSP pursuant to the Philippine Clean  
3 Water Act of 2004 shall be reckoned within five (5) years from the date of promulgation  
4 or publication of the septage management plan formulated by the Department.  
5

6 **Section 6. Guiding Principles.** – In pursuing its mandate, the DWR shall be guided  
7 by the following key principles:  
8

- 9 (a) The concept of good water governance for water security and sufficiency shall  
10 be adopted across all levels of governance by stakeholders such as the national  
11 government, local government units (LGUs), non-government organizations  
12 (NGOs), private organizations, individuals, global societal actors, and in  
13 various sectors such as water supply, irrigation, fisheries, hydropower,  
14 navigation, ecosystem services, climate change, and recreation. It shall entail  
15 publicly transparent, socially accountable, and multi-stakeholder participatory  
16 water policy planning, management, and decision-making processes;  
17
- 18 (b) Access to safe water supply and improved sanitation is a human right that  
19 needs to be fulfilled and protected;  
20
- 21 (c) Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) shall be adopted as the basic  
22 framework which is the coordinated development and management of water,  
23 land, and related resources within hydrological boundaries to optimize  
24 economic and social welfare without compromising the sustainability of vital  
25 ecosystems. The IWRM Framework shall include an enabling environment that  
26 utilizes proper policies, legal instruments, and institutional frameworks for  
27 effective implementation, participatory and collaborative water policy and  
28 management decisions, and management instruments for efficient use of  
29 updated and accurate data, science-based decision support systems, proper  
30 information, education, communication programs, assessment and allocation  
31 tools, or regulatory functions. It shall observe the mutual accountability  
32 mechanism among stakeholders at the national, regional, and global levels  
33 reinforcing multi-stakeholder decision-making following a framework with  
34 specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and timely actions;  
35
- 36 (d) Each river basin has its unique characteristics relating to the physical,  
37 sociocultural, and other aspects, and water management shall be performed at  
38 river-basin level, involving all the stakeholders at that particular river basin;  
39
- 40 (e) Integrated and accurate data collection and analysis and the use of scientific  
41 decision support systems shall be undertaken in water resources management  
42 including flood modeling and warning systems that are essential for an  
43 effective, efficient, and sustainable water resources management system;  
44

- 1 (f) The State shall prioritize the development of surface water to ensure adequate  
2 and reliable supply of water: *Provided*, That the development of water resources  
3 shall include strategies for the mitigation of water-related hazards and climate  
4 change adaptation;  
5
- 6 (g) Water resources shall be fairly and sustainably managed, and water services  
7 shall be provided where they are intended and most needed;  
8
- 9 (h) The proper operation and maintenance of waterworks systems resulting in the  
10 uninterrupted and adequate supply and distribution of potable water for  
11 domestic and other purposes, and the proper operation and maintenance of  
12 sewerage systems which are essential services to public health and safety, are  
13 to be ensured at all times; and  
14
- 15 (i) The State recognizes the role of the private sector and mobilization of private  
16 resources in the development of waterworks systems through concession  
17 agreements, joint venture agreements, bulk water supply agreements,  
18 management and service agreements and other contracts for water supply  
19 provision, water sanitation and treatment services, and the development,  
20 operation and maintenance of water supply and septage management systems.  
21 The State shall encourage the private sector to provide the needed investments  
22 for programs and projects to ensure adequate water supply and promote water  
23 security.  
24

25 **Section 7. Objectives of the Department.** – The DWR shall:  
26

- 27 (a) Promote and adopt water demand management as a national policy to ensure  
28 that water is optimized, that water efficiency and conservation become a way  
29 of life, that the recycling and reuse of water and treated wastewater are widely  
30 practiced, that water is properly priced to encourage efficient use and  
31 conservation, and that rainwater, flood waters, and run-offs are captured or  
32 harvested, stored and treated for future use;  
33
- 34 (b) Prioritize and seek the immediate attainment of universal access to safe,  
35 adequate, affordable and sustainable water supply and improved sanitation  
36 services for all Filipinos, either through public programs and projects or public-  
37 private partnership or other mechanisms, in a manner consistent with the  
38 protection, preservation, and revival of the quality of the country's water  
39 resources, and to adopt all needed measures to advance the right of the people  
40 to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of  
41 nature: *Provided*, That the DWR shall pursue universal access to clean water by  
42 2030;  
43

- 1 (c) Strengthen and coordinate integrated water resources management planning  
2 and policy making to ensure sustainable and fair allocation and efficient use of  
3 water resources among competing uses and users;  
4
- 5 (d) Ensure that integrated water resources management is strongly coordinated  
6 with land use and coastal and multi-hazard planning and management;  
7
- 8 (e) Develop sustainably, and manage water sources and water resources toward  
9 water security, taking into consideration water, land, and related resources  
10 aimed at increasing water dependability for different uses, optimizing  
11 economic benefits and social welfare without compromising the sustainability  
12 of vital environmental systems;  
13
- 14 (f) Strengthen and coordinate policy making and planning towards ensuring the  
15 availability of water for food security and energy security, as well as towards  
16 the protection of communities and environments against flood and other water  
17 induced hazards including sediment hazards;  
18
- 19 (g) Ensure that the strategy for water resources development and conservation is  
20 participatory, and that planners, policymakers, and other stakeholders,  
21 including water users, community members, indigenous and marginalized  
22 peoples, are involved at all levels;  
23
- 24 (h) Develop a standardized pricing framework for water use, septage and  
25 sewerage services that accounts for environmental externalities and pricing  
26 considerations such as reasonable rate of return; rate adjustment mechanisms  
27 for consumer price indices and currency fluctuations; and other factors  
28 relevant to the operation of waterworks systems and infrastructure;  
29
- 30 (i) Ensure that all sources of water, including surface water, groundwater,  
31 rainwater and floodwater are identified, mapped, monitored, conserved and  
32 managed for productive use and the resulting wastewater is managed  
33 properly, reused, and responsibly disposed of following approved  
34 environmental standards; and  
35
- 36 (j) Prioritize and provide technical and financial assistance to fourth, fifth and  
37 sixth class municipalities in the Philippines in the development of water  
38 resources and waterworks systems and provision of water and sanitation  
39 services.  
40

41 **Section 8. Powers and Functions.** – The DWR shall exercise powers on  
42 policymaking, resource allocation and regulation, institutional arrangement and  
43 coordination, and other related functions. These shall include:  
44

1 I. Policymaking and Planning

- 2
- 3 (a) Ensure that Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) is
- 4 adopted as the strategic framework for water management
- 5 policymaking and planning in the country and coordinate the
- 6 implementation, promotion, revision and enhancement of IWRM
- 7 plans;
- 8
- 9 (b) Formulate policies, strategies, and targets in coordination with other
- 10 relevant entities to meet the goals and objectives for water supply and
- 11 sanitation, water quality, irrigation, hydropower, flood control, storm
- 12 water utilization, and urban drainage. Such policies shall, among
- 13 other guidelines, integrate the issues of water and sanitation, food
- 14 security, energy, environment and flood control, and climate change;
- 15
- 16 (c) Formulate and develop policies to promote universal access to safe,
- 17 adequate, affordable, and sustainable water supply, and improved
- 18 sanitation services for all Filipinos;
- 19
- 20 (d) Prepare the NWRMP in consultation with other agencies and
- 21 stakeholders, following the IWRM framework and integrating therein
- 22 a national land use plan, submit the NWRMP to the Department of
- 23 Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev) for approval and
- 24 eventual adoption, and regularly update, every five years or as
- 25 deemed necessary by the DWR, in order to ensure its relevance to the
- 26 times;
- 27
- 28 (e) Undertake river basin survey, inventory and appraisal of water and
- 29 related resources, and develop comprehensive basin-wide plans of
- 30 storage, retardation, and control to maximize conservation and
- 31 multipurpose use of water in the basin;
- 32
- 33 (f) Conduct continuing hydrological and hydrometeorological surveys
- 34 and studies of the country's renewable water supply, and establish,
- 35 operate, and maintain observation station networks;
- 36
- 37 (g) Formulate long-term policies to balance the sustainability and optimal
- 38 multiple use of water resources, define the hydrologic boundaries of
- 39 basins of the existing water supply sources, and develop or update
- 40 existing River Basin Master or Comprehensive Plans which includes
- 41 all aspects of water management and development such as water
- 42 supply and sanitation, irrigation, flood control and storm water or
- 43 urban drainage, drought risk management, water resource

1 development systems and other public water works projects,  
2 including phasing of implementation;  
3

4 (h) Identify, based on the river basin master plans, priority packages for  
5 water infrastructure development per river basin, including water  
6 supply, sanitation, irrigation, hydropower, flood control and storm  
7 water or urban drainage, drought risk management, water resource  
8 development systems and other public works projects;  
9

10 (i) Evaluate and appraise all regional and inter-regional infrastructure  
11 water development plans and programs as to their feasibility and  
12 consistency with approved strategies and medium and long-term  
13 plans;  
14

15 (j) Formulate policy, strategies, master plans and programs on flood risk  
16 management in the context of integrated flood management (IFM)  
17 which integrates water, land, coastal zone and multi- hazard  
18 management. In integrating land use planning and water  
19 management, the DWR shall harmonize and synthesize plans to  
20 enable the sharing of information between land-use planning and  
21 water management authorities. In this regard, a holistic approach  
22 shall be adopted by making the IFM a part of a wider risk or multi-  
23 hazard management system that includes earthquakes, landslides,  
24 fires, tsunamis, droughts, and other calamities of the same gravity or  
25 nature;  
26

27 (k) Strengthen and coordinate policy making and planning for flood  
28 management, integrated with storm water or urban drainage and  
29 appropriate retention or retarding basins in order to harvest and reuse  
30 water, and to plan against, prevent, and minimize the detrimental and  
31 catastrophic effects of flooding;  
32

33 (l) Assist and provide the DEPDev with the required data and input from  
34 the water sector in the formulation of the country's short-term and  
35 long-term strategic development plans and actions, and recommend  
36 the adoption of general policies and guidelines for water resources  
37 development;  
38

39 (m) Review, approve, and provide oversight over all water-related  
40 development plans, programs, and projects of any agency within the  
41 context of the NWRMP, and overall national plans and programs;  
42

43 (n) Develop and implement, in coordination with other relevant agencies,  
44 effective codes, standards, benchmarks, and reasonable guidelines on

1 project investigation, formulation and planning of water resources  
2 infrastructure, to ensure the safety of all public and private water  
3 structures in the country, and assure efficiency and proper quality in  
4 the construction of water, sanitation, irrigation, hydropower, flood  
5 control and drainage infrastructure;

6  
7 (o) Ensure that gender equality, social inclusion, environmental  
8 protection, climate resiliency, disaster risk reduction, and indigenous  
9 knowledge systems and practices are integrated into any water  
10 resource management planning, policy making, and the design and  
11 construction of water infrastructure;

12  
13 (p) Ensure that the planning of water infrastructure considers the highest  
14 efficiency and most appropriate technology and quality, in accordance  
15 with national development objectives;

16  
17 (q) Review existing guidelines appropriate for private sector  
18 participation in the water sector and submit recommendations to the  
19 Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Center and other concerned agencies  
20 to promote and enable more PPPs in the sector;

21  
22 (r) Gather, analyze, and organize needed statistical data and information;  
23 for those water-related data generated by other concerned agencies,  
24 establish, in coordination with these agencies, the guidelines,  
25 standards, methodologies, and protocols for data collection that will  
26 be officially recognized by the DWR, and institute mechanisms for  
27 coordination with other agencies as regards their submission and  
28 certification of submitted water-related data to the DWR;

29  
30 (s) In case of gaps in data collection by other agencies, under item (r)  
31 above, the DWR may collect the said data in accordance with the  
32 established guidelines, standards, methodologies and protocols, and  
33 in coordination with the respective agencies: *Provided*, That both the  
34 DWR and other agencies ensure that duplication of roles in data  
35 collection is prevented;

36  
37 (t) Ensure continued stakeholder engagement through the creation of a  
38 Multi-Sectoral Stakeholder Council with representatives from all  
39 water sector, including vulnerable and indigenous communities:  
40 *Provided*, That the Multi-Sectoral Stakeholder Council shall be the  
41 primary avenue for all multi-sectoral consultations mandated under  
42 this Act, and shall be consulted in the formulation of all national plans,  
43 programs, and policies of the DWR: *Provided, further*, That the sectoral

1 representatives shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines,  
2 hereinafter referred to as the President;

3  
4 (u) Build a central repository of water data and effect inter-sectoral, inter-  
5 agency, and inter-departmental coordination on all aspects of data  
6 gathering and management for water resources development  
7 planning and compel the submission of statistics and data on water  
8 utilization with the aim of operationalizing the integrated approach to  
9 water resources management;

10  
11 (v) Ensure the effective implementation of all the provisions of PD 1067;

12  
13 (w) Promote Philippine participation in information sharing and  
14 education on best practices in support of international efforts to  
15 achieve universal access to safe water and improved sanitation; and  
16 the integration of water, energy, environment and food security;

17  
18 (x) Ensure that the easements provided for in Title VII, Chapter 2, Section  
19 2 of RA 386, otherwise known as the Civil Code of the Philippines and  
20 other relevant laws are enforced, especially in all the esteros and  
21 waterways, as well as abate the dumping of untreated wastewater and  
22 sewage into water bodies, including all acts and omissions in violation  
23 of PD 984, also known as National Pollution Control Decree of 1976,  
24 as amended, and other related laws; and

25  
26 (y) Issue and promulgate rules, regulations and guidelines as may be  
27 necessary to implement and enforce its powers and functions under  
28 this Act.

29  
30 II. Resource Allocation and Regulation

31  
32 (a) Manage and conserve the country's water resources to ensure the  
33 optimal use thereof for domestic water supply, sanitation, irrigation,  
34 hydropower, navigation, flood control, and recreation purposes, and  
35 enhance and maintain water quality, conserve watersheds, control  
36 water pollution, and restore the environment, without compromising  
37 the natural ecosystem functions and services;

38  
39 (b) Regulate and control the utilization, abstraction, diversion and  
40 development of water resources, taking in consideration their  
41 equitable distribution among competing demands and determine the  
42 standards of beneficial and priority uses of water in times of crisis and  
43 national emergencies;

44

- 1 (c) Formulate, promulgate, and enforce rules and regulations for the  
2 development and optimum use of water resources and its  
3 administration and management, including coherent water protocols,  
4 operating rules of all existing and future water infrastructure; general  
5 criteria, methods and standards for basic data collection and project  
6 identification, formulation and planning, and appropriate sanctions to  
7 be imposed for noncompliance;  
8
- 9 (d) Regularly review regulations prescribed by any government agency  
10 pertaining to water use, exploitation, development, and conservation  
11 or protection of waters, water resources, and watershed or basin areas  
12 with respect to this Act;  
13
- 14 (e) Impose fees or charges, as may be deemed necessary for water  
15 resources development, conservation and protection, such as:  
16 (1) Polluter's Fee, which shall be based on the net waste load  
17 depending on the wastewater charge formula pursuant to Section  
18 13 of Republic Act No. 9275: *Provided, That* the implementation of  
19 which shall be transferred from the Department of Environment  
20 and Natural Resources (DENR) to the DWR;  
21 (2) Raw water price, which shall take into account, among others, the  
22 scarcity of water; and  
23 (3) Appropriate payment structures for ecosystem services, which  
24 shall not exceed five centavos (PhP 0.05) per cubic meter of water  
25 consumption;  
26
- 27 (f) Deputize LGUs to collect the national fees or charges for resource  
28 regulation within their respective jurisdictions;  
29
- 30 (g) Collect, regularly update, monitor, and analyze water resources data  
31 including climatology, hydrological and other water-related data and  
32 ensure that such data is easily accessible by relevant and authorized  
33 users;  
34
- 35 (h) Establish, operate, and maintain observation station networks and a  
36 centralized water resources data center for the scientific survey and  
37 appraisal of surface and groundwater potentials of the country, and  
38 determine the annual renewable water available per water resources  
39 region;  
40
- 41 (i) Maintain a database that will contain updated relevant information on  
42 water data which will be accessible by relevant and authorized users;  
43

- 1 (j) Develop and continuously update a computerized decision support  
2 system that incorporates data management systems relating to  
3 acquisition and database, model base in terms of physical design,  
4 planning and decision models, and user-friendly interface concerning  
5 graphical and visualization tools;  
6  
7 (k) Conduct and promote special studies and research on water  
8 economics and other aspects of water resources development and  
9 management as may be needed to support the policy and plan  
10 proposals of the DWR, such as, but not limited to, impacts of climate  
11 change, weather modification, flood monitoring and modeling,  
12 environmental quality, and desalination;  
13  
14 (l) Raise public awareness through information, education and  
15 communications programs, and build capacities for informed  
16 participation in water resources management at the national and  
17 river-basin level; and  
18  
19 (m) Review the status of water permits issued and outstanding as of the  
20 date of the effectivity of this Act and compliance by the water permit  
21 holders with the terms of their respective water permits.  
22

23 If, in the determination of the DWR, acting on the basis of information,  
24 records and reports submitted by any holders of such water permits, there  
25 is non-use of the water resource covered by such water permits for a period  
26 of one (1) year from the date of issuance thereof, the DWR shall cause the  
27 termination or cancellation of any such water permits to the National Water  
28 Resources Allocation Board: *Provided*, That the review made by the DWR  
29 shall be considered prima facie evidence of non-use in respect of any  
30 affected water permit. For purposes of this Section, "non-use" refers to the  
31 failure of the water permit holder to utilize the water resource or construct  
32 substantial works, facilities, systems or other infrastructure had been  
33 constructed in pursuit of or for the purpose stipulated in the water permit.  
34

35 The DWR shall submit a report to Congress on the completion of its review  
36 under this section within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act.  
37

### 38 III. Institutional Arrangement with Public Water Agencies and Organizations 39

- 40 (a) Develop guidelines including rules of partnership, between and  
41 among the DWR, field offices of national government agencies, LGUs  
42 and other stakeholders in water resource management, and facilitate  
43 the establishment of multi-stakeholder river basin organizations

1 (RBOs) per river basin, and strengthen and support existing RBOs and  
2 monitor their activities;

3  
4 (b) Coordinate the planned and ongoing river basin initiatives of  
5 government agencies and corporations, to which the DWR shall  
6 review and endorse approval and funding from the national budget  
7 thereof, as may be provided under existing laws, rules and  
8 regulations;

9  
10 (c) Harmonize all relevant national river basin policies and formulate  
11 new policies and create enabling policy environment that shall allow  
12 effective and efficient management and governance of the country's  
13 river basins. To this end, all concerned national government agencies  
14 and corporations shall consult the DWR in such planning and  
15 implementation;

16  
17 (d) Serve as the national policy coordination office for LGUs and non-  
18 governmental organizations in the development and sustainability of  
19 all river and catchment basins, for which the DWR shall recommend  
20 the approval and funding thereof of national government agency and  
21 corporations' support to such local and nongovernment river and  
22 catchment basin initiatives;

23  
24 (e) Serve as the government's central river basin database management  
25 agency, to which all government agencies and existing river basin  
26 organizations with relevant mandates and developmental initiatives  
27 within the river basins are required to cooperate and regularly submit  
28 their updated databases for integration and consolidation;

29  
30 (f) Develop materials for capacity building and training of prospective  
31 RBOs, as well as other concerned units of the DWR and other water-  
32 related agencies, LGUs, and WSPs particularly in the areas of  
33 integrated water resources management and river basin master  
34 planning;

35  
36 (g) Authorize its representatives or any deputized agent to enter any  
37 property of public dominion with prior notice and consent: and any  
38 private land, building or enclave, whether inhabited or not, for the  
39 purpose of conducting hydrologic surveys and investigations,  
40 including assessing and evaluating the conditions of water facilities  
41 installed, and determining compliance with water laws and  
42 standards;

43

- 1 (h) Provide technical assistance to water users including farmers,  
2 communities, and LGUs and other WSP whether directly or in  
3 coordination with other agencies on all aspects of integrated water  
4 resources management;  
5  
6 (i) Respond to consumer complaints, and ensure the adequate promotion  
7 of consumer interests; and  
8  
9 (j) Deputize agents, whether from the public or private sector, to assist in  
10 the performance of any of the powers and functions of the DWR.  
11

12 IV. Coordination

- 13  
14 (a) Coordinate and integrate water resources development activities of  
15 the country within the context of national plans and policies for social  
16 and economic development;  
17  
18 (b) Coordinate with other government agencies, universities, academe  
19 and private professional groups in all aspects of data gathering, the  
20 conduct of special studies and research on all related aspects of water  
21 resources management and development such as climate change,  
22 environmental quality, desalination, and the development of  
23 operating strategies, procedures, and protocols and accompanying  
24 computerized decision tools for major water facilities;  
25  
26 (c) Coordinate with the concerned and relevant agencies engaged in  
27 flood control, flood risk management, and drought risk management;  
28 and  
29  
30 (d) Coordinate proactively with LGUs to ensure the integration of water  
31 resources development plans into their comprehensive land use plans,  
32 Comprehensive Development Plans or Provincial Physical  
33 Framework and Development Plan.  
34

35 V. Other Functions

- 36  
37 (a) Create when there are no existing water resources or operators, water  
38 resource subsidiaries, instrumentalities, and entities to engage in  
39 water source development, water supply, water transmission, water  
40 distribution, waste water treatment and management, missionary  
41 water access, storm water management, and sanitation in accordance  
42 with existing laws, without prejudice to private entities capable of and  
43 willing to engage in the aforementioned activities through concession  
44 agreements, joint venture agreements, bulk water agreements, or

1 service agreements or contracts. For this purpose, the DWR shall  
2 ensure compliance with existing frameworks, rules, regulations and  
3 guidelines for private sector participation in water transmission,  
4 water distribution, waste water treatment and management, storm  
5 water management, and sanitation.

6  
7 (b) Enter into contracts, joint venture agreements or understanding,  
8 public-private partnerships, and memorandum of agreements or  
9 understanding, either domestic or foreign, relating to investment and  
10 financing water-related projects, under such terms and conditions as  
11 the DWR may deem proper and reasonable subject to existing laws:  
12 Provided, That government entities with mandates to enter into  
13 contracts with private entities under existing laws shall continue to  
14 have such authority: Provided, further, That nothing in this Act shall  
15 be interpreted as adding approval, endorsement, or consent  
16 requirements for water-related government projects;

17  
18 (c) Appoint, hire, and maintain adequate staff and personnel, advisers or  
19 consultants with suitable qualifications and experience, as necessary,  
20 subject to existing rules and regulations; and

21  
22 (d) Exercise such other powers and functions necessary or incidental to  
23 the effective administration and management of the country's water  
24 resources.

25  
26 **Section 9. Organization Structure.** – The DWR shall consist of:

27  
28 (a) The Office of the Secretary, which shall house the Office of the Department  
29 Secretary, the Offices of the Undersecretaries, the Offices of the Assistant  
30 Secretaries, and their immediate support staff;

31 (b) Bureaus and Services;

32 (c) Regional Water Resources Offices; and

33 (d) Attached agencies.

34  
35 **Section 10. Secretary of the DWR.** – The authority and responsibility for the  
36 exercise of the mandate of the DWR and for the discharge of its powers and functions  
37 shall be vested in the Secretary of the DWR, hereinafter referred to as the Secretary of  
38 Water Resources, who shall be appointed by the President, subject to confirmation by the  
39 Commission on Appointments, and shall exercise supervision and control over all offices,  
40 bureaus, and attached agencies of the Department.

41  
42 The Secretary of Water Resources shall:  
43

- 1 (a) Recommend policies on water resources and advise the President on the  
2 promulgation of executive or administrative orders, regulations,  
3 proclamations and other issuances relative to matters under the jurisdiction of  
4 the DWR;  
5
- 6 (b) Establish the policies and standards for the operation of the DWR pursuant to  
7 the President's guidelines;  
8
- 9 (c) Advise the President on the status of water management and supply in the  
10 country, recommend to the President the declaration of a state calamity in areas  
11 affected by water supply, and submit proposals to restore normalcy in the  
12 affected areas;  
13
- 14 (d) Promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the objectives, policies,  
15 and functions of the DWR;  
16
- 17 (e) Exercise supervision and control over all bureaus and offices under the DWR;  
18
- 19 (f) Supervise all attached agencies and corporations in accordance with law;  
20
- 21 (g) Represent the DWR in contracts, awards, and other similar agreements;  
22
- 23 (h) Delegate authority for the performance of any power or function, as defined  
24 herein to officials and employees under his direction as deemed appropriate;  
25
- 26 (i) Act as the Chairperson of the governing board of the attached agencies of the  
27 DWR;  
28
- 29 (j) Designate and appoint officers and employees of the DWR, excluding the  
30 Undersecretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and Regional and Assistant Regional  
31 Directors, in accordance with the civil service laws, rules and regulations;  
32
- 33 (k) Discipline the officials and employees of the DWR, including officials and  
34 employees of all the bureaus and offices under it, in accordance with civil  
35 service laws, rules, and regulations; and  
36
- 37 (l) Perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be provided by law.  
38

39 The Secretary of Water Resources shall also serve as a voting member of the  
40 governing boards of the Climate Change Commission, National Disaster Risk Reduction  
41 and Management Council, and National Land Use Committee.  
42

43 **Section 11. *Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries.*** – The Secretary of Water  
44 Resources shall be assisted by not more than three (3) Undersecretaries and three (3)

1 Assistant Secretaries, all of which shall be appointed by the President upon the  
2 recommendation of the Secretary of Water Resources: *Provided*, That at least one (1)  
3 Undersecretary and one (1) of the Assistant Secretaries shall be career officers.  
4

5 The Secretary of Water Resources is hereby authorized to delineate and assign the  
6 respective functional areas of responsibility of the Undersecretaries and Assistant  
7 Secretaries in accordance with the mandate and objectives of the DWR. Within their  
8 respective functional areas of responsibility, the Undersecretaries and Assistant  
9 Secretaries shall have the powers and functions as provided for in Chapter 2, Book IV of  
10 the Administrative Code of 1987.  
11

12 **Section 12. *Qualifications and Appointment.*** – No person shall be appointed  
13 Secretary, Undersecretary, and Assistant Secretary of the DWR unless the person is a  
14 citizen and resident of the Philippines, of good moral character, of proven integrity,  
15 competence and expertise in water resource management.  
16

17 **Section 13. *Department Bureaus and Services, and Regional Water Resources***  
18 ***Offices.*** – The DWR shall establish, operate, and maintain the Bureaus and Services under  
19 it such as, but not limited to:  
20

- 21 (a) Policy and Planning Bureau;
- 22 (b) Decision Support System Bureau;
- 23 (c) Bureau of Technical Services;
- 24 (d) Legal and Legislative Research Service;
- 25 (e) Internal Audit Service;
- 26 (f) Public Affairs Service;
- 27 (g) Administrative and Human Resources Service;
- 28 (h) Flood Control and Drainage Coordination Service;
- 29 (i) Comptrollership and Financial Management Service; and
- 30 (j) Local Water Service Providers Bureau.  
31

32 Regional Water Resources Offices shall be organized per water resources region  
33 and shall be responsible for implementing the mandates, powers, and duties of the DWR  
34 at the field level, except for policymaking which will be vested solely in the DWR.  
35

36 The Bureaus, Services and Regional Offices shall each be headed by a Director,  
37 who shall be responsible for the efficient and effective discharge of the functions of the  
38 Bureau, Service, or Office concerned. The Bureau Director and Regional Director shall be  
39 assisted by one (1) Assistant Director.  
40

41 The DWR shall retain existing Project Management Offices as may be required,  
42 which shall be under the supervision and control of the appropriate official determined  
43 by the Secretary of Water Resources.  
44

1           **Section 14. Attached Agencies.** – The following agencies shall be attached to the  
2 DWR for purposes of policy and program coordination, monitoring, and evaluation:  
3

4           (a) The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), whose  
5 mandate, powers, and functions are defined under RA 6234, as amended  
6 entitled, “An Act Creating the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage  
7 System and Dissolving the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority,  
8 and For Other Purposes, ” shall be transferred from the DENR and attached  
9 to the DWR: *Provided*, That the MWSS shall continue to facilitate the exercise  
10 by the concessionaires of their responsibility; carry out accounting and  
11 notification functions; monitor, report, and administer loans; perform related  
12 functions in connection with existing projects; manage, operate, and dispose  
13 its retained assets: *Provided, further*, That its regulatory arm, the MWSS–  
14 Regulatory Office, shall be fully absorbed by the Water Regulatory  
15 Commission created under this Act;  
16

17           (b) The National Irrigation Administration (NIA), whose mandate, powers, and  
18 functions are defined under RA 3601 entitled “An Act Granting the National  
19 Irrigation Administration,” as amended by PD 552 and PD 1702; and  
20

21           (c) The Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), whose mandate, powers  
22 and functions are defined under RA 4850, as amended entitled “An Act  
23 Creating the Laguna Lake Development Authority, Prescribing Its Powers,  
24 Functions and Duties, Providing Funds Therefor, and For Other Purposes”  
25 shall be transferred from the DENR and attached to the DWR. The LLDA shall  
26 continue to serve as the lake management and development authority similar  
27 to a multi-stakeholder river basin organization and shall ensure the  
28 implementation of the Laguna Lake Master Plan which shall be updated by  
29 the DWR to ensure alignment with the NWRMP. The Secretary of Water  
30 Resources shall be the Chairperson of the Governing Boards of the  
31 aforementioned government-owned and controlled corporations to be  
32 attached under the DWR. In case existing laws, rules and regulations provide  
33 for a specific process in appointing the agency’s Chairperson, the Secretary of  
34 Water Resources shall serve as Co-Chairperson. Any other agency performing  
35 water resources management, conservation and protection functions may be  
36 transferred to the DWR as the President deems necessary.  
37

38           **Section 15. Offices, Functions and Personnel to be Completely Subsumed Under**  
39 ***the DWR.*** – The following offices with their applicable powers, functions, personnel,  
40 funds and appropriations, records, equipment and property shall be subsumed under the  
41 DWR:  
42

43           (a) The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) with its divisions and sections,  
44 whose mandate, powers and functions are provided in PD 424 creating the

1 National Water Resources Council, now NWRB, as amended: Provided, That  
2 its water utility regulation units and functions vested under Commonwealth  
3 Act No. 146, also known as the Public Service Act, as amended, shall be  
4 absorbed by the Water Regulatory Commission created under this Act:  
5 Provided, further, That its resource allocation or regulation units vested under  
6 PD 1067 shall be absorbed by the National Water Resources Allocation Board  
7 and the Resource Allocation Office, also created under Section 18 of this Act;  
8

9 (b) The Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) with its services,  
10 departments and divisions, whose mandate, powers and functions are  
11 provided for in Title III of Presidential Decree No. 198, as amended, otherwise  
12 known as the "Local Water Utilities Administration Law": *Provided*, That its  
13 economic regulatory functions over local water districts shall be fully absorbed  
14 by the Water Regulatory Commission created under this Act. In the  
15 implementation of its functions, LWUA will be transformed into the Local  
16 Water Service Providers Bureau (LWSPB) which shall:

- 17 (1) Furnish technical assistance and personnel training including training  
18 programs for accounting and fiscal practices of local water service  
19 providers;
- 20 (2) Monitor and evaluate compliance with local water standards of water  
21 service providers; and
- 22 (3) Effect system integration, joint investment and operation, district  
23 annexation and de-annexation whenever economically warranted, in  
24 accordance with Section 50 of PD No. 198, as amended by Section 22, PD  
25 No. 768. The authority of LWUA to review, approve and regulate the tariff  
26 rates of local water utilities to whom it has extended loans or other  
27 financing under Section 64 of PD No. 198, as amended, is hereby transferred  
28 to the Water Regulatory Commission as provided in this Act;  
29

30 (c) The River Basin Control Office (RBCO) of the DENR whose mandate, powers  
31 and functions are provided in Executive Order (EO) No. 510, Series of 2006 and  
32 EO 816, Series of 2009, as amended: *Provided*, That its function pertaining to  
33 watershed reforestation activities shall be transferred to the DENR-Forest  
34 Management Bureau, but the targeting of priority watershed areas shall be  
35 coordinated with the DWR;  
36

37 (d) The Manila Bay Coordinating Office of the DENR which was strengthened by  
38 virtue of DENR Administrative Order 2011-01 to coordinate the efforts of the  
39 fourteen (14) national agencies covered by the Mandamus Order of the  
40 Supreme Court to rehabilitate Manila Bay;  
41

42 (e) The Water Supply and Sanitation Unit of the Department of the Interior and  
43 Local Government (DILG); and  
44

- 1 (f) The Water Resources Management Office of the DENR whose mandate,  
2 powers and functions are provided in EO 22, series of 2023.  
3

4 **Section 16. *Functions to be Transferred to the DWR.*** – The following functions of  
5 the respective agencies, bureaus, and units shall be transferred to the DWR:  
6

- 7 (a) The planning, programming, administration, monitoring, management of the  
8 National Sewerage and Septage Management Program (NSSMP) of the  
9 Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH); and  
10

- 11 (b) The following functions of the dissolved Pasig River Rehabilitation  
12 Commission and transferred to the Manila Bay Task Force per EO 93, series of  
13 2019:

14 (1) Updating and leading in the overall implementation of the Pasig River  
15 Rehabilitation Master Plan; and

16 (2) Ensuring that the easements provided for in the Civil Code and other  
17 relevant laws are enforced, especially in all the esteros and waterways as  
18 well as abating the dumping of untreated wastewater and sewage into  
19 water systems, including all acts and omissions in violation of PD 984, as  
20 amended, and other related laws.  
21

22 **CHAPTER III**  
23 **INTERDEPARTMENTAL RELATIONS**  
24 **AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT**  
25

26 **Section 17. *Interface and Institutional Arrangements with Other Agencies.*** –  
27

- 28 (a) The Department of Health (DOH) shall continue to have primary authority and  
29 responsibility for setting and enforcing drinking water quality standards. The  
30 DWR shall coordinate with the DOH in this aspect, and shall ensure  
31 consistency of standards and targets, as well as the compliance of permittees  
32 with mandated standards;  
33

- 34 (b) The DENR shall continue to have primary authority and responsibility for  
35 protecting the environment and managing the country's watersheds. Further,  
36 the Pollution Adjudication Board shall remain to have jurisdiction with respect  
37 to adjudication of pollution cases based on exceedance of the DENR Effluent  
38 Standards and other acts defined as prohibited under Section 27 of RA 9275  
39 and filed by this DWR. Furthermore, the DWR shall coordinate with the DENR  
40 regarding the establishment of protocols for management of all water-related  
41 data being collected by the DENR;  
42

- 1 (c) The Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Power Corporation shall  
2 ensure that hydropower plant development plans are consistent with the  
3 National Water Development and Management Plan;  
4
- 5 (d) The DWR shall coordinate with the Department of Agriculture (DA) to ensure  
6 agricultural development that reduces long-term pollution for surface water  
7 and groundwater, and agricultural and industrial economic development that  
8 employs water efficiency, water recycling or reuse, and the appropriate  
9 treatment of wastewater. Furthermore, the DWR shall coordinate with the DA  
10 and its Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) regarding the  
11 establishment of protocols for management of all water-related data being  
12 collected by DA, as well as the outputs of research and studies by BSWM which  
13 may serve as input to policy formulation by the DWR;  
14
- 15 (e) The DWR shall coordinate with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and  
16 Management Council to ensure that its plans and designs for flood control,  
17 flood risk management and drought risk management are aligned with the  
18 objectives and plans of the DWR;  
19
- 20 (f) The DWR shall coordinate with Climate Change Commission, Philippine  
21 Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, and  
22 National Mapping and Resource Information Authority for scientific studies,  
23 integrated surveys, mapping, charting, and decision support systems;  
24
- 25 (g) The DWR shall coordinate with the Department of Tourism (DOT) on  
26 recreational or visual use of water resources;  
27
- 28 (h) The DWR shall coordinate with the Philippine Reclamation Authority,  
29 Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority and economic zone  
30 authorities on water resources development and water requirements within  
31 reclamation areas, tourism development areas, and economic zones,  
32 respectively;  
33
- 34 (i) The DWR shall coordinate with the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in  
35 Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), specifically its Economic and Development  
36 Council, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, and Ministry of  
37 Environment, Natural Resources and Energy, regarding the preparation of  
38 master plans of river basins that overlap with the inland waters within the  
39 BARMM's jurisdiction, and ensure the alignment of these plans with the  
40 NWRMP and the Bangsamoro Development Plan and other related regional  
41 plans of BARMM;  
42
- 43 (j) The DWR shall coordinate with the DPWH as regards the construction of water  
44 projects including flood control and other related projects within the purview

1 of the DPWH: *Provided*, That the flood management plans are aligned with the  
2 NWRMP, and that flood waters be considered and harnessed as potential water  
3 source: *Provider, further*, That the DWR shall coordinate with the DPWH  
4 regarding the establishment of protocols for management of all water-related  
5 data being collected by the DPWH and its Bureaus;

6  
7 (k) The DWR shall coordinate with the LGUs that own the specific areas or land  
8 where raw water will be sourced, as regards the implementation of Section 38  
9 of this Act, specifically on the sharing of the total income generated from raw  
10 water pricing;

11  
12 (l) The DWR shall coordinate with the Department of Human Settlements and  
13 Urban Development (DHSUD) in planning, monitoring and enforcing  
14 integrated land use and water resources management in the Comprehensive  
15 Land Use Development Plans and Zoning Ordinances of the LGUs to ensure,  
16 among others, the protection of water sources and that water availability is  
17 factored in proposed land use development plans and projects;

18  
19 (m) The DWR shall coordinate with relevant government agencies, including  
20 LGUs, with respect to development projects and shall ensure cross-cutting  
21 collaboration between and among all water subsectors and facilitate inter-  
22 agency subsector coordination, strategic development, planning, monitoring  
23 and provision of technical, institutional and financial capacity building support  
24 to their different stakeholders at the water subsector level; and

25  
26 (n) All other departments and agencies of the government implementing water-  
27 related functions and projects shall ensure that the programs and projects are  
28 consistent with the national water management plan of the DWR.

29  
30 **CHAPTER IV**  
31 **NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES ALLOCATION BOARD**  
32 **AND THE RESOURCE ALLOCATION OFFICE**  
33

34 **Section 18. *Reconstitution of the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) as the***  
35 ***National Water Resources Allocation Board.*** – The NWRB is hereby reconstituted and  
36 shall henceforth be known as the National Water Resources Allocation Board (NWRAB).  
37 The water resources allocation and regulation functions of the NWRB are hereby  
38 transferred to the NWRAB, which shall supervise the effective appropriation and  
39 regulation of the water resources in the country in accordance with PD 1067.

40  
41 The NWRAB shall be composed of the Secretary of Water Resources as the Chair,  
42 with the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources as the Vice-Chairperson, and  
43 the heads of agencies of the DEPDev, Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Science

1 and Technology (DOST), and the University of the Philippines – National Hydraulic  
2 Research Center, as members.

3  
4 **Section 19. Functions of the NWRAB.** – The NWRAB shall perform the following  
5 functions:

- 6  
7 (a) Promulgate, among others, rules and regulations for the exploitation and  
8 optimum utilization of water resources, in accordance with PD 1067 and other  
9 existing laws, including the imposition on water appropriators of such fees or  
10 charges by the DWR: *Provided*, That the imposition and collection of such fees  
11 and charges shall be implemented by the DWR;  
12  
13 (b) Approve the guidelines and processes pertaining to water regulation, as  
14 recommended by the Secretariat;  
15  
16 (c) Review and decide on requests for permits to extract or utilize the country's  
17 water resources and grant the corresponding water rights, upon  
18 recommendation of the Resource Allocation Office: *Provided*, That the water  
19 rights are exercised within five (5) years of granting of such rights: *Provided*,  
20 *further*, That applicants for water permits shall submit proof of land ownership  
21 of, or right to use the property where the water source is located: *Provided*,  
22 *finally*, That, if the applicant is currently using the water source being applied  
23 for domestic or municipal purposes upon effectivity of this Act, such applicant  
24 may submit such proof of prior use of possession of said property in lieu of  
25 ownership or right to use;  
26  
27 (d) Exercise appellate jurisdiction over decisions in cases involving the following:  
28 (1) Violations and disputes relating to the appropriation, utilization,  
29 exploitation, development, control, conservation and protection of waters;  
30 (2) Violations and disputes on raw water fees; and  
31 (3) Violations and disputes involving water permits, administrative allocation  
32 of water resources and transfer of water rights;  
33  
34 (e) Issue *subpoena duces tecum* and *subpoena ad testificandum*;  
35  
36 (f) Cite any person or party in contempt for refusal to appear, testify or comply  
37 with the lawful orders of the Board in relation to any matter subject to its  
38 investigation;  
39  
40 (g) Hear, receive evidence, and decide on cases falling within its jurisdiction;  
41  
42 (h) Impose the appropriate sanctions over violations committed by appropriators  
43 in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations as well as future rules  
44 and regulations which the Board shall promulgate;

- 1  
2 (i) Review, update, and revise all fees, charges, and penalties imposed on all water  
3 appropriators as stated under Chapter VII and VIII of PD 1067, upon  
4 recommendation by the Secretariat, and based on scientific and evidence-based  
5 studies;  
6  
7 (j) Delegate specific tasks vested unto the NWRAB that may be undertaken by the  
8 Executive Director, as may be necessary;  
9  
10 (k) Promulgate its own rules and procedures; and  
11  
12 (l) Exercise such other powers as may be necessary to carry out its duties and  
13 responsibilities under this law.  
14

15 No injunction may be issued by any court to restrain any proceeding before the  
16 Board except on the basis of question of law by the Supreme Court on certiorari.  
17

18 Every order or decision rendered by the NWRAB shall be in writing and shall state  
19 clearly and distinctly the facts and the law on which it is based. The NWRAB shall decide  
20 each case or application within thirty (30) days following its formal submission for  
21 resolution. It shall publish and make available for public inspection all decisions and final  
22 orders including those in the adjudication of contested cases or applications.  
23

24 **Section 20. Resource Allocation Office.** – There is hereby created a Resource  
25 Allocation Office (RAO) which shall be attached to the DWR. It shall serve as Secretariat  
26 to the NWRAB and shall exercise the following functions in order to provide technical  
27 support to the Board towards the effective regulation of the country’s water resources:  
28

- 29 (a) Advise the NWRAB on all matters relating to resource allocation and  
30 regulation;  
31 (b) Formulate rules and regulation for the exploitation and optimum utilization of  
32 surface water, groundwater, and seawater extraction and use, for the approval  
33 of the NWRAB, and for implementation by the RAO, including the processes  
34 for the application of water permits, in accordance with PD 1067 and other  
35 existing laws;  
36 (c) Process applications of rights to utilize water resources for the appropriate,  
37 optimal and sustainable use of surface and ground water, for the approval of  
38 the NWRAB or its Executive Director, as may be delegated by the Board;  
39 (d) Upon approval by the NWRAB, issue water permits granted to water  
40 appropriators;  
41 (e) Monitor performance of water rights grantees including, among others,  
42 ensuring that water utilization is in accordance with the terms of the permits  
43 granted unto them;  
44 (f) Investigate, *motu proprio*, violations of the water rights and the Water Code;

- 1 (g) In the case of violations and conflicts between and among users, file the  
2 necessary cases for the decision of the NWRAB;  
3 (h) Enforce the decisions promulgated by the NWRAB;  
4 (i) Coordinate with other relevant units of the DWR regarding the generation,  
5 updating, managing, and sharing of water data relevant to each other's  
6 performance of functions;  
7 (j) Respond to consumer complaints, and ensure the adequate promotion of  
8 consumer interests; and  
9 (k) Perform such other related functions and activities which are necessary for the  
10 effective regulation of water-related services.  
11

12 The Office shall be headed by an Executive Director which shall have the rank of  
13 an Undersecretary, and shall be assisted by one (1) Deputy Executive Director which shall  
14 have the rank of an Assistant Secretary.  
15

## 16 CHAPTER V 17 WATER REGULATORY COMMISSION 18

19 **Section 21. *Water Regulatory Commission (WRC).*** – There is hereby created and  
20 established as an independent, quasi-judicial regulatory body to be known as the Water  
21 Regulatory Commission (WRC), which shall be organized within one hundred eighty  
22 (180) days after the effectivity of this Act. The WRC shall have a Board of Commissioners,  
23 and shall be vested with powers and functions, as conferred and set forth hereunder.  
24

25 **Section 22. *Powers and Functions of the WRC.*** – The overall authority and powers  
26 of the WRC shall cover and apply to all service providers, whether private or public,  
27 providing or intending to provide water supply, including suppliers to subdivisions or  
28 other service providers, sewerage, or septage treatment and disposal services for  
29 domestic, residential, institutional, industrial or commercial use.  
30

31 The WRC shall exercise the following powers and functions:

- 32 (a) Issue and promulgate rules, regulations and guidelines as may be necessary  
33 to implement and enforce its powers and functions under this Act;  
34  
35 (b) Promulgate and enforce just and reasonable technical standards,  
36 classifications and measurements of service: *Provided*, That local water  
37 districts, LGU-run and private utilities, especially level II and III water  
38 service providers found performing significantly below prescribed standards  
39 shall be required to submit a Public Service Improvement Plan with  
40 committed performance improvements with a one-year implementation  
41 timeframe: *Provided, further*, That unjustifiable failure to implement  
42 provisions of, or meet commitments in, the Public Service Improvement Plan  
43 shall be cause for dissolution, consolidation, privatization, or management  
44 takeover of the local water district: *Provided, finally*, That the WRC shall have

1 the power to cause such dissolution, consolidation, privatization, or  
2 management takeover and shall mandate the DWR to implement the same;  
3

4 (c) Coordinate with the DWR in the implementation of intervention,  
5 consolidation, dissolution, privatization, or takeover, and shall ensure the  
6 continuity of delivery of public service;  
7

8 (d) Coordinate with the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) and provide  
9 technical support in the WRC's exercise of authority and jurisdiction to  
10 establish rules and enforce regulations to monitor, investigate, provide  
11 remedies for, and provide inputs in the Philippine Competition WRC's  
12 hearings and deliberations on cases involving any market power abuse or  
13 anti-competitive or discriminatory act or behavior by or against any  
14 participant in the water supply and sanitation sector, excluding only those  
15 agreements involving projects that are not considered natural monopolies,  
16 including in respect of the determination of whether any merger, acquisition,  
17 joint venture or other transaction, agreement or arrangement by, between or  
18 among water service providers or any participant in the water supply and  
19 sanitation sector is anti-competitive or will substantially prevent, restrict or  
20 lessen competition in the relevant market. Without prejudice to the actions  
21 that the Philippine Competition Commission, pursuant to RA 10667, may  
22 undertake on its own, the WRC may be directed by the Philippine  
23 Competition Commission, upon finding that a market participant has  
24 engaged in, or fell victim to such act or behavior, to stop or redress the same  
25 within the functions and powers granted to the WRC under this Act;  
26

27 (e) Issue licenses authorizing the operation of water supply and sanitation  
28 services, including community water services, in any specified area or areas  
29 with water supply and sanitation services in any specified area in the  
30 Philippines: *Provided*, That any license to use water resources or operate water  
31 supply and sanitation services shall be considered expired if not exercised by  
32 the licensee within five (5) years upon the date of issuance;  
33

34 (f) Impose and collect annual levies, and reasonable fees and surcharges as may  
35 be necessary for achieving the purposes, powers and functions of the WRC:  
36 *Provided*, That the rate of annual levies and fees shall be determined strictly  
37 on a partial cost recovery basis for the reasonable and actual cost of  
38 regulation: *Provided, further*, That nothing in this section shall be construed as  
39 authorizing the WRC to impose and collect ad valorem annual levies;  
40

41 (g) With due regard to the standardized pricing framework developed by the  
42 DWR pursuant to Section 7(h) of this Act, review, determine, fix and approve,  
43 consistent with the rules, guidelines, procedures and methodologies which  
44 the WRC shall provide, proposed water and sewerage and septage

1 management tariffs, rates and charges that licensees may impose upon their  
2 consumers. The sewerage and septage management tariffs, rates and charges  
3 may be in the form of an environmental fee based on the actual water  
4 consumption of the consumers for regular conduct of desludging and fixed  
5 fees for emergency desludging.

6  
7 The WRC shall endeavor to adopt a local pricing framework, which shall  
8 provide for the minimum water, sewerage and septage management rates  
9 and allow for uniform adjustments to the consumer price index, or foreign  
10 exchange, as applicable, across one or more areas: *Provided*, That service  
11 providers may apply for adjustments to the tariff rates taking into  
12 consideration their actual and proposed expenditures in the construction,  
13 operation, and maintenance of their respective water, sewerage, and septage  
14 management systems.

15  
16 All applications for the imposition or adjustment of water and sewerage and  
17 septage tariffs, rates and charges shall be acted upon by the WRC within a  
18 period of four (4) months. If the WRC fails to issue a decision or resolution  
19 within said prescribed period, the application shall be deemed approved;

- 20  
21 (h) Appraise and value property and equipment used by licensees in providing  
22 water supply and sanitation services and, for this purpose, develop a  
23 database for the value of the property and equipment used by the licensees  
24 in providing water supply and sanitation services by requiring each licensee  
25 to submit, on a periodic basis, an appraisal report covering such assets duly  
26 signed and sealed by an appraisal firm duly accredited by the Securities and  
27 Exchange Commission: *Provided*, That unless otherwise expressly warranted,  
28 the value of such property and equipment as determined by such  
29 independent appraisal firms shall be presumed a true and reasonable  
30 valuation thereof;
- 31  
32 (i) Enforce technical, financial, and other performance standards set by the WRC  
33 for licensees or utilities;
- 34  
35 (j) Respond to consumer complaints and ensure the adequate promotion of  
36 consumer interests and investigate *motu proprio* violations of Sections 27, 28  
37 and 29 of this Act;
- 38  
39 (k) Investigate accidents directly or indirectly arising from or connected with the  
40 maintenance or operation of the service, and make such order or  
41 recommendation as the public interest may warrant;
- 42  
43 (l) Require the review or approval of contracts or agreements that may impact  
44 on the tariff and rates of service provision entered into by service providers

1 upon petition or *motu proprio* wherein its determination public interest so  
2 dictates;

- 3
- 4 (m) Require the submission of reports, plans, and other documents that define  
5 the performance targets of the licensees or utilities, and regular  
6 accomplishment reports;
- 7
- 8 (n) Conduct benchmarking and monitor the performance of licensees or utilities  
9 under their jurisdiction, and publish reports detailing the results thereof;
- 10
- 11 (o) Amend, modify, suspend, or revoke any license issued by them, after due  
12 notice and hearing, on any of the following grounds: (1) when the facts and  
13 circumstances on the strength of which the license was issued have been  
14 materially misrepresented or have materially changed; (2) where the licensee  
15 has failed to meet or comply with terms, conditions, and performance targets,  
16 including but not limited to service expansion, that may have targets,  
17 including but not limited to service expansions, that may have been set in the  
18 license; (3) where the licensee is found to be manifestly inefficient in the  
19 operation of or provision of water supply and sanitation services in its area;  
20 or (4) when the licensee thereof has violated or willfully refused to comply  
21 with any order, rule or regulation of the WRC or any provision of this Act;
- 22
- 23 (p) Appoint an interim management committee to ensure continuity of service  
24 in case a licensee, including those run by local government units, or local  
25 water districts, fails to meet the conditions of the license;
- 26
- 27 (q) Adopt and require that books, records, and accounts be kept and maintained  
28 in accordance with the prescribed uniform accounting system;
- 29
- 30 (r) Fix and determine, for rate-setting purposes, the proper and adequate rates  
31 of depreciation of properties and equipment used in water supply and  
32 sanitation services;
- 33
- 34 (s) Impose and collect annual levies and reasonable fees and surcharges as may  
35 be necessary for achieving the purposes, powers and functions of the WRC;
- 36
- 37 (t) Require the submission of reports on finances and operations, verified under  
38 oaths by the owner or president and secretary of the board of the licensee;
- 39
- 40 (u) Determine and require the monitoring and submission of such data, statistics  
41 and other information from any or all licensees as may be necessary for the  
42 effective and efficient exercise of its duties, functions, powers and  
43 responsibilities;
- 44

- 1 (v) Investigate, *motu proprio* or upon a written complaint, any matter concerning  
2 the operation of the service and violations of Sections 28 and 29 and other  
3 provisions of this Act, including alleged inefficient or inappropriate  
4 performance of obligations by water service providers, and, after due  
5 process, render decisions thereon within one (1) year;  
6
- 7 (w) Impose penalties and fines against any licensee or against its owners,  
8 directors, officers, agents or representatives for any violation of this Act or of  
9 the license, order, rule regulation or requirement issued by the WRC;  
10
- 11 (x) Require any licensee to pay the actual expenses incurred by the WRC in any  
12 investigation if it shall be found that a licensee violated any provision of this  
13 Act or of the license, order, rule, regulation or requirement issued by the  
14 WRC;  
15
- 16 (y) Advise, apprise and coordinate with other relevant agencies of the national  
17 or local government on any matter relating to water supply and sanitation  
18 services;  
19
- 20 (z) Deputize agents, whether from the public or private sector, to assist in the  
21 performance of any of the powers and functions of the WRC;  
22
- 23 (aa) Appoint an interim or temporary management committee upon appeal and  
24 after due hearing, to ensure continuity of service in case a licensee, including  
25 those run by local government units, or local water districts, fails to meet  
26 conditions of the license;  
27
- 28 (bb) Appoint, hire and maintain adequate staff and personnel, advisers, or  
29 consultants, with suitable qualifications and experience, as necessary;  
30
- 31 (cc) Exercise original and exclusive jurisdiction over all cases involving disputes  
32 between and among participants or stakeholders in the water supply and  
33 sanitation services;  
34
- 35 (dd) Issue rules and regulations on terms and conditions prescribing minimum  
36 and mandatory terms for concession agreements, joint venture agreements,  
37 management agreements, service contracts or other contractual  
38 arrangements that may be entered into by government entities including  
39 local water utilities and local government units and private sector entities or  
40 other water service providers for the provision of water or sanitation services,  
41 such as the (i) the term, scope and total cost of the activity, which may be  
42 subdivided into phases; (ii) committed contributions and corresponding  
43 performance security requirements in accordance with any agreed phased

1 implementation of the activity; and (iii) cost recovery schemes and  
2 percentage of the parties' share in the profits and losses, among others;  
3

- 4 (ee) Upon the recommendation of the DWR, and after due notice and hearing,  
5 terminate or cancel water permits issued and outstanding as of the date of  
6 the effectivity of this Act to any government or private sector entities to  
7 ensure optimal and efficient use of water resources. The WRC shall  
8 principally rely on the prima facie findings of the DWR, acting on the basis  
9 of information, records and reports submitted by any holders of such water  
10 permits as of the effectivity date of this Act, that the water resource covered  
11 by such water permits have not been substantially utilized or no substantial  
12 water works facilities, systems or other infrastructure has been constructed  
13 in pursuit thereof, in each case, for a period one (1) year from the date of  
14 issuance thereof, or if the water is used, totally or partially, for any purpose  
15 other than those approved in the water permit. The WRC shall decide on the  
16 recommendation for the DWR within six (6) months from receipt of the  
17 recommendation. The WRC by itself may exercise this function;  
18
- 19 (ff) Issue rules, guidelines, procedures, and methodologies for the determination  
20 of the appropriate water and sewerage and septage management tariffs, rates  
21 and charges and review and confirm such tariffs;  
22
- 23 (gg) Issue rules, guidelines, procedures and methodologies for the computation  
24 of any adjustment of any approved water and sewerage and septage  
25 management tariffs, rates and charges based on the prevailing consumer  
26 price index or foreign exchange adjustments set by the appropriate national  
27 government agency, or any other factors customary in the water or sanitation  
28 industries which require adjustment or rebasing of the tariffs, which  
29 adjustment shall be implemented automatically subject to a thirty (30) day  
30 prior written notice to the WRC;  
31
- 32 (hh) Determine the existence of any material adverse government action which  
33 has a material and adverse effect on any of the rights and privileges of, or on  
34 the enjoyment or exercise thereof by the licensees, or which has a material  
35 and adverse effect on the licensees' ability to comply with their financial or  
36 other contractual obligations to provide water or sanitation services, and  
37 determine the appropriate remedial measures therefor, which may include  
38 compensation or extension of permits or licenses; and  
39
- 40 (ii) Perform such other incidental powers and functions as may be necessary to  
41 attain the objectives of this Act.  
42

43 **Section 23. Composition of the WRC. –**  
44

- 1 (a) The WRC shall be a collegial body composed of five (5) full-time members  
2 consisting of a Chairperson and four (4) members, who shall all be appointed  
3 by the President. All members of the WRC must be citizens and residents of  
4 the Philippines, at least thirty-five (35) years of age, and of good moral  
5 character, of recognized integrity and competence in the field of law, business,  
6 commerce, finance, accounting or public administration, water or utility  
7 economics, management, physical or engineering services, hydrology and  
8 other related services, with at least three (3) years of actual and distinguished  
9 experience in their respective fields of expertise: *Provided*, That out of the four  
10 (4) members of the WRC, at least one (1) shall be a member of the Philippine  
11 Bar with at least ten (10) years of experience in the active practice of law, at  
12 least one (1) shall be a certified public accountant with at least ten (10) years of  
13 experience in active practice, and at least one (1) shall be a licensed engineer  
14 with experience in the water sector.  
15
- 16 (b) The term of office of each member of the WRC shall be seven (7) years: *Provided*,  
17 That among the members first appointed, the Chairperson shall serve for a  
18 period of seven (7) years, two (2) members shall serve for five (5) years and the  
19 other two (2) members shall serve for three (3) years: *Provided, further*, That any  
20 member whose term has expired as specified herein shall serve as such until a  
21 successor shall have been appointed and qualified: *Provided, furthermore*, That  
22 any appointment to fill a vacancy in the WRC arising from death, removal,  
23 retirement or resignation shall be made only for the unexpired term: *Provided*,  
24 *finally*, That in no case shall any member serve for more than seven (7) years in  
25 the WRC.  
26
- 27 (c) The WRC shall meet as often as may be necessary on such day or days as the  
28 Chairperson may fix. The presence of at least three (3) members of the WRC  
29 shall constitute a quorum, which shall be necessary for the transaction of any  
30 business. The affirmative vote of majority of the members of the WRC where a  
31 quorum is present shall be necessary for the adoption of any order, resolution,  
32 decisions, or other act of the WRC in the exercise of its quasi-judicial functions:  
33 *Provided*, That in promulgating rules, regulations, guidelines and in exercising  
34 its quasi-legislative functions, an affirmative vote of three (3) members shall be  
35 required.  
36
- 37 (d) The Chairperson of the WRC shall exercise general executive control and  
38 supervision over the WRC and its members, staff and personnel, agents and  
39 representatives. Within three (3) months from the creation of the WRC and the  
40 appointment of all Members of the WRC, the Chairperson shall determine and  
41 establish the organizational structure and *plantilla* positions necessary to carry  
42 out the powers and functions of the WRC subject to the review and approval  
43 of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).  
44

1 The *plantilla* positions of the WRC shall be filled by regular appointments in  
2 accordance with Civil Service laws, rules, and regulations. Members of the  
3 WRC shall enjoy security of tenure and shall not be suspended or removed  
4 from office except for just cause as specified by law.  
5

- 6 (e) The Chairperson and members of the WRC or any of their relatives within the  
7 fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity, legitimate or common law,  
8 shall be prohibited from holding any interest whatsoever, either as investor,  
9 stockholder, officer or director, in any company or entity engaged in provision  
10 of water supply and distribution, septage management and sewerage services  
11 and must, therefore, divest through sale or legal disposition of any and all  
12 interests in the water sector upon assumption to office.  
13

14 **Section 24. *Secretariat of the WRC.*** – The WRC shall establish a Secretariat which  
15 shall provide the WRC with technical and support services including the following:  
16

- 17 (a) Provide the necessary technical inputs and secretariat support to the WRC to  
18 facilitate the conduct of its functions;  
19  
20 (b) Maintain a database on the water supply and sanitation subsector; and  
21  
22 (c) Coordinate with other relevant agencies of the national or local government  
23 on any matter relating to water supply and sanitation.  
24

25 **Section 25. *Executive Director.*** – The WRC shall appoint an Executive Director  
26 who shall head the Commission Secretariat, keep and maintain the official records of the  
27 WRC, render a report on the proceedings of the WRC, and administer oaths in all matters  
28 falling within the jurisdiction of the WRC.  
29

30 The Executive Director shall be responsible for the effective implementation of the  
31 policies, plans, programs, rules, regulations and directives of the WRC; coordinate and  
32 supervise the activities of the different operating units under the WRC; and perform such  
33 functions as may be assigned by the Chairperson or other members of the WRC.  
34

35 **Section 26. *Compensation and Other Emoluments.*** – The compensation of the  
36 members of the WRC and its staff shall conform to the provisions of RA 6758, as amended,  
37 otherwise known as the Compensation and Position Classification Act of 1989, as  
38 amended, and other relevant laws.  
39

## 40 CHAPTER VI 41 REGISTRATION AND LICENSING 42

43 **Section 27. *Registration and Licensing of All Water Supply and Sanitation***  
44 ***Services.*** – All water supply and sanitation service providers, including bulk water

1 suppliers and those providing services to subdivisions and other service providers, shall  
2 register with the WRC and, subject to its rules, guidelines, procedures and other issuances  
3 of the WRC, obtain a license to operate from the appropriate regulatory units: *Provided,*  
4 That the WRC shall act on the application for the issuance or the conversion of such  
5 licenses and renewals thereof within the maximum period of one (1) year as provided  
6 under this Act or by RA 11032, otherwise known as the Ease of Doing Business and  
7 Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018.

8  
9 The WRC shall ensure that the grant and revocation of licenses are carried out  
10 fairly, transparently, and without discrimination. Issuances of the WRC shall specify,  
11 among others, the qualifications, requirements, and procedure for the grant and  
12 revocation of licenses including the standards and performance targets that shall  
13 continuously be complied with to keep the licenses valid. Unless otherwise provided in  
14 this Act or by the WRC, no public water supply and sanitation service provider shall  
15 commence or conduct the business of providing water supply and sanitation services  
16 without first obtaining a license. Concession agreements and other contracts for water  
17 supply provision and water sanitation and treatment services currently existing shall  
18 remain valid and enforceable unless otherwise terminated, after due notice and hearing  
19 for reasons provided in the existing terms and conditions under the concession or service  
20 agreement or contract, or when invalidated by the WRC, after due notice and hearing,  
21 where national security, national emergency or public interest so dictates.

22  
23 Concession agreements, joint venture agreement, bulk water supply agreements,  
24 management and service agreements, and other contracts for water supply provision and  
25 water sanitation and treatment services currently existing shall remain valid and  
26 enforceable unless otherwise terminated, after due notice and hearing for reasons  
27 provided in the existing terms and conditions under the concession or service agreement  
28 or contract, or when invalidated by the WRC, after due notice and hearing, where national  
29 security, national emergency or public interest so dictates. Until the issuance of new or  
30 converted or updated registrations, licenses or permits, as contemplated under this Act,  
31 such existing concession agreements, joint venture agreements, bulk water supply  
32 agreements, management and service agreements and other contracts for water supply  
33 provision or water sanitation treatment services shall serve as the license or other legal  
34 basis for the authority to engage in water supply or sanitation services during the term  
35 thereof.

36  
37 **Section 28. *Conditions of License.*** – The WRC may impose such conditions on the  
38 licensee as it may deem necessary, such as:

- 39  
40 (a) Tariffs, rates and charges that may be imposed from its customers or  
41 consumers;  
42 (b) Term fixing the duration of the privilege;  
43 (c) Grounds for modification, suspension or cancellation of the License;  
44 (d) Minimum technical performance and service level standards;

- 1 (e) Expansion targets and service level improvements over time;
- 2 (f) Restrictions or conditions for transferability of the business or controlling
- 3 interest in the business;
- 4 (g) Reportorial requirements and obligations of the grantee; and
- 5 (h) Submission to annual performance audit by the WRC or its duly authorized
- 6 representative(s).
- 7

8 The WRC shall specify the requirements and procedure for existing holders of a  
9 Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC), Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity  
10 (CPCN) issued by NWRB, or CoC issued by LWUA, to convert their existing certificates  
11 into licenses to operate in accordance with Section 27 hereof.

12  
13 To ensure continuity of water and sanitation services, a CPC, CPCN, provisional  
14 authority or a CoC issued by NWRB or the LWUA prior to the effectivity of this Act shall  
15 remain valid for a period of five (5) years counted from the later of the date of issuance  
16 thereof or the date of effectivity of the implementing rules and regulations duly issued by  
17 the WRC for the conversion thereof into licenses to operate in accordance with this Act.

18  
19 All local water utilities, existing water service providers or holders of CPCN or  
20 CoC shall be duly prioritized in the issuance of the licenses to operate over the areas where  
21 they currently operate or as may be covered by their franchises. The submission of the  
22 CPC, CPCN, provisional authority, or the CoC issued by the NWRB or LWUA shall be  
23 sufficient basis for the issuance of the new and converted or updated licenses to operate  
24 required and contemplated under this Act. To ensure continuity of service, the WRC shall  
25 complete the issuance of such converted or updated licenses not later than six (6) months  
26 from the effectivity of the implementing rules and regulations issued by the WRC  
27 pursuant to this Act.

28  
29 All existing providers of water supply and sanitation services without a legal and  
30 valid CPC, CPCN, provisional authority or CoC shall register with the WRC for a license  
31 within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.

32  
33 **Section 29. *Rights and Duties of Licensees.* –**

- 34
- 35 (a) Any person granted a license under this Act shall have the obligation to ensure
- 36 that licensed activities are conducted to further public interest and, in
- 37 particular:
- 38 (1) Foster the maintenance and development of efficient, coordinated, and
- 39 viable operation of their licensed activities;
- 40 (2) Ensure that their water supply and sanitation services are provided in a
- 41 diligent, conscientious and workman like manner, in accordance with
- 42 applicable laws, rules, and regulations issued by the WRC and the
- 43 generally accepted standards and practices of the water supply and
- 44 sanitation industry; and

1 (3) Comply with drinking water quality requirements and standards that may  
2 be established by the WRC and the DOH.  
3

4 (b) Any person granted a license under this Act shall, to the extent allowed by law  
5 and specified in the license, has the right to acquire or lease land, lay or repair  
6 water or sanitation main lines and other relevant facilities in public ways to  
7 fulfill the terms and conditions under the license.  
8

9 (c) Subject to any condition or limitation laid down in the license, a licensee may  
10 discontinue water supply and sanitation services to a customer if such  
11 customer defaults in the payment of fees due to the licensee for the water  
12 supplied or sanitation services provided, or for acts of pilferage pursuant to  
13 Sections 8, 9, 10, and 11 of RA 8041, otherwise known as the Water Crisis Act  
14 of 1995.  
15

16 (d) Any license issued under this Act shall contain provisions designed to ensure  
17 that licensees:

18 (1) Publish the tariff and other charges approved by and the terms and  
19 conditions imposed by the WRC for the provision of water supply and  
20 sanitation services;

21 (2) Prepare, within three (3) months from the issuance of a license, in  
22 consultation with its customers, a Customer Service Code specifying the  
23 manner and procedure for: (a) metering, billing, and collection of the  
24 licensee's approved tariff and other charges, (b) disconnection or  
25 suspension of service in case of non-payment of tariffs or other charges, or  
26 acts of pilferage, and (c) recommendation and recovery of arrears in tariffs  
27 and other charges;

28 (3) Maintain financial accounts in accordance with the manner and procedure  
29 specified in the license and as may be required by the WRC; and

30 (4) Maintain and upon request by anyone during regular office hours,  
31 promptly make available for scrutiny and inspection such data, statistics  
32 and other information, as may be required by the WRC.  
33

34 **Section 30. Setting Tariffs, Rates, and Other Charges.** – With due regard to the  
35 standardized pricing framework developed by the DWR pursuant to Section 7(h) of this  
36 Act, the WRC shall establish tariffs, rates and other charges which are fair and reasonable,  
37 and ensure economic viability and a fair return on investments.  
38

39 Service providers may apply for the setting of tariffs, rates and charges based on  
40 and consistent with a rate-setting methodology that the WRC shall, after due consultation,  
41 define and publish, taking into account the following, among others:  
42

43 (a) Reasonable and prudent capital and recurrent costs of providing the service  
44 including a reasonable rate of return on capital;

- 1  
2 (b) Efficiency of the service;  
3 (c) Incentives for enhancement of efficiency;  
4 (d) Capacity to pay of the customers/consumers;  
5 (e) Equity considerations;  
6 (f) Administrative simplicity;  
7 (g) In cases involving valid and subsisting concession agreements prior to the  
8 enactment of this Act, the methodology provided under the Concession  
9 Agreement;  
10 (h) Compliance with obligations as set out under pertinent laws, jurisprudence,  
11 and, in cases involving valid and subsisting concession agreements prior to the  
12 enactment of this Act, the provisions of the Concession Agreement; and  
13 (i) To the fullest extent practicable, the terms and conditions of the tariffs, rates or  
14 other price-setting mechanisms set forth in any concession agreement, joint  
15 venture agreement or other similar agreement for the provision of water or  
16 sanitation services by an existing service provider.  
17

18 Tariffs, rates and charges set shall be presumed valid and reasonable unless  
19 invalidated by the WRC, after due notice and hearing, acting on a protest or contest duly  
20 filed with the WRC to ensure continuity of service, application for setting of tariffs, rates  
21 and other charges shall be decided within a non-extendible period of ninety (90) days  
22 from the date of filing thereof, and the failure of the WRC to act on any such applications  
23 shall result in a provisional approval: *Provided*, That in no case shall proceedings on any  
24 applications for the setting of tariffs, rates and other charges exceed to a total period of  
25 one hundred twenty (120) days reckoned from the date of filing of the application.  
26

27 **Section 31. *Direct Access.*** – Fifty-one percent (51%) of the registered water  
28 consumers in a service area, municipality, city or province may petition for direct access  
29 to water from any water service provider subject to concurrence by and reasonable  
30 compensation to the service provider and approval by the WRC. If the petition for direct  
31 access from any water service provider is approved by the WRC, the new water service  
32 provider shall reimburse the existing service provider for, as applicable, either the book  
33 value or the market value as determined by an independent appraiser accredited by the  
34 WRC, whichever is higher, of the water source, water supply or water distribution or  
35 transmission facilities, pipelines and other equipment which shall be transferred to or  
36 utilized by the new water service provider. The WRC shall promulgate the implementing  
37 rules and procedures for this mode of service, which shall include, among others, financial  
38 and technical capability of the new service provider.  
39

40 **Section 32. *Innovative Schemes to Improve Efficiency and Management of***  
41 ***Systems.*** – The WRC shall promote innovative schemes such as the consolidation or  
42 integration of water supply and sanitation services, or providers in the same service area,  
43 where it shall result in improved efficiency, service expansion and lower costs. To this  
44 end, the WRC shall establish and issue such rules and guidelines as may be necessary to

1 (a) create incentives to encourage efficiency and service expansion; (b) establish the  
2 standards and targets that service providers are required to meet; and (c) define the fines  
3 and penalties that shall be imposed for failure to meet such standards and targets.

4  
5 **CHAPTER VII**  
6 **QUASI-JUDICIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION**  
7

8 **Section 33. *Proceedings Before the WRC.*** – For the purpose of any investigation,  
9 inquiry or proceeding, the WRC shall:

- 10  
11 (a) Issue subpoena duces tecum and subpoena ad testificandum;  
12 (b) Appoint hearing officers to hear and receive evidence on behalf of the WRC;  
13 and  
14 (c) Cite any person or party for contempt for refusal to appear, testify, or comply  
15 with an order of the WRC on any matter that is the subject of investigation,  
16 inquiry or proceeding before the WRC.  
17

18 **Section 34. *Orders and Decisions of the WRC.*** – Any order, resolution, or decision  
19 of the WRC shall be promulgated promptly, expeditiously, reasonably, and in writing,  
20 and shall state clearly and distinctly the facts and law on which it is based. The WRC shall  
21 publish and make available for public inspection, all decisions and final orders in the  
22 adjudication of contested cases or applications.  
23

24 **Section 35. *Appeals Procedure and Prohibition Against Injunction.*** –  
25

- 26 (a) The orders, rulings, and decisions of the WRC are final and executory unless  
27 appealed to the Court of Appeals within fifteen (15) days from receipt of notice  
28 of such order, ruling or decision: *Provided*, That orders, rulings, and decisions  
29 of the WRC approving tariffs, shall be immediately executory and may be  
30 suspended only upon appeal and filing of a bond, in an amount to be fixed by  
31 the WRC, to answer for damages occasioned by the suspension or stay of  
32 execution of such orders, rulings, and decisions.  
33  
34 (b) No injunction may be issued by any court or administrative agency to restrain  
35 any proceeding before, or the implementation or execution of any order, ruling,  
36 or decision of the WRC, except on the basis of a question of law brought before  
37 the Supreme Court on certiorari.  
38  
39 (c) Any act or decision of the WRC shall not be invalidated merely because of a  
40 defect or irregularity in, or in connection with, the appointment or vacancy in  
41 the Office of the Chairperson or any other member of the WRC.  
42

43 **CHAPTER VIII**  
44 **INTERDEPARTMENTAL RELATIONS OF THE COMMISSION**

1  
2 **Section 36. *Interface with Other Sector Regulators.* –**  
3

4 (a) The DENR shall continue to exercise primary jurisdiction over programs aimed  
5 at protecting the environment and the quality of water sources from waste and  
6 pollution, and shall promulgate rules, regulations, and standards in this  
7 regard. The DOH shall continue to exercise primary jurisdiction over the  
8 determination and enforcement of standards for quality drinking water and  
9 sanitation.

10  
11 (b) The WRC shall coordinate with the:

- 12 (1) DOH to ensure that the standards and targets for quality drinking water  
13 and sanitation are consistently complied with;  
14 (2) LGUs for development projects relating to water supply and sanitation; and  
15 (3) PCC for the provision of its technical advisory services in the exercise of the  
16 exclusive authority and jurisdiction of the WRC to investigate and act on  
17 any market power abuse or anti-competitive or discriminatory act or  
18 behavior by or against any participant in the water supply and sanitation  
19 sector.

20  
21 **CHAPTER IX**  
22 **TRANSITORY PROVISIONS**  
23

24 **Section 37. *Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern.* –** The Secretary of the  
25 DWR and the Chairperson of the WRC shall determine the respective organizational  
26 structure and staffing pattern of the DWR and the WRC in accordance with the revised  
27 compensation and position classification system subject to the evaluation and approval of  
28 the DBM and in compliance with the civil service laws, rules and regulations and other  
29 relevant laws.

30  
31 **Section 38. *Transfer of Rights and Functions.* –** The DWR shall, by virtue of this  
32 Act be subrogated to all the rights and assume all the functions of the government  
33 agencies and units whose powers and functions have been subsumed, absorbed,  
34 transferred or attached to the DWR. The WRC shall also, by virtue of this Act, be  
35 subrogated to all the rights, and assume all the functions, of the Water Utilities Division  
36 of the NWRB, the regulatory offices of MWSS and LWUA, the regulatory units of all  
37 special economic zones, and all other government agencies and units whose powers and  
38 functions have been transferred to the WRC in accordance with the rules and regulations  
39 of the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

40  
41 The transfer of powers and functions to the DWR or the WRC of the concerned  
42 agencies as herein provided for, shall be deemed completed within twelve (12) months  
43 after the effectivity of this Act. All agencies transferred, subsumed and attached to the  
44 DWR or WRC shall continue to function under their present mandates until the six-month

1 transition period mandated under this Act shall have lapsed. The transfer of powers and  
2 functions shall include all applicable funds, personnel, records, property and equipment,  
3 as may be necessary. The heads of the affected agencies shall continue to serve until  
4 replaced.

5  
6 All rights and functions of the affected agencies are hereby transferred to and  
7 assumed by the DWR or WRC and shall be acted upon in accordance with the rules and  
8 regulations of the WRC on Audit and other pertinent laws, rules, and regulations.

9  
10 Performance audit of all water-related agencies and institutions, including LWUA  
11 and water districts, MWSS, MWSS-RO and its concessionaires, LGU-run utilities, Tourism  
12 Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority, Philippine Economic Zone Authority,  
13 Bases Conversion and Development Authority, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, DILG,  
14 and NIA, shall be conducted by the DWR.

15  
16 **Section 39. *Absorption, Separation or Retirement from Service of Employees of the***  
17 ***Subrogated Agencies.*** – The current employees of all government agencies and units  
18 whose powers and functions have been transferred to, absorbed or subsumed by the DWR  
19 or WRC shall enjoy security of tenure, in accordance with their staffing pattern and the  
20 selection process as prescribed under RA 6656 or the Government Reorganization Law.  
21 Employees opting to be separated from the service as a consequence of the consolidation,  
22 and reconstitution under the provisions of this Act shall, within one (1) month from their  
23 separation or phase out from the service, receive separation benefits in accordance with  
24 existing laws, and those who are qualified to retire shall be allowed to retire and be  
25 entitled to all benefits under existing retirement laws.

## 26 27 **CHAPTER X** 28 **FINAL PROVISIONS** 29

30 **Section 40. *Applicability of Ease of Doing Business Law.*** – The prescribed  
31 processing time provided under Section 9(b) of RA 11032 shall be applicable to all agencies  
32 and LGUs covered under this Act particularly on accessing government services.

33  
34 **Section 41. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation  
35 of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the agencies,  
36 entities, divisions, sections or units subsumed or transferred to the DWR. Thereafter, such  
37 amount shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

38  
39 **Section 42. *Water Trust Fund.*** – There is hereby created a Water Trust Fund in the  
40 Bureau of Treasury sourced from raw water pricing, permit fees, registration fees,  
41 supervision and regulation enforcement fees, filing fees, testing fees, payments for  
42 ecosystem services, and other service income from the use of water resources. The Trust  
43 Fund shall be administered by the DWR. The annual levies, and reasonable fees and  
44 surcharges as may be necessary for achieving the purposes, powers and function of the

1 WRC under Section 22(f) of this Act shall also be remitted to the Water Trust Fund.  
2 Proceeds from the trust fund shall be utilized for water development, water sanitation  
3 and waste water treatment and management, and water sustainability programs and  
4 projects authorized under this Act: *Provided*, That a maximum of ten percent (10%) of the  
5 total proceeds generated from raw water extraction and all payments for ecosystem  
6 services shall be given as share of the concerned local government unit or indigenous  
7 peoples (IP) community who own the specific areas or land where the raw water was  
8 sourced: *Provided, further*, That the DWR shall prescribe standards for programs and  
9 projects where proceeds from payments for ecosystem services shall be utilized.

10  
11 **Section 43. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Upon the effectivity of this Act,  
12 the DWR and the WRC, as may be applicable, as well as DEPDev, DBM, DENR, CSC, and  
13 the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) in consultation with concerned  
14 government agencies shall:

15  
16 (a) Promulgate the rules and regulations of the DWR and the WRC necessary for  
17 the effective implementation of this Act within one hundred twenty (120) days  
18 after its effectivity; and

19  
20 (b) Submit to the DBM the DWR’s and the WRC’s budget for fiscal year following  
21 the promulgation of its implementing rules and regulations; and implement  
22 the training of the personnel of the DWR and the WRC.

23  
24 **Section 44. *Mandatory Review.*** – The DWR and the WRC shall conduct a review  
25 of the implementation of this Act at the end of the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) year from the date of its  
26 effectivity and submit a report to Congress.

27 **Section 45. *Reporting and Accountability.*** – The DWR shall submit an annual report  
28 to Congress on water resource status, policy implementation, and financial performance  
29 of the sector. All plans, data, and reports shall be published online.

30  
31 **Section 45. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared  
32 unconstitutional, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in full force  
33 and effect.

34  
35 **Section 46. *Repealing Clause.*** –

36  
37 (a) The following provisions are hereby repealed:

38  
39 (1) Section 3(h) and Section 12 on the provision with respect to fixing of water  
40 rates and sanitation service fees, Section 3 (n) on the provision with respect  
41 to regulation of waterworks and deep wells, and Section 3 (p) on the  
42 provision with respect to regulation of waterworks and sanitation systems  
43 in privately owned subdivisions of RA 6234 entitled “An Act Creating The  
44 Metropolitan Waterworks And Sewerage System And Dissolving The

1 National Waterworks And Sewerage Authority, And For Other Purposes,”  
2 as amended;

- 3 (2) Section 62, 63, and 66 of Title III on Local Water Utilities Administration  
4 Law of Presidential Decree No. 198 otherwise known as the Provincial  
5 Water Utilities Act of 1973, as amended by Letter of Instruction No. 700,  
6 series of 1978, Letter of Instruction No. 744, Series of 1978, EO 124, Series of  
7 1987, EO 123, Series of 2002, and EO 860, Series of 2010, on the regulation  
8 of water districts;
- 9 (3) Section 1 of EO 124-A Series of 1987, amending EO 124, dated 30 January  
10 1987, Reorganizing the Department of Public Works and Highways,  
11 Redefining Its Powers and Functions, and For Other Purposes on  
12 reorganizing the National Water Resources Council into the National Water  
13 Resources Board;
- 14 (4) EO 510 series of 2006 creating the RBCO, and EO 516 series of 2009  
15 declaring the RBCO under the DENR as lead government agency for the  
16 integrated planning, management, rehabilitation, and development of the  
17 country’s river basins; and
- 18 (5) EO 22, Series of 2023 creating the Water Resources Management Office of  
19 the DENR.

20  
21 (b) The following provisions are hereby amended accordingly:  
22

- 23 (1) Section 3 paragraph 3 Commonwealth Act No. 146, as amended, pertaining  
24 to all cases involving the fixing of rates;
- 25 (2) Section 154, Article V, Chapter I, Title One, Book II of RA 7160, as amended,  
26 otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991”, and its  
27 implementing rules and regulations on the power of the LGUs to fix the  
28 rates of water utilities owned, operated and maintained by them within  
29 their jurisdiction is hereby repealed or modified accordingly;
- 30 (3) Section 13(b) on the regulation of enterprises within the Economic Zone  
31 under RA 7916 as amended, otherwise known as “The Special Economic  
32 Zone Act of 1995”;
- 33 (4) Section 69 of RA 9593, otherwise known as “The Tourism Act of 2009”, and  
34 its implementing rules and regulations which mandate the Tourism  
35 Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority to grant franchises, supervise  
36 the operation of public utilities, and register, monitor and regulate  
37 enterprises within Tourism Enterprise Zones, are hereby repealed or  
38 modified accordingly;
- 39 (5) Sections 7 of RA 9275, transferring the administration of the NSSMP from  
40 the DPWH to the DWR;
- 41 (6) Articles 3(d) and Chapters VII and VIII of PD 1067 pertaining to the  
42 enforcement of the Water Code;
- 43 (7) Section 15 (Conditions in Permits) of the Implementing Rules and  
44 Regulations (IRR) of PD 1067;

1 (8) Section 3.2(b) EO 149, Series of 1993 transferring the Laguna Lake  
2 Development Authority from the Office of the President to the DENR; and  
3 (9) EO 168, Series of 2022, which transferred the National Irrigation  
4 Administration from the Office of the President to the DA.  
5

6 All other laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations,  
7 rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this  
8 Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.  
9

10 **Section 47. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
11 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.  
12

13 *Approved,*