

DENR Administrative Order

No. 98 - 03

January 12, 1998

SUBJECT : Creation of an Interim Rivers Rehabilitation and Management Division (IRRMD) at the DENR-National Capital Region (NCR) and Initiating Actions to Regularize the Division.

To ensure sustained efforts in rehabilitating the Pasig River and the other river systems in Metro Manila and to continue generating information, technical and organizational approaches and other lessons in river management and protection which can be used in other parts of the country:

1. An interim Rivers Rehabilitation and Management Division is hereby created at the Environmental Management and Protected Areas Service, National Capital Region. The present Pasig River Rehabilitation Program (PRRP) Rehabilitation Secretariat (PRRP-RRS), which has been transferred to the NCR through Special Order No. 98-24, dated January 07, 1998, shall be constituted as the core of the interim division until such time that a regular division is created officially.
2. The Division shall perform the basic functions of river rehabilitation of the Metro Manila river systems; planning and monitoring, public and community relations and mobilization; participating and coordinating for the Department the activities pertaining to Manila Bay, acting as the Secretariat of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Program and all other functions of the River Rehabilitation Secretariat as defined by DENR Administrative Order 96-12, series of 1996, dated 20 March 1996.

3. In addition to the above functions and considering the experiences and lessons gained by the PRRP-RRS, the division shall take the lead in conducting studies and formulating plans, programs and proposals on rivers rehabilitation and management which may be adopted for rivers and other freshwater bodies in other parts of the country. The performance of these functions shall be done in coordination and collaboration with the regional offices concerned.
4. The interim Rivers Rehabilitation and Management Division and the equivalent regular division that may be created officially shall be so structured organizationally in accordance with its basic functions.
5. To carry out this Order, the Regional Executive Director shall:
 - 5.1 organize, through a Regional Special Order, the present River Rehabilitation Secretariat into one Division of the EMPAS;
 - 5.2 define the specific major functions and activities that the sections in the Division will perform, guided by the provisions of this Order and other related orders and in consultation with the PRRP Steering Committee;
 - 5.3 prescribe the working systems and relationships within the Division;
 - 5.4 coordinate with the group that may be created to implement the restructuring of the NCR and with the Assistant Secretary for Management Services to initiate the necessary actions that will lead to the formal creation of a Rivers Rehabilitation and Management Division;
7. The above tasks shall be completed within fifteen (15) days from the issuance of this Order and the Regional Executive Director shall submit to the Undersecretary for Field Operations a status report on the compliance of this Order within fifteen (15) days after completion.

7. In connection with No. 5.4, above, and to ensure the creation of the River Rehabilitation and Management Division as a separate and distinct division within the DENR, the Assistant Secretary for Management Services and International Environmental Affairs and the NCR Regional Executive Director are hereby authorized to work on the creation of the RRMD separately from the proposal to restructure the NCR, provided that this Division will still be part of the over-all organizational plan for the NCR.
8. The Deputy Coordinator of the PRRP/RRS shall act as concurrent head of the division until such time that a full-fledged division is created and its staffing pattern approved and implemented.
9. The interim division shall continue to operate until such time that a regular division is approved through the official budgetary process or until this Order is rescinded by the DENR Secretary or by a higher competent authority
10. To accomplish the objective of regularizing and integrating the river rehabilitation activities within the NCR, the Assistant Secretary for Management Services and International Environmental Affairs and the NCR Regional executive Director are hereby tasked and are directed immediately to:
 - 10.1 study and propose a staffing pattern for a proposed Rivers Rehabilitation and Management Division as part of the NCR EMPAS;
 - 10.2 identify funds in the 1998 budgets of the Office of Secretary, National Capital Region and other related items which may be realigned and recommended to finance the creation of the proposed staffing pattern;
 - 10.3 prepare position paper and justification and conduct discussions with the Department of Budget and Management with the objective of creating a funding a river rehabilitation division and its staffing pattern at the NCR;

- 10.4 include the new division and its staffing pattern in the Department's 1999 appropriations proposals; and
- 10.5 request assistance from the other offices and units of the DENR and from PRRP consultants to carry out these instructions effectively; and
- 10.6 Submit to the Secretary periodic reports on the progress of the above tasks.

The above directives must be accomplished within 60 days from the effectivity of this Order.

This Order takes effect immediately.

(Sgd.) VICTOR O. RAMOS
Secretary