

**DENR Administrative Order
No. 2001 – 29
November 05, 2001**

SUBJECT : Institutionalizing the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in DENR Programs and Projects.

In the interest of the service and consistent with DENR's organizational development and with the State policy recognizing the importance of water as precious and valuable resource that naturally refurbish the environment into a clean and healthy condition and cognizant that holistic management comprises of the planning and implementation of technical, institutional, managerial, legal and operational activities necessary for sustainable utilization of the water resources, the following guidelines are hereby promulgated as part of the institutionalization and strengthening processes of the DENR role in the water sector:

SECTION 1 - TITLE: This Administrative Order shall be known as **“Institutionalizing the Integrated Water Resources Management in DENR Programs and Projects.”**

SEC. 2 - BASIC POLICY: It has become increasingly crucial for the DENR to actively intervene in the improvement of the management of water resources. It is the policy of the DENR to attain and maintain a balance between socio-economic growth and environmental protection through the renewal and conservation of the country's natural resources. The DENR shall adopt and promote an integrated water management approach that would address the deficiencies of the water sector not just from the demand side but also from the supply side.

SEC. 3 – OBJECTIVES: The institutionalization of IWRM shall principally streamline and integrate all programs and projects

(both local and international) related to water both surface and groundwater within the framework of Philippine Agenda 21. It aims to institute measures towards promoting greater fiscal discipline through holistic management and prudent national spending, as well as accountability for use of DENR's resources in the water sector. It aims to:

- a) act as the prime mover for national unity and alliance in the water sector;
- b) show and promote the sincerity of DENR in insuring the protection and conservation of water resources (refers to CH. I, Art. 3d of IRR, Water Code of the Philippines);
- c) allow surveillance, monitoring and evaluation of water-users within the context of Philippine Water Code (P.D. No. 1067);
- d) encourage strict regulation of water use and ensure that public interests are protected in the provision of safe drinking water, sanitation, irrigation and other water services by service providers;
- e) advocate and recognize the economic and environmental value of water in all its competing users;
- f) ensure the rehabilitation of river basins, watersheds, waterways, esteros and other fresh and salt water ecosystem for sustainable developments;
- g) advocate strong partnership and participation of the private sector and civil society in all levels of water resources management, development and utilization; and,
- h) promote and encourage the use of renewable water using appropriate and environmentally sound technologies.

SEC. 4 – SCOPE: The Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) shall include all water-related programs and projects, both local and international. It would take into account:

- a) all natural aspects of water resources;
- b) all sectoral interests and stakeholders;
- c) the spatial variations of resources and demands;
- d) the relevant policy frameworks;
- e) all institutional levels relevant to IWRM approach.

SEC. 5 – THE DIRECTORATE: The Executive Order No. 374 stipulates that the DENR shall lead the water sector and oversee the implementation of all programs and projects related to the water sector. In order to assimilate this new agenda to the current organizational structure of DENR, this Administrative Order is hereby promulgated to institutionalize the Directorate on Integrated Water Resources Management.

The Directorate shall be directly under the Office of the Secretary. It shall be headed by a Director. The Director shall be entitled to all financial remuneration and benefits.

The Directorate shall act as an apex body to oversee and coordinate all water related issues. In coordination with the Offices of Special Concerns, Special Assignments, Undersecretary for ENR-Operations and Undersecretary for ENR-Planning and Policy, the Directorate shall immediately integrate and shall have oversight and coordinative functions on all water-related programs and projects of DENR, which include but not limited to the following:

- a) Presidential Task Force on Water Resources Development and Management (PTFWERM)
- b) Water Resources Development Project – Watershed Management Improvement Component (WRDP-WMIC)
- c) Environmental Geology and Hydrogeology Research Section of MGB
- d) Watershed Management of FMB
- e) Wetland Conservation of PAWB
- f) Freshwater Environment of ERDB
- g) Water Quality Monitoring of EMB
- h) Pasig River Rehabilitation of EMB
- i) Coastal Environment Program
- j) ASEAN National Water Resources Agencies Network (ANWRA)
- k) International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)
- l) All other national and site-specific programs and projects that involve coastal and marine waters (e.g. CRMP, PCICDSCS)

Consequently, the Directorate on Special Projects for Water and Integrated Ecosystems Management and Development (DSPWIEMD) is hereby abolished and named “**Directorate for Integrated Water Resources Management (DIWRM)**”.

The Office of DIWRM shall be composed of the following key staffs:

- Director
- Assistant Director
- Technical Assistant for PROGRAMS and EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
- Technical Assistant for FINANCE and ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS
- Technical Assistant for INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION and EDUCATION
- Technical Assistance for LEGAL and LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
- Technical Assistance for Human Resource Development
- Technical Assistant for Database and Information Technology

SEC. 6 – WATER RESOURCE INFORMATION NETWORK: The Directorate, in coordination with concerned sectors of the DENR, shall formulate a framework for a water resource data and information system, promulgate basic criteria, methods and standards for data collection. It shall rationalize existing data collection activities currently undertaken by the DENR central office, its bureaus and attached agencies in the context of integrated water resources management (IWRM).

The Directorate shall establish a national database for water, linkages and partnerships with both the public and private sectors. It shall maintain its own Water Web Resources Information Center. It shall also establish institutional

arrangements with other water-related agencies and civil societies to ensure an efficient collection, processing, storage, retrieval and dissemination of all water-related information.

The Directorate in coordination with the Directorate on Decision Support System Office (DDSSO), National Statistics and Coordination Board (NSCB), National Computer Center (NCC) and National Water Resources Board (NWRB) shall design and develop an information network for data storage, retrieval and exchange. Within the DENR, the Directorate shall serve as the central repository of all data and information related to water resources.

SEC. 7 - WATER RESOURCE ASSESSMENT: The Directorate in coordination with the concerned sectors of the DENR and appropriate agencies shall assess the water situation with relevance to the environment. It shall prepare and publish a Quarterly WATERWATCH Journal and an Annual Water Resource Environmental Assessment Report to include: (a) water supply; (b) water demand; (c) water quality; (d) water technologies; (e) water resources; (f) wastewater treatment and disposal; (g) sanitation; (h) water infrastructure; and, (i) water services.

SEC. 8 – WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: The Directorate upon the effectivity of this Order, shall formulate and implement the Integrated Water Resources Management and Development Framework to serve as a national water resources development and management plan for the DENR which shall be multi-sectoral, decentralized, community-based and participatory. The Framework shall include but not limited to the following:

- a) efficient use of water;
- b) long-term resource protection;
- c) economic effects of deterioration in water quality;
- d) river basin and watershed-based management of groundwater and wastewater;

- e) data collection and model development;
- f) safe drinking water supply resource development including but not limited to water use and management enforcement;
- g) proper handling and rehabilitation of toxic and contaminated groundwater; and
- h) effective environmental governance of water resources

SEC. 9 – WATER RESOURCES ACTION PLAN.

Upon the formulation of the framework plan, the Directorate shall, with sectoral participation, formulate and implement a water resources action plan consistent with the Integrated Water Resources Management and Development Framework. The action plan shall:

- a) include enforceable effluent limitations;
- b) provide for the establishment and operation of appropriate devices, methods, systems, and procedures necessary to monitor, compile, and analyze data on water quality;
- c) include control strategies and control measures including cost effective use of economic incentives, raw water pricing scheme, management strategies, collection action, and environmental education and information;
- d) designate protected river basins/watersheds;
- e) all other measures necessary for the effective control and prevention of water pollution.

SEC. 10 – CAPACITY BUILDING STRATEGY: The Directorate shall formulate and institute the national water resources monitoring network of DENR through “capacity building”, information, communication and education programs. This task shall entail the setting-up of the hydrological monitoring and telemetric equipment necessary for water resources assessment in every region combining the watershed and river basin approaches in the conduct of research studies to determine the following:

- a) an efficient and economical design for establishing the network;

- b) necessity of setting-up network in priority river basins and critical watersheds, nationwide;
- c) training needs on the institutionalization of a coordinated operation of the network;
- d) training needs for field personnel who will be responsible for the collection of water-related data;
- e) supporting programmes to processes and institutions involved in developing private sector and civil society participation in the water sector;
- f) a system of class room style and an “on-the job” training program leading to gaining an award of a certificate of accreditation for competency;
- g) a clear enunciation of the outputs/outcomes being sought;
- h) impacts on social system and cultural values; and,
- i) programmes for institutional strengthening directed both at DENR and key stakeholders.

SEC. 11 – SPECIAL WATER ACTION TEAM (SWAT): SWAT shall be instituted in various staff and line bureaus of the DENR (refer to attached Organizational Chart). It shall serve as a “focal and action unit” of the Directorate. It shall be headed by a Team Leader and shall receive, record and report all concerns and issues relevant to water-related operations of their respective sectors. It shall report directly to the Directorate and assist in all forms of its investigation, surveillance and monitoring activities.

SEC. 12 – “TUBIG PATROL/WATER SURVEILLANCE VOLUNTEERS: The institutionalization of IWRM shall bring together the private sector, non-governmental organizations, civil societies, academe, youths and LGUs to work towards common goal of water resources protection. Upon the effectivity of this Order, the Directorate, thru the Secretariat of the Presidential Task Force on Water Resources Development and Management (PTFWRDM), shall institute the TUBIG PATROL headquarter in every region.

In coordination with the Office of the Regional Executive Director (RED), members of the TUBIG PATROL shall act as “Water Surveillance Volunteers (WSV)” for DENR. They shall be officially accredited by the Office of the Secretary and assist DENR in the implementation of the following tasks:

- a) inventory of deep, industrial and groundwater wells with valid permits;
- b) monitor, apprehend and report illegal extraction and use of water resources;
- c) monitor major esteros, creeks, channelways, rivers and other water bodies against prospective polluters
- d) apprehend and report illegal water haulers, water vendors and service providers;
- e) inspect and monitor compliance of water permit conditionalities;
- f) apprehend and report illegal drilling and construction of deep wells;
- g) apprehend and report illegal commercialization of water (e.g. vendors, refillers);
- h) apprehend and report illegal tappings of water;
- i) perform other tasks as maybe assigned/delegated by the DENR Secretary.

SEC. 13 - FINANCE AND FISCALIZATION: The Directorate shall review, evaluate and endorse to the Secretary all Work and Financial Plans relevant to water. Under the supervision of the OSEC five percent (5%) of the budget allocated to all water-related programs and projects of the DENR will be retained for use by the Directorate to support its financial/operational requirement.

The Directorate shall oversee and monitor the financial operations and fiscalization of all water-related programs and projects. To ensure proper coordination and effective implementation of these programs and projects, the PMOs, the Bureaus and their concerned units and Regional Offices shall prepare and submit to the Directorate a Monthly Status Report. The Directorate shall standardize the reporting system.

SEC. 14 - HARNESSING TECHNICAL EXPERTS:

The Directorate shall be authorized to tap technical experts/personnel from any of the following: the DENR central office, Bureaus, attached agencies and water related programs and projects, as may deemed necessary.

SEC. 15 – REPEALING CLAUSE AND EFFECTIVITY

All orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this DAO are hereby repealed or modified accordingly. This Order takes effect immediately.

(Sgd.) HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ
Secretary