



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1115

Submitted by the Committees on Government Reorganization, Public Works and Highways, Ways and Means, and Appropriations on August 9, 2021

Re: House Bill No. 9948

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 193, 232, 1320, 1358, 1829, 2172, 2272, 2481, 2514, 2586, 2725, 2879, 2887, 2895, 2981, 2997, 3172, 3347, 3350, 3380, 3512, 3656, 3987, 4026, 4097, 4098, 4114, 4251, 4328, 4329, 4447, 4654, 4807, 4830, 4897, 4944, 5049, 5141, and 5550

Sponsors: Representatives Mario Vittorio "Marvey" A. Mariño, Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona Joey Sarte Salceda and Eric Go Yap

Mr. Speaker:

The Committees on Government Reorganization, Public Works and Highways, Ways and Means, and Appropriations to which were referred:

House Bill No. 193, introduced by Representatives Estrellita B. Suansing and Horacio P. Suansing, Jr, entitled:

"An Act

Creating the Department of Water Resources and Services and Appropriating Funds Therefor";

House Bill No. 232, introduced by Representative Alfred D. Vargas, entitled:

"An Act

Creating the Department of Water, Irrigation, Sewage and Sanitation Resource Management, Defining Its Powers and Functions, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and For Other Purposes";

House Bill No. 1320, introduced by Representative Rosanna "Ria" Vergara, entitled:

"An Act

Creating the Department of Water, Irrigation, Sewage and Sanitation Resource Management, Defining Its Powers and Functions, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and For Other Purposes";

House Bill No. 1358, introduced by Representative Bernadette "BH" Herrera-Dy, entitled:

“An Act

Rationalizing the Resource Management of the Water Sector, Creating the Department of Water, Sewage, and Sanitation, and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No. 1829, introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez, entitled:

“An Act

Rationalizing the Financial Regulation of Water Utilities, Creating the Water Regulatory Commission and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No. 2172, introduced by Representative Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy, entitled:

“An Act

Rationalizing the Economic Regulation of Water Utilities, Creating the Water Regulatory Commission and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No. 2272, introduced by Representative Ron P. Salo, entitled:

“An Act

Creating the Department of Water, Irrigation, Sewage and Sanitation Resource Management, Defining Its Powers and Functions, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No. 2481 introduced by Representative Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, M.D. entitled:

“An Act

Creating the Department of Water, Irrigation, Sewage and Sanitation Resource Management, Defining Its Powers and Functions, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No. 2514, introduced by Representative Lorenz R. Defensor, entitled:

“An Act

Establishing the Water Security and Sustainability Initiative Creating for the Purpose the Department of Water Resources, and Appropriating Funds Therefor”;

House Bill No. 2586, introduced by Representative Michael Odylon L. Romero, entitled:

“An Act

Creating the Department of Water Resources and Services, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No. 2725, introduced by Representative Jericho Jonas B. Nograles, entitled:

“An Act

To Ensure Water Security By Ordaining Institutional and Regulatory Reforms in Water Through the Creation of the Department of Water, the Water Regulatory Commission, and the National Water Corporation, and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No. 2879, introduced by Representative Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado, entitled:

“An Act

Creating the Department of Water, Irrigation, Sewage and Sanitation Resource Management, Defining Its Powers and Functions, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No. 2887, introduced by Representative John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto, entitled:

“An Act

Integrating All Water Resource Management and Services, Irrigation, Sewage, and Sanitation Resource Management, Hereby Creating the Department of Water Services and Resource Management and Development, Defining Its Powers and Functions, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No. 2895, introduced by Representative Josephine Ramirez-Sato, entitled:

“An Act

Rationalizing the Economic Regulation of Water Utilities, Creating the Water Regulatory Commission and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No. 2981, introduced by Representative Aurelio “Dong” D. Gonzales, Jr., entitled:

“An Act

Creating the Department of Water, Irrigation, Sewage and Sanitation Resource Management, Defining Its Powers and Functions, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No. 2997, introduced by Representative Jose Sarte Salceda, entitled:

“An Act

Creating the Department of Water, Defining Its Powers and Functions, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No. 3172, introduced by Representative Abraham “Bambol” N. Tolentino, entitled:

“An Act

Creating the Department of Water Resource Management, Defining Its Powers and Functions, and Appropriating Funds Therefor, and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No. 3347, introduced by Representative Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, entitled:

“An Act

Creating the Department of Water, Irrigation, Sewage and Sanitation Resource Management, Defining Its Powers and Functions, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No. 3350, introduced by Representative Juan Miguel Macapagal-Arroyo, entitled:

“An Act

Creating the Department of Water, Irrigation, Sewage and Sanitation Resource Management, Defining Its Powers and Functions, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No. 3380, introduced by Representative Joselito “Joel” S. Sacdalan, entitled:

“An Act

Creating the Department of Water Resource Management and Development, Defining Its Powers and Functions, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No. 3512, introduced by Representative Sol Aragonés, entitled:

“An Act

Creating the Department of Water Resources and Services and Appropriating Funds Therefor, and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No. 3656, introduced by Representative Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano, entitled:

“An Act

Creating the Department of Water Resources and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No. 3987, introduced by Representative Raul C. Tupas, entitled:

“An Act

Creating the Department of Water, Irrigation, Sewage and Sanitation Resource Management, Defining Its Powers and Functions, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No. 4026, introduced by Representative Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon, entitled:

“An Act

Creating the Department of Water Resources And For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No. 4097, introduced by Representative Teodorico T. Haresco, Jr., entitled:

“An Act

Rationalizing the Economic Regulation of Water Utilities, Creating the Water Regulatory Commission, and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No. 4098, introduced by Representative Teodorico T. Haresco, Jr. entitled:

“An Act

Creating the Department of Water Resources, and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No. 4114, introduced by Representative Henry R. Villarica, entitled:

“An Act

Creating the National Water Resources Management Authority and Appropriating Funds Therefor”;

House Bill No. 4251, introduced by Representative Joy Myra S. Tambunting, entitled:

“An Act

Creating the Department of Water, Irrigation, Sewage and Sanitation Resource Management, Defining Its Powers and Functions, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No. 4328, introduced by Representative Eric L. Olivarez, entitled:

“An Act

Rationalizing the Economic Regulation of Water Utilities, Creating the Water Regulatory Commission and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No. 4329, introduced by Representative Eric L. Olivarez, entitled:

“An Act

Creating the Department of Water Resources And For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No. 4447, introduced by Representative Ferdinand L. Hernandez, entitled:

“An Act

Creating the Department of Water Resources and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No. 4654, introduced by Representative Luis Raymund “LRay” F. Villafuerte, Jr., entitled:

“An Act

Creating the Department of Water, Irrigation, Sewage and Sanitation Resource Management, Defining Its Powers and Functions, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No.4807, introduced by Representative Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, entitled:

“An Act

Rationalizing the Economic Regulation of Water Utilities, Creating the Water Regulatory Commission and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No.4830, introduced by Representative Aloy Lim, entitled:

“An Act

Creating the Department of Water Resources, Defining Its Powers and Functions, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No.4897, introduced by Representative Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, entitled:

“An Act

Creating the Department of Water Resources and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No.4944, introduced by Representative Joey Sarte Salceda, entitled:

“An Act

Establishing the National Framework for Water Resource Management and Creating the Department of Water Resources and the water Regulatory Commission, and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No.5049, introduced by Representative Frederick W. Siao, entitled:

“An Act

Creating the Department of Water and Fisheries and Its Attached Agencies, Providing For Their Powers and Composition, and Setting Their Mandate to Formulate and Implement A National Comprehensive Strategic Water and Fisheries Program Using An Integrated Water and Fisheries Continuum Management Approach and Unified Water and Fisheries Policy Framework, Appropriations, and For Other Purposes”;

House Bill No.5141, introduced by Representatives David “Jay-Jay” C. Suarez, Anna Marie Villaraza-Suarez and Aleta C. Suarez, entitled:

“An Act

Creating the Department of Water Resource Management, Irrigation, Sewage and Sanitation Management, Defining Its Powers and Functions, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and For Other Purposes”;

and House Bill No. 5550, introduced by Representative Precious Hipolito Castelo, entitled:

“An Act

Creating the Department of Water Resources Management, Defining Its Powers and Functions, And Providing Funds Therefor”.

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill 9948,
entitled:

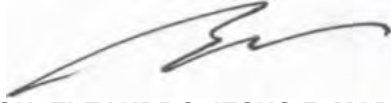
AN ACT

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

be approved in substitution of House Bills Numbered 193, 232, 1320, 1358, 1829, 2172, 2272, 2481, 2514, 2586, 2725, 2879, 2887, 2895, 2981, 2997, 3172, 3347, 3350, 3380, 3512, 3656, 3987, 4026, 4097, 4098, 4114, 4251, 4328, 4329, 4447, 4654, 4807, 4830, 4897, 4944, 5049, 5141 and 5550 with Representatives Estrellita B. Suansing, Horacio P. Suansing, Jr., Alfred Vargas, Rosanna “Ria” Vergara, Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Ron P. Salo, Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, M.D., Lorenz R. Defensor, Michael Odylon L. Romero, Ph.D., Jericho Jonas B. Nograles, Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado, John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto, Josephine Y. Ramirez-Sato, Aurelio “Dong” D. Gonzales Jr., Joey Sarte Salceda, Abraham “Bambol” N. Tolentino, Rico B. Geron Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, Juan Miguel Macapagal Arroyo, Joselito “Joel” S. Sacdalan, Sol Aragones, Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano, Allan Benedict S. Reyes, Raul C. Tupas, Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon, Kristine Singson-Meehan, Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe, Teodorico T. Haresco, Jr., Henry R. Villarica, Christopher V.P. De Venecia, Geraldine B. Roman, Micaela S. Violago, Joy Myra S. Tambunting, Eric L. Olivarez, Ferdinand L. Hernandez, “Kuya” Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado, Jose Gay G. Padiernos, Luis Raymund “LRay” F. Villafuerte, Jr., Sonny “SL” L. Lagon, Lucy Torres-Gomez, Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Strike B. Revilla, Naealla Bainto-Aguinaldo, Aloysia Lim, Ma. Bernardita “Ditas” B. Ramos, Carlito S. Marquez, Faustino “Inno” V. Dy, Frederick W. Siao, David “Jay-Jay” C. Suarez, Anna Marie Villaraza-Suarez, Aleta C. Suarez, Jumel Anthony I. Espino, Antonino G. Calixto, John Reynald M. Tiangco, Manuel Luis T. Lopez, Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona, Raul V. Del Mar, Amihilda J. Sangcopan, Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Precious Hipolito Castelo, Eduardo “Bro. Eddie” G. Villanueva, Domingo C. Rivera, Sharee Ann Tan, Adriano A. Ebcas, Dahlia A. Loyola, Princess Rihan M. Sakaluran, Romeo S. Momo Sr., Alfred Delos Santos, Ramon V. Guico III, Jose L. Ong, Jr., Mario Vittorio “Marvey” A. Mariño, Eric Go Yap, Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang, Joseph Stephen Paduano, Jonathan F. Flores, Ma. Bernardita B. Ramos, Leonardo L. Babasa, Jr., Alan “Aldu” R. Dujali, Eduardo R. Gullas, Cesar “Jawo” L. Jimenez, Jr., Mark O. Go, Alfred C. Delos Santos, Alfredo A. Garbin, Jr., Michael B. Gorriceta, Resurreccion M. Acop, Maricel G. Natividad-Nagaño, Joseph L. Lara, Presley C. De Jesus, Rose Marie “Baby” J. Arenas, Pablo John F. Garcia, Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte, Elenita Milagros “Eileen” Ermita-Buhain, Junie E. Cua, Jose “Pingping” I. Tejada, Greg G. Gasataya, Romeo M. Jalosjos, Jr., Francisco Jose “Bingo” F. Matugas II, Jose Enrique “Joet” S. Garcia III, Ruwel Peter Gonzaga, Juliette T. Uy, Paul Ruiz Daza, Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong, Manuel F. Zubiri, Manuel T. Sagarbarria, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, John Peter D. Calderon, Luis N. Campos, Jr., Sandro L. Gonzales, Vincent Franco “Duke” D. Frasco, Way Kurat Zamora, Yasser Alonto Balindong, Angelo Marcos Barba, Joseph Sto Nino B. Bernos, Narciso R. Bravo, Jr., Alfel M. Bascug, Wilfredo “Willy” S. Caminero, Carl Nicolas C. Cari, Maximo Y. Dalog, Jr., Abdullah D. Dimaporo, Ria Christina G. Fariñas, Jocelyn F. Fortuno, Ann K. Hofer, Glona G. Labadlabad, Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D., Pablo C. Ortega, Emmarie “Lolypop” Ouano-Dizon, Eddiebong G. Plaza, Hector

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Respectfully submitted:



HON. ELEANDRO JESUS F. MADRONA
Chairperson
Committee on Public Works and Highways



HON. MARIO VITTORIO "MARVEY" A. MARIÑO
Chairperson
Committee on Government Reorganization



HON. JOEY SARTE SALCEDA
Chairperson
Committee on Ways and Means



HON. ERIC GO YAP
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations

HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



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EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO.-----9948

(In substitution of House Bill Numbered 193, 232, 1320, 1358, 1829, 2172, 2272, 2481, 2514, 2586, 2725, 2879, 2887, 2895, 2981, 2997, 3172, 3347, 3350, 3380, 3512, 3656, 3987, 4026, 4097, 4098, 4114, 4251, 4328, 4329, 4447, 4654, 4807, 4830, 4897, 4944, 5049, 5141 and 5550)

Introduced by Representatives

Estrellita B. Suansing, Horacio P. Suansing, Jr., Alfred Vargas, Rosanna "Ria" Vergara, Bernadette "BH" Herrera-Dy, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Ron P. Salo, Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D., Lorenz R. Defensor, Michael Odylon L. Romero, Jericho Jonas B. Nograles, Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado, John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto, Josephine Y. Ramirez-Sato, Aurelio "Dong" D. Gonzales Jr., Joey Sarte Salceda, Abraham "Bambol" N. Tolentino, Rico B. Geron Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, Juan Miguel Macapagal Arroyo, Joselito "Joel" S. Sacdalan, Sol Aragones, Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano, Allan Benedict S. Reyes, Raul C. Tupas, Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon, Kristine Singson-Meehan, Manuel Jose "Mannix" M. Dalipe, Teodorico T. Haresco, Jr., Henry R. Villarica, Christopher V.P. De Venecia, Geraldine B. Roman, Micaela S. Violago, Joy Myra S. Tambunting, Eric L. Olivarez, Ferdinand L. Hernandez, "Kuya" Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado, Jose Gay G. Padiernos, Luis Raymund "LRay" F. Villafuerte, Jr., Sonny "SL" L. Lagon, Lucy Torres-Gomez, Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Strike B. Revilla, Naealla Bainto-Aguinaldo, Aloysia Lim, Ma. Bernardita "Ditas" B. Ramos, Carlito S. Marquez, Faustino "Inno" V. Dy, Frederick W. Siao, David "Jay-Jay" C. Suarez, Anna Marie Villaraza-Suarez, Aleta C. Suarez, Jumel Anthony I. Espino, Antonino G. Calixto, John Reynald M. Tiangco, Manuel Luis T. Lopez, Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona, Raul V. Del Mar, Amihilda J. Sangcopan, Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Precious Hipolito Castelo, Eduardo "Bro. Eddie" G. Villanueva, Domingo C. Rivera, Sharee Ann Tan, Adriano A. Ebcas, Dahlia A. Loyola, Princess Rihan M. Sakaluran, Romeo S. Momo Sr., Alfred Delos Santos, Ramon V. Guico III, Jose L. Ong, Jr., Mario Vittorio "Marvey" A. Mariño, Eric Go Yap, Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang, Joseph Stephen Paduano, Jonathan F. Flores, Ma. Bernardita B. Ramos, Leonardo L. Babasa, Jr., Alan "Aldu" R. Dujali, Eduardo R. Gullas, Cesar "Jawo" L. Jimenez, Jr., Mark O. Go, Alfred C. Delos Santos, Alfredo A. Garbin, Jr., Michael B. Gorriceta, Resurreccion M. Acop, Maricel G. Natividad-Nagaño, Joseph L. Lara, Presley C. De Jesus, Rose Marie "Baby" J. Arenas, Pablo John F. Garcia, Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte, Elenita Milagros "Eileen" Ermita-Buhain, Junie E. Cua, Jose "Pingping" I. Tejada, Greg G. Gasataya, Romeo M. Jalosjos, Jr., Francisco Jose "Bingo" F. Matugas II, Jose Enrique "Joet" S. Garcia III, Ruwel Peter Gonzaga, Juliette T. Uy, Paul Ruiz Daza, Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong, Manuel F. Zubiri, Manuel T. Sagarbarria, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, John Peter D. Calderon, Luis N. Campos, Jr., Sandro L. Gonzales, Vincent Franco "Duke" D. Frasco, Way

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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

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

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “National Water Act”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Access to water is a basic human right. All water belongs to the State which shall govern its development and utilization for the people.

It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure the provision of safe, adequate, affordable, and sustainable water supply and improved sanitation services, while maintaining the protection, preservation, and revival of the quality of the country’s water resources and ecological balance.

In pursuit of this policy, this Act shall have the principal objective of ensuring and accelerating universal access to water supply and sanitation services, in a regulatory regime that encourages responsible private sector participation, and shall foster and prioritize the establishment of infrastructure and public works that adopt innovative solutions and international best practices to address the challenges of climate change. Further, all water and water treatment infrastructure projects are hereby declared as projects imbued with national interest.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

- (a) *Bulk water supplier* refers to any entity, natural or juridical, whether public or private, supplying or intending to supply large quantities of raw or treated water to buyers who will use these for their own consumption, such as industrial companies, or for retail distribution to consumers such as water service providers or real estate developers managing their own distribution network.

- 1 (b) Environmental services refer to qualitative functions of natural non-produced assets of land,
2 water, and air, including related ecosystems, and their biota, and which may be categorized
3 into three basic types: (a) disposal services which reflect the functions of the natural
4 environment as an absorptive sink for residuals; (b) productive services which reflect the
5 economic functions of providing natural resource inputs and space for production and
6 consumption, and (c) consumer or consumption services which provide for physiological as
7 well as recreational and related needs of human beings.
- 8 (c) *Flood Control* refers to methods, acts, and protocols to be observed in order to prevent and
9 reduce the detrimental and catastrophic effects of flood waters which include sediment-laden
10 or turbid flows, and hyper-concentrated flows or debris flows.
- 11 (d) *Flood Risk Management (FRM)* refers to such acts of defining and determining the appropriate
12 methods, acts, and protocols aimed at preventing and reducing the risk of incurring loss of both
13 life and property due to flood waters. Flood risk management consists of a cycle of prevention,
14 mitigation, adaptation, preparedness and early warning, and response and recovery. The
15 elements of FRM include: integrating land-use planning and coastal zone management into
16 water management; adopting a holistic approach so that FRM is part of wider risk or multi-
17 hazard management of earthquakes, landslides, and storm surges; managing risk and
18 uncertainty as a whole so it not only mitigates hydrological uncertainties but also social,
19 economic and political uncertainties on account of human behavior and the cultural dimensions
20 of FRM.
- 21 (e) *Gender Equality* refers to the principle asserting the equality of men and women and their right
22 to enjoy equal conditions realizing their full human-potentials to contribute to and benefit from
23 the results of development, and with the State recognizing that all human beings are free and
24 equal in dignity and rights.
- 25 (f) *Infrastructure and public works* refer only to wholly or primarily water-related projects and
26 does not include projects that do not fall within the purview of the objectives, power and duties
27 of the Department of Water Resources created under this Act.
- 28 (g) *Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)* refers to a systematic, collaborative, and
29 multi-stakeholder process which promotes the coordinated development and management of
30 water, land, and related resources within geophysical boundaries in order to maximize the
31 resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner, and without compromising the
32 sustainability of vital ecosystems.
- 33 (h) *Levels of water supply* refer to communal sources of water described according to location and
34 size of the recipient human settlement as follows:

1 (1) Level I or the point source is a protected well or a developed spring with an outlet but
2 without any distribution system, generally adaptable to rural and upland areas where
3 houses are thinly scattered, and is a facility which usually serves an average of 15
4 households.

5 (2) Level II or the communal faucet system or stand posts is a system composed of a water
6 source, a reservoir, a piped distribution network, and communal faucets where one faucet
7 serves 4 to 6 households and is generally suitable for rural and urban fringe areas where
8 houses are clustered densely to justify a simple piped system.

9 (3) Level III or the waterworks system or individual house connections is a system with a water
10 source, a reservoir, a piped distribution network and household taps, suitable for densely
11 populated urban areas.

12 (i) *License* refers to the Water Supply and/or Sanitation Services Operating License that the Water
13 Regulatory Commission is authorized to grant and issue to service providers.

14 (j) *Licensee* refers to a service provider to whom a license is granted or issued by the Water
15 Regulatory Commission.

16 (k) *Missionary Water Services* refer to water supply or services to areas that have no existing safe
17 water supply and services due to geographic limitation or absence of economic and market
18 viability.

19 (l) *National Water Resources Management Plan (NWRMP)* refers to a policy document that
20 contains a framework to guide the development and management of all the water resources in
21 the Philippines, the general strategies and work to be pursued to ensure the sustainability of the
22 resource towards water security, and top-level direction on the utilization of existing water
23 resources in line with national development plans, policies, and programs in accordance with
24 the IWRM framework. The NWRMP shall also include a water infrastructure development
25 program or all waters of the country as well as provide general guidance on how this shall be
26 supported within an integrated financing framework that can draw from public, private, and
27 international development funding sources.

28 (m) *Net Waste Load* refers to the difference of the initial waste load of the abstracted water and the
29 waste load of the final effluent discharge of an industry

30 (n) *Regulatory Units* refer to the offices established under Section 20 of this Act which issue
31 licenses authorizing the operation of Water Supply and Sanitation Services, and provide,
32 review, determine, fix, and approve water and sewerage tariffs, rates, and charges that licensees
33 may impose.

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

- 1 (aa) *Social inclusion* refers to the process of improving the terms for disadvantaged individuals
2 and groups to take part in society.
- 3 (bb) *Tariffs* refer to such amounts which may be charged by licensees for their water supply and
4 sanitation services based on principles, standards, and guidelines established by the Department
5 of Water Resources.
- 6 (cc) *Water Demand Management (WDM)* refers to any method, whether technical, economic,
7 administrative, financial, or social that will accomplish one or more of the following:
8 (1) Reduce the quantity or quality of water required to accomplish a specific task;
9 (2) adjust the nature of the task or the way it is undertaken so that it can be accomplished with
10 less water or with lower quality water;
11 (3) Reduce the loss in quantity or quality of water as it flows from source, through use, to
12 disposal;
13 (4) Shift the timing of use from peak to off-peak periods; and
14 (5) Increase the ability of the water system to continue to serve society during times when
15 water is in short supply.
- 16 (dd) *Water Districts* refer to government-owned and controlled corporations organized under
17 Presidential Decree No. 198, as amended, created primarily to acquire, install, operate,
18 maintain, and improve water supply and distribution systems for domestic, industrial and
19 municipal uses of residents and to provide, maintain and operate waste water collection,
20 treatment and disposal facilities within the boundaries of the district.
- 21 (ee) *Water pollution* refers to any alteration of the physical, chemical, biological, or radiological
22 properties of a body of water resulting in the impairment of its purity or quality.
- 23 (ff) *Water Resource* refers to water under the ground or groundwater, water above the ground such
24 as surface water, run-offs, floods, stormwater and urban drainage, treated wastewater, water in
25 the atmosphere or rain water, and the waters of the sea within the territorial jurisdiction of the
26 Philippines.
- 27 (gg) *Water Resources Regions* refer to the contiguous clusters of river basins which are grouped
28 together according to the hydrological boundaries, physiographic features, and homogeneity in
29 climate, whether or not they straddle different local government units, for administrative
30 purposes under the Department of Water Resources.
- 31 (hh) *Water Service Provider (WSP)* refers to the water district, any Local Government Unit (LGU)-
32 run water utility, Barangay Waterworks and Sanitation Association (BWSA), Rural
33 Waterworks Sanitation Association (RWSA), cooperative and private sector entity that
34 provides water supply services to any given area.

1 (ii) *Water supply service* refers to any activity comprising Levels I, II and III water supply
2 including bulk suppliers, suppliers to subdivisions, and other water service providers.

3 CHAPTER II

4 THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

5 SEC. 4. *The Department of Water Resources* – There is hereby created and established the
6 Department of Water Resources, hereinafter referred to as the Department.

7 SEC. 5. *Mandate of the Department.* –The Department shall be the primary agency responsible
8 for the comprehensive and integrated identification and mapping of all water resources, planning,
9 policy formulation, and management of the ownership, appropriation, utilization, exploitation,
10 development, and protection of water resources in the Philippines to ensure the optimal use thereof for
11 domestic and municipal water supply, sanitation, irrigation, hydropower, industry, navigation, flood
12 management, and recreation except fisheries or aquaculture.

13 The Department shall also be the primary agency responsible for the planning and policy
14 formulation towards the attainment of universal access to safe, adequate, affordable, and sustainable
15 water supply, and improved sanitation services for all Filipinos.

16 The Department shall be the primary national agency to enforce Presidential Decree No. 1067
17 otherwise known as *The Water Code of the Philippines* and Republic Act No. 9275, otherwise known
18 as the *Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004*.

19 The Department shall exercise the powers and functions of the defunct Pasig River
20 Rehabilitation Commission created under Executive Order No. 54 Series of 1999 and abolished under
21 Executive Order No. 93 Series of 2019, specifically the following roles that were transferred to the
22 Manila Bay Task Force and DENR through the latter EO:

- 23 (a) Update and take the lead in the overall implementation of the Pasig River Rehabilitation
24 Master Plan, which shall harness the Pasig River’s potential for transportation, recreation
25 and tourism purposes while undertaking the rehabilitation and restoration of its maritime
26 life; and
- 27 (b) Ensure that the easements provided for in the Civil Code and other relevant laws are
28 enforced, especially in all the esteros and waterways that drain into the Pasig River
29 as well as abate the dumping of untreated industrial wastewater and sewerage into the
30 river, including all acts and omissions in violation of Presidential Decree (PD) No. 984,
31 s. 1976, as amended entitled, *Providing For The Revision Of Republic Act No. 3931,*
32 *Commonly Known As The Pollution Control Law, And For Other Purposes*, PD No. 274,
33 s. 1973 entitled, *Pertaining To The Preservation, Beautification, Improvement And*
34 *Gainful Utilization Of The Pasig River, Providing For The Regulation And Control Of*

1 *Pollution Of The River And Its Banks In Order To Enhance Its Development, Thereby*
2 *Maximizing Its Utilization For Socio-Economic Purposes*, and other related laws.

3 SEC. 6. *Guiding Principles*. –In the pursuit of its mandate, the Department shall be guided by
4 the following key principles:

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

1 (g) Water resources and services should be provided where they are intended and most needed so
2 that water is fairly and sustainably managed.

3 (h) The proper operation and maintenance of waterworks systems resulting in the uninterrupted
4 and adequate supply and distribution of potable water for domestic and other purposes, and the
5 proper operation and maintenance of sewerage systems which are essential services to public
6 health and safety, are to be ensured at all times. The State shall therefore supervise and control
7 the establishment, operation, and maintenance of such systems.

8 *SEC 7. Objectives of the Department.* – The Department shall:

9 (a) Promote and adopt water demand management as a national policy to ensure that water is
10 optimized, that water efficiency and conservation become a way of life, that the recycling and
11 reuse of water and treated wastewater are widely practiced, that water is properly priced to
12 encourage efficient use and conservation and that rainwater, flood waters, and run-offs are
13 captured or harvested, stored and treated for future use;

14 (b) Prioritize and seek the immediate attainment of universal access to safe, adequate, affordable
15 and sustainable water supply and improved sanitation services for all Filipinos in a manner
16 consistent with the protection, preservation, and revival of the quality of the country's water
17 resources, and to adopt all needed measures to advance the right of the people to a balanced
18 and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

19 (c) Strengthen and coordinate integrated water resources management planning and policy making
20 to ensure sustainable and fair allocation and efficient use of water resources among competing
21 uses and users;

22 (d) Ensure that integrated water resources management is strongly coordinated with land use and
23 coastal and multi-hazard planning and management;

24 (e) Develop sustainably, and manage water sources and water resources toward water security,
25 taking into consideration water, land, and related resources aimed at increasing water
26 dependability for different uses, optimizing economic benefits and social welfare without
27 compromising the sustainability of vital environmental systems;

28 (f) Strengthen and coordinate policy making and planning towards ensuring the availability of
29 water for food security and energy security, as well as towards the protection of communities
30 and environments against flood and other water induced hazards including sediment hazards;

31 (g) Ensure that the strategy for water resources development and conservation is participatory, and
32 that planners, policymakers and users including community members are involved at all levels;

33 (h) Develop a standardized pricing framework for water use that accounts for environmental
34 externalities; and

- 1 (i) Ensure that all sources of water, including surface water, groundwater, rainwater and
2 floodwater are identified, mapped, monitored, conserved and managed for productive use and
3 the resulting wastewater is managed properly, reused, and responsibly disposed of following
4 approved environmental standards.

5 SEC.8. *Powers and Functions of the Department.* – The Department shall have the following
6 powers and functions:

7 I. Policymaking and Planning

- 8 (a) Ensure that Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) is adopted as the strategic
9 framework for water management policymaking and planning in the country and coordinate
10 the implementation, promotion, revision and enhancement of IWRM plans;
- 11 (b) Formulate policies, strategies, and targets in coordination with other relevant entities to meet
12 the goals and objectives for water supply and sanitation, water quality, irrigation, hydropower,
13 flood control, stormwater utilization, and urban drainage. Such policies shall, among other
14 guidelines, integrate the issues of water and sanitation, food security, energy, environment and
15 flood control, and climate change;
- 16 (c) Formulate and develop policies to promote universal access to safe, adequate, affordable, and
17 sustainable water supply, and improved sanitation services for all Filipinos;
- 18 (d) Regularly update, every five years or as deemed necessary by the Department, and in
19 consultation with other agencies and stakeholders, the NWRMP following the IWRM
20 framework and integrate therein a national land use plan;
- 21 (e) Undertake river basin survey, inventory and appraisal of water and related resources, and
22 develop comprehensive basin-wide plans of storage, retardation, and control to maximize
23 conservation and multipurpose use of water in the basin;
- 24 (f) Conduct continuing hydrological and hydrometeorological surveys and studies of the country’s
25 renewable water supply, and establish, operate, and maintain observation station networks
26 with a view towards formulating long-term policies to balance the sustainability and
27 optimal multiple use of water resources, defining the hydrologic boundaries of basins of the
28 existing water supply sources and developing or updating and implementing countrywide
29 comprehensive basin-wide master plans;
- 30 (g) Strengthen and coordinate policy making and planning for flood management, integrated with
31 stormwater or urban drainage and appropriate retention or retarding basins in order to harvest
32 and reuse water, and to plan against, prevent, and minimize the detrimental and catastrophic
33 effects of flooding;

- 1 (h) Assist and provide the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) with the
2 required data and input from the water sector in the formulation of the country's short-term and
3 long-term strategic development plans and actions, and recommend to the NEDA Board the
4 adoption of general policies and guidelines for water resources development;
- 5 (i) Review, approve, and provide oversight over all water-related development plans and programs
6 of any agency within the context of the NWRMP, and overall national plans and programs;
- 7 (j) Develop and implement, in coordination with other relevant agencies, effective codes,
8 standards, benchmarks, and reasonable guidelines to ensure the safety of all public and private
9 water structures in the country, and assure efficiency and proper quality in the construction of
10 water, sanitation, irrigation, hydropower, flood control and drainage infrastructure;
- 11 (k) Ensure that gender equality, social inclusion, environmental protection, climate resiliency, and
12 disaster risk reduction are integrated into any water resource management planning, policy
13 making, and the design and construction of water infrastructure;
- 14 (l) Ensure that the planning and design of water infrastructure considers the highest efficiency and
15 most appropriate technology and quality, in accordance with national development objectives;
- 16 (m) Review existing guidelines appropriate for private sector participation in the water sector and
17 submit recommendations to the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Center of NEDA and other
18 concerned agencies to promote and enable more PPPs in the sector;
- 19 (n) Build a central repository of water data and effect inter-sectoral, inter-agency, and inter-
20 departmental coordination on all aspects of data gathering and management for water resources
21 development planning and compel the submission of statistics and data on water utilization
22 with the aim of operationalizing the integrated approach to water resources management;
- 23 (o) Ensure the effective implementation of all the provisions of Republic Act No. 9275,
24 Presidential Decree No. 1067, and Sections 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13, Chapter II of Presidential Decree
25 No. 856, otherwise known as the *Code on Sanitation of the Philippines*;
- 26 (p) Promote Philippine participation in information sharing and education on best practices in
27 support of international efforts to achieve universal access to safe water and improved
28 sanitation; and the integration of water, energy, environment and food security; and
- 29 (q) Issue and promulgate rules, regulations and guidelines as may be necessary to implement and
30 enforce its powers and functions under this Act.

31 II. Resource Regulation

- 32 (a) Manage and conserve the country's water resources to ensure the optimal use thereof for
33 domestic water supply, sanitation, irrigation, hydropower, navigation, flood control, and
34 recreation purposes, and enhance and maintain water quality, conserve watersheds, control

1 water pollution, and restore the environment, without compromising the natural ecosystem
2 functions and services;

3 (b) Regulate and control the utilization, abstraction, diversion and development of water resources,
4 taking in consideration their equitable distribution among competing demands and determine
5 the standards of beneficial and priority uses of water in times of crisis and national
6 emergencies;

7 (c) Formulate, promulgate, and enforce rules and regulations for the development and optimum
8 use of water resources and its administration and management, including coherent water
9 protocols, operating rules of all existing and future water infrastructure; general criteria,
10 methods and standards for basic data collection and project identification, formulation and
11 planning, and appropriate sanctions to be imposed for non-compliance;

12 (d) Regularly review regulations prescribed by any government agency pertaining to water use,
13 exploitation, development, and conservation or protection of waters, water resources, and
14 watershed or basin areas with respect to this Act;

15 (e) Impose fees or charges, as may be deemed necessary for water resources conservation and
16 protection, such as:

17 (1) Polluter's Fee, which shall be based on the net waste load depending on the wastewater
18 charge formula pursuant to Republic Act No. 9275;

19 (2) Raw water price, which shall take into account, among others, the scarcity of water; and

20 (3) Appropriate payment structures for environmental services:

21 (f) Deputize LGUs to collect the national fees or charges for resource regulation within their
22 respective jurisdictions;

23 (g) Collect, regularly update, monitor, and analyze water resources data including climatology,
24 hydrological and other water-related data and ensure that such data is easily accessible by
25 relevant and authorized users;

26 (h) Establish, operate, and maintain observation station networks and a centralized water resources
27 data center for the scientific survey and appraisal of surface and groundwater potentials of the
28 country, and determine the annual renewable water available per water resources region;

29 (i) Maintain a database that will contain updated relevant information on water data which will be
30 accessible by relevant and authorized users;

31 (j) Develop and continuously update a computerized decision support system that incorporates
32 data management systems relating to acquisition and database, model base in terms of physical
33 design, planning and decision models, and user-friendly interface concerning graphical and
34 visualization tools;

- 1 (k) Conduct and promote special studies and research on water economics and other water
2 resources development and management issues and concerns such as climate change, weather
3 modification, flood monitoring and modeling, environmental quality, and desalination; and
4 (l) Raise public awareness through information, education and communications programs, and
5 build capacities for informed participation in water resources management at the national and
6 river-basin level.

7 III. Institutional Arrangement with Public Water Organizations

- 8 (a) Develop guidelines including rules of partnership, between and among the Department, field
9 offices of national government agencies, LGUs and other stakeholders in water resource
10 management, and facilitate the establishment of multi-stakeholder river basin organizations
11 (RBOs) per river basin, and strengthen and support existing RBOs and monitor their activities;
12 (b) Develop materials for capacity building and training of prospective RBOs;
13 (c) Authorize its representatives or any deputized agent to enter any property of public dominion
14 with or without prior notice and consent, any private land, building or enclave, whether
15 inhabited or not, for the purpose of conducting hydrologic surveys and investigations, including
16 assessing and evaluating the conditions of water facilities installed, and determining
17 compliance with water laws and standards;
18 (d) Provide technical assistance to water users including farmers, communities, and LGUs and
19 other water service providers (WSP) whether directly or in coordination with other agencies
20 on all aspects of integrated water resources management;
21 (e) Respond to consumer complaints, and ensure the adequate promotion of consumer interests;
22 (f) Deputize agents, whether from the public or private sector, to assist in the performance of any
23 of the powers and functions of the Department;
24 (g) Appoint, hire, and maintain adequate staff and personnel, advisers or consultants with suitable
25 qualifications and experience, as necessary, subject to existing rules and regulations.

26 IV. Coordination

- 27 (a) Coordinate and integrate water resources development activities of the country within the
28 context of national plans and policies for social and economic development;
29 (b) Coordinate with other government agencies, universities, academe and private professional
30 groups in all aspects of data gathering, the conduct of special studies and research on all related
31 aspects of water resources management and development such as climate change,
32 environmental quality, desalination, and the development of operating strategies, procedures,
33 and protocols and accompanying computerized decision tools for major water facilities;

- 1 (c) Coordinate with the concerned and relevant agencies engaged in flood control, flood risk
2 management, and drought risk management; and
- 3 (d) Coordinate proactively with LGUs to ensure the integration of water resources development
4 plans into their comprehensive land use plans (CLUPs), Comprehensive Development Plans
5 (CDPs) or Provincial Physical Framework and Development Plan (PPFDP).

6 V. Other Functions

- 7 (a) Create when necessary, water resource subsidiaries, instrumentalities, and entities to engage in
8 water transmission, water distribution, waste water treatment and management, and sanitation
9 in accordance with existing relevant laws.
- 10 (b) Enter into contracts, joint venture agreements or understanding, public-private partnerships,
11 and memorandum of agreements or understanding, either domestic or foreign, relating to
12 investment and financing water-related projects, under such terms and conditions as the
13 Department may deem proper and reasonable subject to existing laws.
- 14 (c) Exercise such other powers and functions necessary or incidental to the effective administration
15 and management of the country's water resources.

16 SEC. 9. *Secretary of the Department of Water Resources.* – The authority and responsibility
17 for the exercise of the mandate of the Department and for the discharge of its powers and functions
18 shall be vested in the Secretary of the Department, hereinafter referred to as the Secretary, who shall:

- 19 (a) Advise the President on the promulgation of executive or administrative orders, regulations,
20 proclamations and other issuances relative to matters under the jurisdiction of the Department;
- 21 (b) Establish the policies and standards for the operation of the Department pursuant to the
22 President's guidelines;
- 23 (c) Promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the objectives, policies, and functions
24 of the Department;
- 25 (d) Exercise supervision and control over all bureaus and offices under the Department;
- 26 (e) Supervise all attached agencies and corporations in accordance with law;
- 27 (f) Represent the Department in contracts, awards, and other similar agreements;
- 28 (g) Delegate authority for the performance of any power or function, as defined herein to officials
29 and employees under his direction as deemed appropriate;
- 30 (h) Act as the Chairperson of the governing board of the attached agencies of the Department;
- 31 (i) Designate and appoint officers and employees of the Department, excluding the
32 Undersecretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and Regional and Assistant Regional Directors, in
33 accordance with the civil service laws, rules and regulations; and
- 34 (j) Perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be provided by law.

1 SEC. 10. *Office of the Secretary.* – The Office of the Secretary shall be composed of the
2 Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary and the Secretary’s immediate staff.

3 SEC. 11. *Undersecretaries.* – The Secretary shall be assisted by not more than five (5)
4 Undersecretaries, who shall be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the Secretary
5 namely: Undersecretary for Resource Regulation and Governance, Undersecretary for Inland Waters
6 and Water for Agriculture, Undersecretary for Resource Development, Undersecretary for Planning
7 and Policy and Undersecretary for Missionary Water, Indigenous People, and Special Concerns.

8 The Secretary is hereby authorized to delineate and assign the respective functional areas of
9 responsibility of the Undersecretaries in accordance with the mandate and objectives of the
10 Department: *Provided*, That no Undersecretary shall be assigned purely to administrative
11 responsibilities. Within their respective functional areas of responsibility, the Undersecretaries shall:

- 12 (a) Advise and assist the Secretary in the formulation and implementation of the policies, plans,
13 programs and projects of the Department;
- 14 (b) Supervise all the operational activities of the assigned units for which the Undersecretary is
15 responsible to the Secretary; and
- 16 (c) Perform such other functions deemed necessary as may be assigned or delegated by the
17 Secretary to promote efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of public services or as may
18 be required by law: *Provided*, That the Undersecretary for Planning and Policy shall,
19 in coordination with the Planning and Policy Service, be primarily responsible for advancing
20 current efforts in attaining the ultimate goal of universal access to water supply and sanitation
21 systems, and sustainable management of water resources under the SDGs, and the integration
22 of water, energy, environment and food security.

23 SEC. 12. *Assistant Secretaries.* – The Secretary shall be assisted by six (6) Assistant Secretaries
24 to be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Secretary: one
25 each for Planning and Policy Service, Decision Support System Service, Resource Regulatory Service,
26 Comptrollership and Financial Management Service, Legal and Legislative Service, and
27 Administrative and Human Resources Management Service.

28 No person shall be appointed Secretary, Undersecretary and Assistant Secretary of the
29 Department unless the person is a citizen and resident of the Philippines, of good moral character, of
30 proven integrity, competence and expertise in water resource management: *Provided*, That at least one
31 (1) of the Undersecretaries and at least two (2) of the Assistant Secretaries shall be career officers.

32 SEC. 13. *Organizational Structure.* – The Department shall be composed of the following
33 organizational units:

1 (a) *Department Proper.* – The Department shall consist of the Office of the Secretary, the Offices
2 of the Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries, the Internal Audit Office, the Public Affairs
3 Office, the Water Pollution Adjudication Board, the Planning and Policy Service, Decision
4 Support System Service, Administrative and Human Resources Service, Legal and Legislative
5 Service, Comptrollership and Financial Management Service, Resource Regulation Service, and
6 the Water Resources Regional Offices.

7 (b) *Attached agencies.* - The Department shall exercise administrative supervision over the
8 following agencies for purposes of policy and program coordination, monitoring, and
9 evaluation:

10 (1) The Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA), whose mandate, powers, and functions
11 are defined in Presidential Decree No. 198, otherwise known as the *Public Water Utilities*
12 *Act of 1973, as amended*, shall be transferred from the Department of Public Works and
13 Highways and attached to the Department. It shall continue to primarily function as a
14 specialized lending institution for the promotion, development, and financing of local water
15 utilities. In the implementation of its functions, the LWUA shall:

- 16 (i) prescribe minimum standards and regulations in order to assure acceptable standards
17 of construction materials and supplies, maintenance, operation, personnel training,
18 accounting and fiscal practices for local water utilities;
- 19 (ii) furnish technical assistance and personnel training programs for local water utilities;
- 20 (iii) monitor and evaluate local water standards; and
- 21 (iv) effect system integration, joint investment and operation, district annexation and
22 de-annexation whenever economically warranted as amended by Sec. 22, Presidential
23 Decree No. 768.

24 (2) The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), whose mandate, powers,
25 and functions are defined under Republic Act No. 6234, as amended entitled, *An Act*
26 *Creating The Metropolitan Waterworks And Sewerage System And Dissolving The*
27 *National Waterworks And Sewerage Authority; And For And For Other Purposes*, shall be
28 transferred from the DPWH and attached to the Department: *Provided*, That the MWSS
29 shall continue to facilitate the exercise by the concessionaires of their responsibility; carry
30 out accounting and notification functions; monitor, report, and administer loans; perform
31 related functions in connection with existing projects; manage and dispose its retained
32 assets; and manage and operate the Umiray-Angat Transbasin Project.

1 (3) The National Irrigation Administration (NIA), whose mandate, powers, and functions are
2 defined under Republic Act No. 3601 as amended by Presidential Decree No. 552 and
3 Presidential Decree No. 1702;

4 (4) The Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), whose mandate, powers and functions
5 are defined under Republic Act No. 4850, as amended entitled, *An Act Creating The*
6 *Laguna Lake Development Authority, Prescribing Its Powers, Functions And Duties,*
7 *Providing Funds Therefor, And For Other Purposes* shall be transferred from the DENR
8 and attached to the Department.

9 The LLDA shall continue to serve as the lake management and development authority
10 similar to a multi-stakeholder river basin organization and shall ensure the implementation
11 of the Laguna Lake Master Plan which shall be updated by the Department to ensure
12 alignment with the NWRMP.

13 Any other agency performing water resources management, conservation and protection functions
14 may be transferred to the Department as the President deems necessary.

15 (c) *Offices, Functions and Personnel to be Completely Subsumed under the Department.* – The
16 following offices with their powers, functions, personnel, applicable funds and appropriations,
17 records, equipment and property shall be subsumed under the Department:

18 (1) The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) with all its divisions and sections, whose
19 mandate, powers and functions are provided in Presidential Decree No. 424, as amended;

20 (2) The River Basin Control Office (RBCO) of the DENR whose mandate, powers and
21 functions are provided in Executive Order No. 510 and Executive Order No. 816, as
22 amended;

23 (3) The Manila Bay Coordinating Office (MBCO) of the DENR which was strengthened by
24 virtue of DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 2011-01 to coordinate the efforts of the
25 fourteen (14) national agencies covered by the Mandamus Order of the Supreme Court to
26 rehabilitate Manila Bay;

27 (4) The Water Resources Management Division of the Bureau of Soils and Water
28 Management of the Department of Agriculture (DA);

29 (5) The Water Supply and Sanitation Unit of the Department of the Interior and Local
30 Government (DILG); and

31 (6) The Water Quality Management Section of the Environmental Management Bureau
32 (EMB) of the DENR.

33 (d) *Functions to be Transferred to the Department.* – The following functions of the respective
34 agencies, bureaus, and units shall be transferred to the Department:

- 1 (1) The hydrological surveys and groundwater mapping function of the Mines and Geosciences
2 Bureau (MGB) of the DENR;
- 3 (2)The hydrological surveys monitoring of stream flow and water data collection function of
4 the Bureau of Design and Bureau of Research and Standards of the DPWH;
- 5 (3)The protection and conservation of natural wetlands such as lakes, marshes, swamps of the
6 Biodiversity Management Bureau of the DENR; and
- 7 (4)The planning, programming, administration, monitoring, management of the National
8 Sewerage and Septage Management Program (NSSMP) by the DPWH.
- 9 (5)The flood management planning and sediment management function of the Flood Control
10 Management Cluster of the DPWH;
- 11 (6)The Water Resource Management Division and the water research functions of the Soils
12 and Water Research Division of the Bureau of Soils and Water Management under the DA.
13 All soil-related functions shall be retained under the Bureau which shall be renamed as the
14 Bureau of Soils.

15 (e) *Support Services* - The Department shall create the following support services:

- 16 (1) The *Planning and Policy Service* shall provide the Department with the capability to
17 undertake water infrastructure development planning and programming, and shall exercise
18 the following functions:
 - 19 (i) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to water resources planning;
 - 20 (ii) Assist the Undersecretary for Planning and Policy on all matters related to the
21 specific functions of the position;
 - 22 (iii) Formulate strategies and priorities for water resources management and
23 development consistent with national development objectives, and initiate or
24 undertake relevant surveys for development planning;
 - 25 (iv) Develop and regularly update a comprehensive and integrated National Water
26 Resources Management Plan and ensure its integration into existing land use plans;
 - 27 (v) Coordinate river-basin planning following the integrated water resources
28 management framework and the river-basin approach;
 - 29 (vi) Formulate or update existing River Basin Master or Comprehensive Plans which
30 includes all aspects of water management and development such as water supply
31 and sanitation, irrigation, flood control and stormwater or urban drainage, drought
32 risk management, water resource development systems and other public water
33 works projects, including phasing of implementation;

- 1 (vii) Identify, based on the river basin master plan, priority packages for water
2 infrastructure development per river basin, including water supply, sanitation,
3 irrigation, flood control and stormwater or urban drainage, drought risk
4 management, water resource development systems and other public works
5 projects, package project proposals for funding and prioritize project
6 implementation and the allocation of funds and other resources and undertake or
7 supervise and evaluate the conduct of feasibility studies and project preparation
8 thereof;
- 9 (viii) Evaluate and appraise all regional and inter-regional infrastructure water
10 development plans and programs as to their feasibility and consistency with
11 approved strategies and medium and long -term plans;
- 12 (ix) Gather, analyze, and organize needed statistical data and information;
- 13 (x) Provide technical assistance related to its functions to the other services, bureaus
14 and the regional offices as needed;
- 15 (xi) Conduct hydrological and hydraulic surveys and assessments of surface waters;
- 16 (xii) Develop general criteria and standards on project investigation, formulation,
17 planning;
- 18 (xiii) Develop guidelines and standards on social inclusion in water resources
19 management and ensure policies, programs and plans are compliant with the gender
20 and development framework of the government;
- 21 (xiv) Coordinate closely with PAGASA for rainfall and other climate data which shall be
22 considered in the planning for water resources development and management and
23 for various water infrastructure; and
- 24 (xv) Perform such functions and activities, as may be mandated by law, which are
25 necessary for the effective attainment of the abovementioned objectives.
- 26 (2) The *Decision Support System Service* shall provide the Department with water resource
27 management tools and computerized decision support system that incorporates a data
28 management system relating to acquisition and database and model base in terms of
29 physical design, planning and decision models including services related to networking,
30 data management, and information and knowledge or learning management systems for
31 administrative and non-technical support It shall provide the Secretary timely reports on
32 the status of various Department projects and activities. For this purpose, it shall exercise
33 the following functions:

- 1 (i) Provide the Secretary the necessary data and processed information to aid in policy
2 and management decisions under the mandate of the Department;
- 3 (ii) Publish available real-time raw water data as well as verified or validated water data
4 in print or electronic form using latest internet technology;
- 5 (iii) Conduct and publish in print and/or electronic form, standard data analysis such as
6 basic statistical analysis, trend analysis, analysis of runs, and cluster analysis;
- 7 (iv) Develop and continuously update water resource management, computerized
8 decision support systems (DSS) that incorporate data management systems relating
9 to acquisition and database, model base in terms of physical, design, planning and
10 decision models, and user-friendly interface such as graphical and visualization tools.
11 The DSS is composed of: 1) a measurement or data acquisition system; 2) information
12 or database management system; 3) analytical and numerical models for design,
13 planning, decision or evaluation purposes, and 4) a user-friendly interface which
14 includes graphical interface or visualization tools.
- 15 (v) Develop and maintain specific models to include the following:
16 a) long-term climatologic and weather forecasting model;
17 b) watershed models and river-flood plain models;
18 c) groundwater models and coupled to surface water models;
19 d) flood forecasting model for major rivers;
20 e) optimization-simulation management models for watershed conservation,
21 conjunctive surface and groundwater use, irrigation scheduling, normal and
22 emergency operations of multi-purpose reservoirs; and
23 f) water quality and ecological models.
- 24 (vi) Develop and administer the management information system and knowledge systems
25 of the Department to:
26 a) Retrieve, process, and monitor information on all projects and activities in the web
27 portal;
28 b) Conduct and apply systems and process engineering, software development,
29 software configuration management;
30 c) Develop and manage its corporate database, unified database for water industry,
31 data warehouse, other water information resources, library services and document
32 management and archiving services;

- 1 d) Develop and manage its Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
2 infrastructure and ICT related-services including computer networking and voice
3 communications services and data exchange, and
- 4 e) Manage the literacy and training services of the Department on various ICT and,
5 Knowledge Management (KM) tools and applications, including information and
6 knowledge management.
- 7 (vii) Perform such other related functions and activities which are necessary for the
8 effective administration of the management information and knowledge systems of
9 the Department.
- 10 (3) The *Administrative and Human Resource Service* shall provide the Department with
11 services relating to human resources development, personnel, records, facilities
12 maintenance, medical and dental, security, property and procurement services, and shall
13 exercise the following functions:
- 14 (i) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to internal administration and human
15 resources management;
- 16 (ii) Prepare and implement an integrated personnel development plan that shall include
17 provisions for merit promotions, performance evaluation, job rotation, incentive
18 awards systems, and health and welfare services;
- 19 (iii) Provide services related to human resource-training, education and development
20 including manpower, career planning and forecasting, and development of
21 indigenous training materials;
- 22 (iv) Develop, establish, and maintain an efficient and cost-effective property
23 procurement system and facilities and coordinate or otherwise interface with
24 relevant agencies, whether government or private, for the purpose of developing or
25 upgrading the system;
- 26 (v) Develop, establish, and maintain an efficient and effective security system
27 covering, among others, personnel, physical installations, facilities, equipment,
28 documents and materials including the conduct of security investigations;
- 29 (vi) Coordinate with the appropriate government agencies for a more efficient conduct
30 of administrative processes;
- 31 (vii) Develop, establish, and maintain an efficient records system;
- 32 (viii) Provide assistance in its area of specialization to the Department Proper, bureaus
33 and regional and water district offices and, when requested, to the government
34 agencies and corporations attached to the Department; and

1 (ix) Perform such other related functions and activities which are necessary for the
2 effective management of the resources of the Department, including its human
3 resources.

4 (4) The *Legal and Legislative Research Service* shall provide the Department with services on
5 such legal affairs as contract letting and litigation, legal and legislative research, complaints
6 and investigation, legal counselling and other matters of law, and shall exercise the
7 following functions:

8 (i) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to legal and legislative affairs;

9 (ii) Prepare Department contracts and legal instruments, review and interpret all
10 contracts and agreements entered into by the Department and evaluate all legal
11 proposals;

12 (iii) Conduct administrative investigation and the review of administrative charges against
13 officers and employees of the Department;

14 (iv) Exercise functional jurisdiction over the legal staffs of Regional Offices;

15 (v) Provide legal assistance to the Department Proper, the bureaus and regional offices
16 and when requested, the attached corporations;

17 (vi) Develop and prepare the Department's Legislative Agenda, recommend presidential
18 certification of the urgency of priority water bills, and other water-related legislation;

19 (vii) Coordinate and maintain linkages between and among the various offices, bureaus,
20 regional offices and attached agencies to the Department along with other government
21 agencies on policy matters affecting the Department's mandate in relation to
22 legislation;

23 (viii) Perform liaison and networking activities in relation to the enactment of related laws
24 relating to water resources issues in legislative policymaking bodies such as the Senate
25 of the Philippines, the House of Representatives, and the various Sanggunians;

26 (ix) Monitor the progress of the Department's priority or certified bills to ensure their
27 passage; and

28 (x) Perform such functions and activities, as may be mandated by law, which are
29 necessary for the effective performance of the abovementioned objectives.

30 (5) The *Comptrollership and Financial Management Service* shall provide the Department
31 with coordinated services relating to financial systems and procedures, budget, cash,
32 accounting and all financial housekeeping matters, and shall exercise the following
33 functions:

- 1 (i) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to the accounting of government
2 expenditures and receipts, budgeting and cash management, project finances and
3 financial systems and procedures;
- 4 (ii) Prepare budget proposals and pursue formal budget authorizations, undertake budget
5 execution, and prepare and submit all appropriate reports to the proper offices;
- 6 (iii) Develop and maintain accounting, financial and assets management systems,
7 procedures and practices in the Department Proper, Bureaus and Regional Offices;
- 8 (iv) Review and appraise systems and procedures, organizational structure, assets
9 management practices, accounting, and other records, reports, and performance
10 standards such as budgets and standard costs of the Department, bureaus, and regional
11 offices;
- 12 (v) Provide assistance in its area of specialization to any unit of the Department and, when
13 requested, to government corporations and councils attached to the Department; and
- 14 (vi) Perform such other related functions and activities which are necessary for the effective
15 financial management of the Department.
- 16 (6) The *Resource Regulation Service* shall provide the Department with services for the
17 effective regulation of all water-related services and activities and shall exercise the
18 following functions:
- 19 (i) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to resource regulations;
- 20 (ii) Determine, grant and regulate water rights for the appropriate, optimal and
21 sustainable use of surface and ground water;
- 22 (iii) Determine and evaluate waterworks and sewerage licenses, and submit evaluation
23 results to the Water Regulatory Commission for the latter's consideration in granting
24 of licenses;
- 25 (iv) Investigate violations of the water rights and the Water Code, and impose the
26 appropriate sanctions in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations as well
27 as future rules and regulations which the Department shall promulgate;
- 28 (v) Adjudicate water use conflicts; and
- 29 (vi) Perform such other related functions and activities which are necessary for the
30 effective regulation of water-related services.
- 31 (7) The *Internal Audit Service* shall regularly conduct a comprehensive audit of various
32 Department activities and shall exercise the following functions:
- 33 (i) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to management control and operations
34 audit;

- 1 (ii) Conduct a performance audit of the management and operations of the Department,
2 its activities, the performance of all units, and determine the degree of compliance
3 of all operating units with established objectives, policies, standards, methods and
4 procedures, government regulations and contractual obligations of the Department;
5 (iii) Review and appraise systems and procedures, organizational structure, assets
6 management practices, accounting and other records, and performance standards
7 such as budgets and standard costs of the Department Proper, bureaus and regional
8 offices;
9 (iv) Analyze and evaluate management deficiencies and recommend realistic courses of
10 action; and
11 (v) Perform such functions and activities, as may be mandated by law, which are
12 necessary for the effective performance of the abovementioned objectives.
- 13 (8) The *Public Affairs Service* shall enhance relations with all stakeholders including the
14 media, for the effective dissemination of information relating to water-related issues,
15 including important announcements on policies and activities of the department that is of
16 interest to the general public. It shall ensure that women, men, elderly, and people with
17 disabilities shall be consulted, organized and take active part in all aspects of water
18 resources development and management activities. It shall also lead the planning and
19 organizing of special events, and shall exercise the following functions:
- 20 (i) Public Awareness
- 21 a) Advise the Secretary on matters pertaining to public affairs;
22 b) Develop and supervise the implementation of comprehensible communications
23 programs on relevant policies, programs and plans of the Department;
24 c) Produce and supervise the dissemination of communication materials in line with
25 the priorities of the Department and national government public information
26 programs;
27 d) Conduct public opinion and attitude surveys to identify the interests and concerns
28 of the stakeholders of the Department;
29 e) Establish policies on the presentation and publication of the content of the
30 communication materials for dissemination to print and broadcast media;
31 f) Establish and maintain linkages with the tri-media and a presence in social media;
32 g) Coordinate the conduct of interviews and news conferences;

- 1 h) Make public announcements on matters relating to the work and activities of the
2 Department through the print and broadcast media, either through press releases or
3 live interviews;
- 4 i) Coordinate with various Department units, concerned government agencies, tri-
5 media and other stakeholders on matters related to the above-enumerated
6 functions; and
- 7 j) Coordinate with the appropriate national government agencies involved in public
8 information affairs.

9 (ii) Promote Participation

- 10 a) Conduct public consultations and discussions;
- 11 b) Develop and disseminate relevant and appropriate materials and programs for
12 public information and education, as well as advocacy campaign;
- 13 c) Conduct seminars and workshops involving the LGUs and the general public on
14 current water issues and problems; and
- 15 d) Conduct capability building seminars of various stakeholders to promote
16 meaningful participation in the Department's policy making, planning,
17 development and implementation of various programs and projects.

18 (iii) Special Events

- 19 a) Coordinate the organization and promotion of special events and water exhibits;
- 20 b) Act as the focal office for all water related events; and
- 21 c) Perform such functions and activities, as may be mandated by law, which are
22 necessary for the effective performance of the abovementioned objectives.

23 (f) *Bureaus.* – The Department shall create bureaus which shall each be headed by a Bureau
24 Director. The Bureau Director shall be responsible for the efficient and effective discharge of
25 the functions of the Bureau concerned. The Bureau Director shall be assisted by one (1)
26 Assistant Director.

27 (1) *Bureau of Flood Control and Drainage* shall plan and design flood control and drainage
28 structures and facilities in accordance with technical standards, guidelines and
29 manuals. For this purpose, it shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- 30 (i) Formulate policy, strategies and programs on flood risk management in the context of
31 integrated flood management (IFM) which integrates water, land, coastal zone and
32 multi-hazard management. In integrating land use planning and water management, the
33 Department shall harmonize and synthesize plans to enable the sharing of information
34 between land-use planning and water management authorities. In this regard, a holistic

1 approach shall be adopted by making the IFM a part of a wider risk or multi-hazard
2 management system that includes earthquakes, landslides, fires, tsunami, and other
3 calamities of the same gravity or nature;

- 4 (ii) Integrate climate change and disaster risk reduction and management in policies and
5 plans;
- 6 (iii) Prepare master plans of flood management and drainage in river basins in coordination
7 with the concerned water resources region and river basin organizations;
- 8 (iv) Prepare master plans for urban drainage in cities and municipalities;
- 9 (v) Prepare feasibility studies of recommended measures in the master plans;
- 10 (vi) Plan and design structural measures for flood control and drainage;
- 11 (vii) Implement and collaborate with concerned agencies on the formulation and adoption of
12 non-structural measures for flood control and drainage;
- 13 (viii) Patrol and investigate rivers, and monitor stream flows;
- 14 (ix) Conduct post-disaster investigation and evaluation and damage assessment of flood
15 infrastructures after extreme events;
- 16 (x) Conduct research and development on water and sediment-related disasters;
- 17 (xi) Develop design guidelines, criteria, and standards on flood control and drainage
18 structures;
- 19 (xii) Provide technical assistance to other agencies, LGUs, and other stakeholders;
- 20 (xiii) Advise the Secretary on declaring flood control areas and recommend guidelines for
21 flood plain management plans in these areas; and
- 22 (xiv) Perform such related activities which are necessary for the effective performance of
23 its functions.

24 (2) *Bureau of Water Quality Management* shall supervise and exercise control over all aspects
25 of water quality management to ensure the sustainability of the country's water resources
26 and the protection of the environment. It should take into account proper and integrated
27 treatment of freshwater and wastewater within the whole process. For this purpose, the
28 Bureau shall exercise the following functions:

- 29 (i) Establish water quality guidelines for freshwater and coastal or marine waters as
30 basis for classifying water bodies in the country. Specifically, develop water quality
31 indices or composite metrics to measure the quality status and health of natural water
32 bodies in relation to ecological integrity and function;
- 33 (ii) Establish effluent standards for point discharges to receiving bodies of water;
- 34 (iii) Establish internationally accepted procedures for sampling and analysis;

- 1 (iv) Prepare an integrated water quality management framework;
- 2 (v) Prepare the ten-year water quality management plans for each water quality
3 management area as part of the River Basin Master Plans and in support of the
4 NWRMP;
- 5 (vi) Classify groundwater sources and prepare a national groundwater vulnerability map;
- 6 (vii) Classify or reclassify all water bodies according to their beneficial usages using the
7 established water quality guidelines established;
- 8 (viii) Issue permits, clearances, and similar instruments pursuant to the Clean Water Act of
9 2004;
- 10 (ix) Collect the wastewater discharge fees for all permittees;
- 11 (x) Monitor the compliance of water discharge permittees with the effluent standards;
- 12 (xi) Regularly monitor the water quality of major water bodies in the country and analyze the
13 data to identify possible sources of pollution;
- 14 (xii) Issue notices of violations and/or cease and desist orders for those found in violation;
- 15 (xiii) File the needed cases against violators with the Water Pollution Adjudication Board
16 (WPAB);
- 17 (xiv) Serve as secretariat of the WPAB; and
- 18 (xv) Perform such functions and activities, as may be mandated by law, which are necessary
19 for the effective performance of the abovementioned objectives.
- 20 (3) *A Water Resources Regional Office (WRRO)* shall be organized per water resources region
21 and shall be responsible for implementing the mandates, powers and duties of the
22 Department at the field level, except for policymaking which will be vested solely in the
23 Department. The formulation of the master plan for the nearby river basins such as the
24 Pasig-Marikina-Laguna Lake-Cavite, shall be the responsibility of the Department. Each
25 WRRO shall perform the following duties and responsibilities:
- 26 (i) Formulate or update and coordinate the river basin master plans for river basins within
27 its jurisdictions ensuring consistency with the National Water Resources Management
28 Framework Plan;
- 29 (ii) Advocate and strongly support the creation and functioning of multi-stakeholder river
30 basin organizations (RBOs) and serve as the secretariat of the said RBOs;
- 31 (iii) Undertake and evaluate the planning, design, and work supervision functions of the
32 Department for the water infrastructures within the region;
- 33 (iv) Ensure the implementation of laws, policies, programs, rules and regulations regarding
34 the abovementioned infrastructure as well as public and private physical structures;

- 1 (v) Provide technical assistance related to the water-related functions of other agencies
2 within the region especially the local government;
- 3 (vi) Coordinate with other departments, agencies, institutions and organizations, especially
4 local government units within the region in the planning and implementation of the river
5 basin master plans;
- 6 (vii) Conduct consultations with the local communities, take appropriate measures to ensure
7 that the services of the Department are responsive, and recommend such appropriate
8 actions as may be necessary; and
- 9 (viii) Perform such functions and activities, as may be mandated by law, which are necessary
10 for the effective performance of the abovementioned objectives.

11 The Department shall retain existing Project Management Offices as may be required, which
12 shall be under the supervision and control of the appropriate Water Resources Regional Office unless
13 otherwise determined by the Secretary for reasons of supra- regional scope, magnitude and multi-
14 functional coverage.

15 Each Water Resources Regional Office shall be headed by a Water Resources Regional
16 Director who shall be responsible for efficiently and effectively carrying out the duties and
17 responsibilities of the Office. Towards this end, the Water Resources Regional Director shall exercise
18 functional and administrative supervision over all units within the region and is authorized to commit
19 resources and assign personnel to integrated regional water resources management, water supply and
20 sanitation management, and flood control and flood risk management initiatives. The Water Resources
21 Regional Director shall also perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned
22 or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

23 The Water Resources Regional Director shall be assisted by two (2) Assistant Water Resources
24 Regional Office Directors who shall exercise supervision over (1) the planning, project design and
25 evaluation function and (2) technical assistance to the River Basin Organizations within the water
26 resources region.

27 SEC. 14. *Water Pollution Adjudication Board.* – There is hereby created a Water Pollution
28 Adjudication Board under the Office of the Secretary. The Board shall be composed of the Secretary
29 as Chairperson, two (2) Undersecretaries as may be designated by the Secretary, the Director of Water
30 Quality Management Bureau, and three (3) other representatives from other stakeholders to be
31 designated by the Secretary as members.

32 The Board shall assume the powers and functions of the National Pollution Control
33 Commission with respect to the adjudication of water pollution cases under Republic Act No. 3931
34 entitled, *An Act Creating The National Water And Air Pollution Control Commission*, Presidential

1 Decree 984 entitled *Providing For The Revision Of Republic Act No. 3931, Commonly Known as the*
2 *Pollution Control Law, And For Other Purposes*, particularly with respect to Section 6 letters e, f, g,
3 j, k and Republic Act No. 9275. The Bureau of Water Quality Management shall serve as the
4 Secretariat of the Board. These powers and functions may be delegated to the field officers of the
5 Department in accordance with rules and regulations to be promulgated by the Board.

6 **CHAPTER III**

7 **INTERDEPARTMENTAL RELATIONS**

8 **AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT**

9 *SEC. 15. Interface and Institutional Arrangements with Other Agencies. –*

- 10 (a) The Department of Health (DOH) shall continue to have primary authority and responsibility
11 for setting and enforcing drinking water quality standards. The Department shall coordinate
12 with the DOH in this aspect, and shall ensure consistency of standards and targets, as well as
13 the compliance of permittees with mandated standards;
- 14 (b) The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall continue to have
15 primary authority and responsibility for protecting the environment and managing the
16 country's watersheds;
- 17 (c) The Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Power Corporation (NPC) shall continue
18 to have primary authority and responsibility for establishing and operating hydropower plants,
19 but shall ensure that hydropower plant development plans are consistent with the National
20 Water Development and Management Plan;
- 21 (d) The Department shall coordinate with the DA to ensure agricultural development that reduces
22 long-term pollution for surface water and groundwater, and agricultural and industrial
23 economic development that employs water efficiency, water recycling or reuse, and the
24 appropriate treatment of wastewater;
- 25 (e) The Department shall coordinate with the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management
26 Council (NDRRMC) to ensure that its plans and designs for flood control, flood risk
27 management and drought risk management are aligned with the objectives and plans of the
28 Department;
- 29 (f) The Department shall coordinate with Climate Change Commission (CCC), Philippine
30 Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), and
31 National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) for scientific studies,
32 integrated surveys, mapping, charting, and decision support systems
- 33 (g) The Department shall coordinate with the Department of Tourism (DOT) on recreational use
34 of water resources;

- 1 (h) The Department shall coordinate with the Philippine Reclamation Authority and economic
2 zone authorities on water resources development and water requirements within reclamation
3 areas and economic zones, respectively; and
- 4 (i) The Department shall coordinate with relevant government agencies, including local
5 government units (LGUs), with respect to development projects and shall ensure cross-cutting
6 collaboration between and among all water subsectors and facilitate inter-agency subsector
7 coordination, strategic development, planning, monitoring and provision of technical,
8 institutional and financial capacity building support to their different stakeholders at the water
9 subsector level.

10 SEC. 16. *National Water Sector Policy Board.* – The National Water Sector Policy Board
11 (NWSPB) shall be created and shall be headed by the Secretary of the Department of Water Resources
12 with the Secretary of the National Economic and Development Authority as the Vice-Chairperson, and
13 the Secretaries of the DOH, DILG, DOE, DA, Department of Social Welfare and
14 Development; DPWH; Department of Budget and Management (DBM); Office of the President, and
15 DENR, and National Commission on Indigenous Peoples as members. The Department shall provide
16 personnel to serve as Secretariat to the Board.

17 SEC. 17. *Powers and Functions of the National Water Sector Policy Board* – The NWSPB
18 shall perform policymaking, coordination, integration, supervision, monitoring and evaluation
19 functions, and shall have the following responsibilities:

- 20 (a) Approve the NWRMP which shall serve as a principal guide to water management efforts in
21 the country and shall be reviewed every five (5)-years interval, or as may be deemed necessary,
22 in order to ensure its relevance to the times;
- 23 (b) Provide overall policy direction and recommend policies on water resources requiring
24 Presidential decision;
- 25 (c) Advise the President on the status of water management and supply, recommend to the
26 President the declaration of a state calamity in areas affected by water supply, and submit
27 proposals to restore normalcy in the affected areas;
- 28 (d) Ensure a multi-stakeholder participation in the development, updating, and sharing of
29 information system as policy, planning and decision-making tools consistent with IWRM.

30 SEC.18. *Transfer of Rights and Obligations.* – The Department shall, by virtue of this Act, be
31 subrogated to all the rights and assume all the obligations of the government agencies and units whose
32 powers and functions have been subsumed, absorbed, transferred or attached to the Department-in
33 accordance with the rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit, and the Civil Service
34 Commission, and other applicable laws. The transfer of powers and functions as herein provided shall

1 take effect within six (6) months of the effectivity of this Act. As such, all affected agencies, offices,
2 units shall continue to function under their present mandates.

3 CHAPTER IV

4 WATER REGULATORY COMMISSION

5 SEC.19. *Water Regulatory Commission.* – There is hereby created and established as an
6 independent, quasi-judicial regulatory body to be known as the Water Regulatory Commission,
7 hereinafter referred to as the Commission, which shall be organized within one hundred twenty (120)
8 days after the effectivity of this Act.

9 The Commission shall be placed under the administrative supervision of the Department as an
10 attached agency.

11 The Commission shall have a Board of Commissioners, and shall be vested with powers and
12 functions, as conferred and set forth hereunder.

13 SEC. 20. *The Regulatory Units.* – The regulatory units of the Commission shall be composed
14 of the central regulatory unit and the regional regulatory units.

15 The economic regulatory units and functions of the MWSS, NWRB, LWUA, SBMA, PEZA,
16 and TIEZA are hereby transferred to the Commission, and shall collectively comprise its central
17 regulatory unit for water supply and sanitation services that: (a) provide services to more than one
18 province; and (b) are owned, operated and/or maintained by special economic zones and Metro Manila
19 concessionaires.

20 The regional regulatory units shall be established by the Commission in accordance with this
21 Act and the rules, regulations, guidelines, and standards that the Commission shall issue.

22 SEC. 21. *Powers and Functions of the Commission.* – The overall authority and powers of the
23 Commission shall cover and apply to all service providers, whether private or public, providing or
24 intending to provide levels II & III water supply, including suppliers to subdivisions and ~~to~~ other
25 service providers, sewerage, and/or septage treatment and disposal services for domestic, residential,
26 institutional, industrial or commercial use.

27 The Commission shall exercise the following powers and functions:

- 28 (a) Issue and promulgate rules, regulations and guidelines as may be necessary to implement
29 and enforce its powers and functions under this Act;
- 30 (b) Promulgate and enforce just and reasonable technical standards, classifications and
31 measurements of service;
- 32 (c) Establish rules and regulations to monitor, avoid, and provide remedies for any market
33 power abuse or anti-competitive or discriminatory act or behavior by or against any
34 participant in the water supply and sanitation sector. Upon finding that a market participant

1 has engaged in, or has fallen victim to such act or behavior, the Commission shall act to
2 stop or redress the same. Such remedies may, without limitation, include the imposition of
3 price controls, issuance of injunctions, requirement of divestment or disgorgement of
4 excess profits, invalidation of contracts and imposition of fines and penalties pursuant to
5 this Act.

- 6 (d) Adopt and require that books, records, and accounts be kept and maintained in accordance
7 with the prescribed uniform accounting system;
- 8 (e) Fix and determine proper and adequate rates of depreciation of properties and equipment
9 used in water supply and sanitation services;
- 10 (f) Impose and collect annual levies determined as a percentage of gross revenue accruing in
11 relation to the licensed activities, and reasonable fees and surcharges as may be necessary
12 for achieving the purposes, powers and functions of the Commission;
- 13 (g) Require the submission reports of finances and operations, verified under oaths by the
14 owner or president and secretary of the board of the licensee;
- 15 (h) Determine and require the monitoring and submission of such data, statistics and other
16 information from the regulatory units and any or all licensees as may be necessary for the
17 effective and efficient exercise of its duties, functions, powers and responsibilities.
- 18 (i) Investigate, *motu proprio* or upon a written complaint, any matter concerning the operation
19 of the service and issues on price manipulation and anti-competitive behavior;
- 20 (j) Impose penalties and fines against any licensee or against its owners, directors, officers,
21 agents or representatives for any violation of this Act or of the license, order, rule regulation
22 or requirement issued by the Commission;
- 23 (k) Require any licensee to pay the actual expenses incurred by the Commission in any
24 investigation if it shall be found that a licensee violated any provision of this Act or of the
25 license, order, rule regulation or requirement issued by the Commission;
- 26 (l) Advise, apprise and coordinate with other relevant agencies of the national or local
27 government on any matter relating to water supply and sanitation services;
- 28 (m) Deputize agents, whether from the public or private sector, to assist in the performance of
29 any of the powers and functions of the Commission;
- 30 (n) Appoint an interim or temporary management committee upon appeal and after due
31 hearing, to ensure continuity of service in case a licensee fails to meet conditions of the
32 license and the concerned Regulatory Unit fails or refuses to appoint an interim
33 management committee as provided in the following section.
- 34 (o) Appoint, hire and maintain adequate staff and personnel, advisers, or consultants, with

1 suitable qualifications and experience, as necessary;

- 2 (p) Exercise original and exclusive jurisdiction over all cases contesting rates, fees, fines and
3 penalties imposed by the regulatory units in the exercise of their powers, functions and
4 responsibilities, as provided under this Act, and over all cases involving disputes between
5 and among participants or stakeholders in the water supply and sanitation services; and
6 (q) Such other incidental powers and functions as may be necessary to attain the objectives of
7 this Act.

8 SEC. 22. *Powers and Functions of the Regulatory Units.* – The regulatory units of the
9 Commission shall have the following powers and functions:

- 10 (a) Issue licenses authorizing the operation of water supply and sanitation services in any
11 specified area or areas within the Philippines.
- 12 (b) Impose fines, charges and other penalties upon any provider and/or its officers and
13 stockholders who shall fail or refuse to register or obtain a license prior to operation or
14 commencement of business, as provided hereunder.
- 15 (c) Review, determine, fix, and approve, consistent with the rules, guidelines, procedures and
16 methodologies which the Commission shall provide, proposed water and sewerage and
17 septage management tariffs, rates and charges that licensees may impose upon their
18 consumers;
- 19 (d) Appraise and value property and equipment used by licensees in providing water supply
20 and sanitation services.
- 21 (e) Enforce technical, financial, and other performance standards set by the Commission for
22 licensees or utilities;
- 23 (f) Respond to consumer complaints and ensure the adequate promotion of consumer interests
24 and investigate *motu proprio* price manipulation and anti-competitive behavior;
- 25 (g) Investigate accidents directly or indirectly arising from or connected with the maintenance
26 or operation of the service, and make such order or recommendation as the public interest
27 may warrant;
- 28 (h) Require the review and/or approval of contracts or agreements that may impact on the tariff
29 and rates of service provision entered into by service providers upon petition or *motu*
30 *proprio* where in its determination public interest so dictates;
- 31 (i) Require the submission of reports, plans, and other documents that define the performance
32 targets of the licensees or utilities, and regular accomplishment reports;
- 33 (j) Impose and collect annual levies determined as a percentage of gross revenue accruing
34 in relation to the licensed activities, and reasonable fees and surcharges as may be

- 1 necessary for achieving the purposes, powers, and functions of the regulator;
- 2 (k) Conduct benchmarking and monitor the performance of licensees or utilities under their
3 jurisdiction, and publish reports detailing the results thereof, as may be necessary
4 or required by the Commission;
- 5 (l) Amend, modify, suspend, or revoke any license issued by them, after due notice and
6 hearing, on any of the following grounds:
- 7 (1) when the facts and circumstances on the strength of which the license was issued have
8 been materially misrepresented or have materially changed;
- 9 (2) where the licensee has failed to meet or comply with terms, conditions, and performance
10 targets, including but not limited to service expansion, that may have been set in the
11 license;
- 12 (3) where the licensee is found to be manifestly inefficient in the operation of or provision
13 of water supply and sanitation services in its area; or
- 14 (4) when the licensee thereof has violated or willfully refused to comply with any order,
15 rule or regulation of the Commission or any provision of this Act;
- 16 (m) Appoint an interim management committee to ensure continuity of service in case a
17 licensee fails to meet the conditions of the license; and
- 18 (n) Submit performance plans and reports as required by the Commission.

19 *SEC. 23. Composition of the Water Regulatory Commission. –*

- 20 (a) The Commission shall be a collegial body composed of five (5) full-time members consisting
21 of a Chairperson and four (4) members, who shall all be appointed by the President of the
22 Philippines. All members of the Commission must be citizens and residents of the Philippines,
23 at least thirty five (35) years of age, and of good moral character, of recognized integrity and
24 competence in the field of law, business, commerce, finance, accounting or public
25 administration, water or utility economics, management, physical or engineering services,
26 hydrology and other related services, with at least three (3) years of actual and distinguished
27 experience in their respective fields of expertise: *Provided*, That out of the four (4) members
28 of the Commission, at least one (1) shall be a member of the Philippine Bar with at least ten
29 (10) years of experience in the active practice of law, and at least one (1) shall be a certified
30 public accountant with at least ten (10) years of experience in active practice.
- 31 (b) The term of office of each member of the Commission shall be seven (7) years: *Provided*,
32 That among the members first appointed, the Chairperson shall serve for a period of seven
33 (7) years, two (2) members shall serve for five (5) years and the other two (2) members shall
34 serve for three (3) years: *Provided further*, That any member whose term has expired as

1 specified herein shall serve as such until a successor shall have been appointed and qualified:
2 *Provided furthermore*, That any appointment to fill a vacancy in the Commission arising from
3 death, removal, retirement or resignation shall be made only for the unexpired term:
4 *Provided, finally*, That in no case shall any member serve for more than seven (7) years in
5 the Commission.

6 (c)The Commission shall meet as often as may be necessary on such day or days as the
7 Chairperson may fix. The presence of at least three (3) members of the Commission shall
8 constitute a quorum, which shall be necessary for the transaction of any business. The
9 affirmative vote of majority of the members of the Commission where a quorum is present
10 shall be necessary for the adoption of any order, resolution, decisions, or other act of the
11 Commission in the exercise of its quasi-judicial functions: *Provided*, That in promulgating
12 rules, regulations, guidelines and in exercising its quasi-legislative functions, an affirmative
13 vote of three (3) members shall be required.

14 (d) The Chairperson of the Commission shall exercise general executive control and supervision
15 over the Commission and its members, staff and personnel, agents and representatives.
16 Within three (3) months from the creation of the Commission and the appointment of all
17 Members of the Commission, the Chairperson shall determine and establish the
18 organizational structure and *plantilla* positions necessary to carry out the powers and
19 functions of the Commission, including those of the central and provincial regulatory units
20 subject to the review and approval of the DBM.

21 The *plantilla* positions of the Commission shall be filled by regular appointments in
22 accordance with Civil Service laws, rules, and regulations. Members of the Commission shall
23 enjoy security of tenure and shall not be suspended or removed from office except for just
24 cause as specified by law.

25 (e)The Chairperson and members of the Commission or any of their relatives within the fourth
26 civil degree of consanguinity or affinity, legitimate or common law, shall be prohibited from
27 holding any interest whatsoever, either as investor, stockholder, officer or director, in any
28 company or entity engaged in provision of water supply and distribution, septage management
29 and sewerage services and must, therefore, divest through sale or legal disposition of any and
30 all interests in the water sector upon assumption to office.

31 SEC. 24. *Secretariat of the Commission.* – The Commission shall establish a Secretariat which
32 shall provide the Commission with technical and support services including the following:

33 (a) Provide the necessary technical inputs and secretariat support to the Commission to facilitate
34 the conduct of its functions;

- 1 (b)Coordinate with Regulatory Units to ensure proper implementation of the rules, regulations and
2 guidelines promulgated by the Commission;
- 3 (c)Monitor and assess activities of the Regulatory Units vis-à-vis their respective annual
4 performance plans and targets;
- 5 (d)Maintain a database on the water supply and sanitation subsector; and
- 6 (e)Coordinate with other relevant agencies of the national or local government on any matter
7 relating to water supply and sanitation.

8 SEC. 25. *Executive Director.* – The Commission shall appoint an Executive Director who shall
9 head the Commission Secretariat, keep and maintain the official records of the Commission, render a
10 report on the proceedings of the Commission, and administer oaths in all matters falling within the
11 jurisdiction of the Commission.

12 The Executive Director shall be responsible for the effective implementation of the policies,
13 plans, programs, rules, regulations and directives of the Commission; coordinate and supervise the
14 activities of the different operating units under the Commission; and perform such functions as may
15 be assigned by the Chairperson and/or other members of the Commission.

16 SEC. 26. *Compensation and Other Emoluments.* – The compensation of the members of the
17 Commission and its staff shall conform to provisions of Republic Act No. 6758 as amended, otherwise
18 known as the Compensation and Position Classification Act of 1989.

19 CHAPTER V

20 REGISTRATION AND LICENSING

21 SEC. 27. *Registration and Licensing of All Water Supply and Sanitation Services.* – All water
22 supply and sanitation service providers, including bulk water suppliers and those providing services to
23 subdivisions and other service providers, shall register with the Commission and, subject to such rules,
24 guidelines, procedures and other issuances of the Commission, obtain a license to operate from the
25 appropriate regulatory units.

26 The Commission shall ensure that the grant and revocation of licenses are carried out fairly,
27 transparently, and without discrimination. Issuances of the Commission shall specify, among others,
28 the qualifications, requirements, and procedure for the grant and revocation of licenses including the
29 standards and performance targets that shall continuously be complied with to keep the licenses valid.

30 Unless otherwise provided in this Act or by the Commission, no public water supply and
31 sanitation service provider shall commence or conduct the business of providing water supply and
32 sanitation services without first obtaining a license.

33 Concession agreements and other contracts for water supply provision and water sanitation and
34 treatment services currently existing shall remain valid and enforceable unless otherwise terminated,

1 after due notice and hearing for reasons provided in the existing terms and conditions under the
2 concession or service agreement or contract, or when invalidated by the Commission, after due notice
3 and hearing, where national security, national emergency or public interest so dictates.

4 SEC 28. *Conditions of License.* – The Commission or the concerned regulatory unit, may
5 impose such conditions on the licensee as it may deem necessary, such as:

6 (a) Tariffs, rates and charges that may be imposed from its customers or consumers.

7 (b) Term fixing the duration of the privilege.

8 (c) Grounds for modification, suspension or cancellation of the License.

9 (d) Minimum technical performance and service level standards.

10 (e) Expansion targets and service level improvements over time.

11 (f) Restrictions or conditions for transferability of the business or controlling interest in the
12 business.

13 (g) Reportorial requirements and obligations of the grantee.

14 (h) Submission to annual performance audit by the Commission or its duly authorized
15 representative(s).

16 The Commission shall specify the requirements and procedure for existing holders of A
17 Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC), Certificates-of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN)
18 issued by NWRB, or Certificate of Conformance (CoC) issued by LWUA, to convert their existing
19 certificates into licenses to operate in accordance with Sec. 27 herein.

20 All existing providers of water supply and sanitation services without a legal and valid
21 Certificate of Public Convenience, Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, or Certificate of
22 Conformance shall register with the Commission and apply for a license within six (6) months from
23 the effectivity of this Act.

24 SEC. 29. *Rights and Duties of Licensees.* –

25 (a) Any person granted a license under this Act shall have the obligation to ensure that licensed
26 activities are conducted to further public interest and, in particular:

27 (1) Foster the maintenance and development of efficient, coordinated, and viable operation
28 of their licensed activities;

29 (2) Ensure that their water supply and sanitation services are provided in a diligent,
30 conscientious and workman like manner, in accordance with applicable laws rules and
31 regulations issued by the Commission and the generally accepted standards and practices
32 of the water supply and sanitation industry; and

33 (3) Comply with drinking water quality requirements and standards that may be established
34 by the Commission.

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

4 (c) Subject to any condition or limitation laid down in the license, a licensee may discontinue water
5 supply and sanitation services to a customer if such customer defaults in the payment of fees
6 due to the licensee for the water supplied or sanitation services provided, or for acts of pilferage
7 pursuant to Sections 8, 9, 10, and 11 of Republic Act No. 8041, otherwise known as the *Water*
8 *Crisis Act of 1995*.

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

10 (1) Publish the Tariff and other charges approved by and the terms and conditions imposed by
11 the Commission for the provision of water supply and sanitation services.

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

18 (3) Maintain financial accounts in accordance with the manner and procedure specified in the
19 license and as may be required by the Commission; and

20 (4) Maintain and upon request by anyone during regular office hours, promptly make available
21 for scrutiny and inspection such data, statistics and other information, as may be required
22 by the Commission.

23 SEC. 30. *Setting Tariffs, Rates, and Other Charges.* – Regulatory units shall establish tariffs,
24 rates and other charges which are fair and reasonable, and ensure economic viability and a fair return
25 on investments.

26 Tariffs, rates and charges shall be based on and consistent with a rate-setting methodology that
27 the Commission shall, after due consultation, define and publish, taking into account the following,
28 among others:

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

31 (b) Efficiency of the service;

32 (c) Incentives for enhancement of efficiency;

33 (d) Willingness to pay of the customers/consumers;

34 (e) Equity considerations; and

1 (f) Administrative simplicity.

2 Tariffs, rates, and charges set by the regulatory units shall be presumed valid and reasonable
3 unless a protest or contest is filed with the Commission.

4 SEC.31. *Direct Access.* - Fifty-one (51) percent of the registered water consumers in a
5 municipality, city or province may petition for direct access to water from any water service provider
6 subject to concurrence by the service provider and approval by the Commission. The Commission
7 shall promulgate rules and procedures for this mode of service.

8 SEC. 32. *Innovative Schemes to Improve Efficiency and Management of Systems.* - The
9 Commission shall promote innovative schemes such as the consolidation or integration of water supply
10 and sanitation services, or providers in the same service area, where it shall result in improved
11 efficiency, service expansion and lower-costs.

12 To this end, the Commission shall establish and issue such rules and guidelines as may be
13 necessary to (a) create incentives to encourage efficiency and service expansion; (b) establish the
14 standards and targets that service providers are required to meet; and (c) define the fines and penalties
15 that shall be imposed for failure to meet such standards and targets.

16 CHAPTER VI

17 QUASI-JUDICIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

18 SEC. 33. *Proceedings Before the Commission.* – For the purpose of any investigation, inquiry
19 or proceeding, the Commission shall:

- 20 (a) Issue *subpoena duces tecum* and *subpoena ad testificandum*;
21 (b) Appoint hearing officers to hear and receive evidence on behalf of the Commission;
22 (c) Cite any person or party for contempt for refusal to appear, testify, or comply with an order
23 of the Commission on any matter that is the subject of investigation, inquiry or proceeding
24 before the Commission.

25 SEC. 34. *Orders and Decisions of the Commission.* – Any order, resolution, or decisions of the
26 Commission shall be promulgated promptly, expeditiously, reasonably, and in writing, and shall state
27 clearly and distinctly the facts and law on which it is based.

28 The Commission shall publish and make available for public inspection, all decisions and final
29 orders in the adjudication of contested cases or applications.

30 SEC. 35. *Appeals Procedure and Prohibition Against Injunction.* –

- 31 (a) The orders, rulings, and decisions of the Commission are final and executory unless
32 appealed to the Court of Appeals within fifteen (15) days from receipt of notice of such
33 order, ruling or decision: *Provided*, That orders, rulings, and decisions of the Commission
34 approving tariffs, shall be immediately executory and may be suspended only upon appeal

1 and filing of a bond, in an amount to be fixed by the Commission, to answer for damages
2 occasioned by the suspension or stay of execution of such orders, rulings, and decisions.

3 (b) No injunction may be issued by any court or administrative agency to restrain any
4 proceeding before, or the implementation or execution of any order, ruling, or decision of
5 the Commission, except on the basis of a question of law brought before the Supreme Court
6 on *certiorari*.

7 (c) Any act or decision of the Commission shall not be invalidated merely because of a defect
8 or irregularity in, or in connection with, the appointment or vacancy in the Office of the
9 Chairperson or any other member of the Commission.

10 CHAPTER VII

11 INTERDEPARTMENTAL RELATIONS OF THE COMMISSION

12 SEC. 36. *Interface with Other Sector Regulators.* –

13 (a) The DENR shall continue to exercise primary jurisdiction over programs aimed at
14 protecting the environment and the quality of water sources from waste and pollution, and
15 shall promulgate rules, regulations, and standards in this regard. The Department of Health
16 (DOH) shall continue to exercise primary jurisdiction over the determination and
17 enforcement of standards for quality drinking water and sanitation.

18 (b) The Commission shall coordinate with the:

19 (1) DOH to ensure that the standards and targets for quality drinking water and sanitation
20 are consistently complied with;

21 (2) LGUs for development projects relating to water supply and sanitation; and

22 (3) Department of Public Works and Highways for flood control and harnessing and
23 impounding of water.

24 SEC. 37. *Transfer of Rights and Obligations.* – The Commission shall, by virtue of this Act,
25 be subrogated to all the rights, and assume all the obligations, of the Water Utilities Division of the
26 NWRB, the regulatory offices of MWSS and LWUA, the regulatory units of all special economic
27 zones, and all other government agencies and units whose powers and functions have been transferred
28 to the Commission.

29 The transfer of powers and functions to the Department of the concerned agencies as herein
30 provided for, shall be deemed completed within six (6) months after the effectivity of this Act. The
31 transfer of powers and functions shall include all applicable funds, personnel, records, property and
32 equipment, as may be necessary. The same shall apply to agencies which have been attached to the
33 Department by virtue of this Act.

1 All agencies transferred, subsumed and attached to the Department, shall continue to function
2 under their present mandates until the six-month transition period mandated under this Act shall have
3 lapsed. The heads of the affected agencies shall continue to serve until replaced.

4 All rights and obligations of the affected agencies are hereby transferred to and assumed by the
5 Commission, and shall be acted upon in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Commission
6 on Audit and other pertinent laws, rules, and regulations.

7 *SEC. 38. Absorption or Separation from Service of Employees of the Subrogated Agencies.* –
8 The current employees of the Water Utilities Division of the NWRB, the regulatory offices of MWSS
9 and LWUA, the regulatory units of all special economic zones, and all other government agencies and
10 units whose powers and functions have been transferred to the Commission shall enjoy security of
11 tenure, and shall be absorbed by the Department, in accordance with their staffing pattern and the
12 selection process as prescribed under Republic Act No. 6656 or the Government Reorganization Law.

13 Employees opting to be separated from the service as a consequence of the consolidation, and
14 reconstitution under the provisions of this Act shall, within one (1) month from their separation or
15 phase out from the service, receive separation benefits in accordance with existing laws, and those who
16 are qualified to retire shall be allowed to retire and be entitled to all benefits under existing retirement
17 laws.

18 *SEC. 39. Water Trust Fund.* – There is hereby created a Water Trust Fund in the Bureau of
19 Treasury. All non-tax revenues, including raw water pricing, permit fees, registration fees, supervision
20 and regulation enforcement fees, filing fees, testing fees, and other service income from the use of
21 water resources shall be remitted to the Water Trust Fund. The trust fund shall be accounted separately
22 from the government’s general revenues and shall be automatically appropriated to the Department.
23 Proceeds from the trust fund shall be utilized for water development, water sanitation and waste water
24 treatment and management, and water sustainability programs and projects authorized under this Act:
25 *Provided, That a maximum of ten percent (10%) of the total income generated from raw water*
26 *extraction shall be given as share of the concerned local government unit or indigenous peoples (IP)*
27 *community who own the specific areas or land where the raw water was sourced.*

28 **CHAPTER VIII**

29 **FINAL PROVISIONS.**

30 *Sec. 40. Applicability of Ease of Doing Business Law.* – The prescribed processing time
31 provided under Section 9.b of Republic Act No. 11032, otherwise known as the *Ease of Doing Business*
32 *and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018*, shall be applicable to all agencies and LGUs
33 covered under this Act particularly on accessing government services.

1 Sec. 41. *Transitory Provisions.* – Performance audit of all water-related agencies and
2 institutions, including LWUA and water districts, MWSS, MWSS-RO and its concessionaires, LGU-
3 run utilities, Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority, Philippine Economic Zone
4 Authority, Bases Conversion and Development Authority, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, DILG,
5 and NIA, shall be conducted by the Department.

6 SEC. 42. *Appropriations* – The amount necessary to cover the initial implementation of this
7 Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the agencies and offices transferred
8 and subsumed by the Department and the Commission in the General Appropriations Act. Thereafter,
9 such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of the Act shall be included in the
10 annual GAA.

11 SEC. 43. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within one hundred eighty (180) days from
12 the effectivity of this Act, the Department, NEDA, DBM, DENR, CSC, in consultation with concerned
13 government agencies, the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office shall promulgate rules and
14 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

15 SEC. 44. *Separability Clause.* – If any reason, any portion or provision of this Act shall be held
16 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full
17 force and effect.

18 SEC. 45. *Repealing Clause.* – (a) The following provisions are hereby repealed:

19 1) Section 3 (h) and Section 12 on the provision with respect to fixing of water rates and
20 sanitation service fees, Section 3 (n) on the provision with respect to regulation of waterworks and
21 deep wells, and Section 3 (p) on the provision with respect to regulation of waterworks and sanitation
22 systems in privately owned subdivisions of Republic Act 6234 entitled, *An Act Creating The*
23 *Metropolitan Waterworks And Sewerage System And Dissolving The National Waterworks And*
24 *Sewerage Authority, And For Other Purposes*, as amended.

25 2) Title III on Local Water Utilities Administration Law of Presidential Decree No. 198
26 otherwise known as the *Provincial Water Utilities Act of 1973*, as amended by Letter of Instruction
27 No. 700 - *Providing Measures To Control And Regulate Increase In Water Rates*, Letter of Instruction
28 No. 744 - *Relative To Reliable Water Supply At Reasonable Rates In The Countryside* on the, Executive
29 Order No. 124, 30 January 1987 - *Reorganization Act of the Ministry of Public Works and Highways*,
30 Executive Order No. 123, 30 January 1987 - *Reorganization Act of Ministry of Social Services and*
31 *Development*.

32 3) Republic Act No. 3601 as amended by Presidential Decree No. 552 and Presidential Decree
33 No. 1702 pertaining to the creation of the National Irrigation Administration;

1 4) Section 1 of Executive Order No. 124-A S. 1987 Amending Executive Order No. 124, dated
2 30 January 1987, *Reorganizing the Department of Public Works and Highways, Redefining Its Powers*
3 *and Functions, and For Other Purposes* on renaming and reorganizing the National Water Resources
4 Council into the National Water Resources Board.

5 (b) The following provisions are hereby amended accordingly:

6 1) Section 3 paragraph 3 Commonwealth Act No. 146, as amended, otherwise known as the
7 Public Service Act pertaining to all cases involving the fixing of rates;

8 2) Section 154, Article V, Chapter I, Title One, Book II of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended,
9 otherwise known as the “*Local Government Code of 1991*”, and its implementing rules and regulations
10 on the power of the local government units to fix the rates of water utilities owned, operated and
11 maintained by them within their jurisdiction is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

12 3) Section 13 (b) on the regulation of enterprises within the Economic Zone under Republic
13 Act No. 7916 as amended, otherwise known as “*The Special Economic Zone Act of 1995*”;

14 4) Section 69 of Republic Act No. 9593 otherwise known as “*The Tourism Act of 2009*” and
15 its implementing rules and regulations which mandate the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone
16 Authority to grant franchises, supervise the operation of public utilities, and register, monitor and
17 regulate enterprises within Tourism Enterprise Zones, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly;

18 5) Sections 7 and 8 on the adjudication of water pollution cases under Republic Act No. 3931
19 entitled, *An Act Creating The National Water And Air Pollution Control Commission*, particularly with
20 respect to Section 6 letters e, f, g, j, k Presidential Decree 984 entitled, *Providing for the Revision of*
21 *Republic Act No. 3931, Commonly Known as the Pollution Control Law, and For Other Purposes*;

22 6) Sections 4(1) and 7 of Republic Act No. 9275, otherwise known as the “*Philippine Clean*
23 *Water Act of 2004*”;

24 7) Articles 3(d) and 79 of Presidential Decree No. 1067, otherwise known as *The Water Code*
25 *of the Philippines*;

26 8) Sections 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13, Chapter II of Presidential Decree No. 856, otherwise known
27 as the “*Code on Sanitation of the Philippines*”; and

28 9) Section 3.2 (b) of Executive Order No. 149 Series of 1993 transferring the Laguna Lake
29 Development Authority from the Office of the President to the Department of Environment and
30 Natural Resources.

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

1 SEC. 46. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
2 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.
3 Approved,

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FACT SHEET

HOUSE BILL NO. 9948

(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 193, 232, 1320, 1358, 1829, 2172, 2272, 2481, 2514, 2586, 2725, 2879, 2887, 2895, 2981, 2997, 3172, 3347, 3350, 3380, 3512, 3656, 3987, 4026, 4097, 4098, 4114, 4251, 4328, 4329, 4447, 4654, 4807, 4830, 4897, 4944, 5049, 5141 and 5550)

NATIONAL WATER ACT

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVES

Estrellita B. Suansing, Horacio P. Suansing, Jr., Alfred Vargas, Rosanna "Ria" Vergara, Bernadette "BH" Herrera-Dy, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Ron P. Salo, Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D., Lorenz R. Defensor, Michael Odylon L. Romero, Jericho Jonas B. Nograles, Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado, John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto, Josephine Y. Ramirez-Sato, Aurelio "Dong" D. Gonzales Jr., Joey Sarte Salceda, Abraham "Bambol" N. Tolentino, Rico B. Geron Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, Juan Miguel Macapagal Arroyo, Joselito "Joel" S. Sacdalan, Sol Aragones, Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano, Allan Benedict S. Reyes, Raul C. Tupas, Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon, Kristine Singson-Meehan, Manuel Jose "Mannix" M. Dalipe, Teodorico T. Haresco, Jr., Henry R. Villarica, Christopher V.P. De Venecia, Geraldine B. Roman, Micaela S. Violago, Joy Myra S. Tambunting, Eric L. Olivarez, Ferdinand L. Hernandez, "Kuya" Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado, Jose Gay G. Padiernos, Luis Raymund "LRay" F. Villafuerte, Jr., Sonny "SL" L. Lagon, Lucy Torres-Gomez, Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Strike B. Revilla, Naealla Bainto-Aguinaldo, Aloysia Lim, Ma. Bernardita "Ditas" B. Ramos, Carlito S. Marquez, Faustino "Inno" V. Dy, Frederick W. Siao, David "Jay-Jay" C. Suarez, Anna Marie Villaraza-Suarez, Aleta C. Suarez, Jumel Anthony I. Espino, Antonino G. Calixto, John Reynald M. Tiangco, Manuel Luis T. Lopez, Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona, Raul V. Del Mar, Amihilda J. Sangcopan, Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Precious Hipolito Castelo, Eduardo "Bro. Eddie" G. Villanueva, Domingo C. Rivera, Sharee Ann Tan, Adriano A. Ebcas, Dahlia A. Loyola, Princess Rihan M. Sakaluran, Romeo S. Momo Sr., Alfred Delos Santos, Ramon V. Guico III, Jose L. Ong, Jr., Mario Vittorio "Marvey" A. Mariño, Eric Go Yap, , Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang, Joseph Stephen Paduano, Jonathan F. Flores, Ma. Bernardita B. Ramos, Leonardo L. Babasa, Jr., Alan "Aldu" R. Dujali, Eduardo R. Gullas, Cesar "Jawo" L. Jimenez, Jr., Mark O. Go, Alfred C. Delos Santos, Alfredo A. Garbin, Jr., Michael B. Gorriceta, Resurreccion M. Acop, Maricel G. Natividad-Nagaño, Joseph L. Lara, Presley C. De Jesus, Rose Marie "Baby" J. Arenas, Pablo John F. Garcia, Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte, Elenita Milagros "Eileen" Ermita-Buhain, Junie E. Cua, Jose "Pingping" I. Tejada, Greg G. Gasataya, Romeo M. Jalosjos, Jr., Francisco Jose "Bingo" F. Matugas II, Jose Enrique "Joet" S. Garcia III, Ruwel Peter Gonzaga, Juliette T. Uy, Paul Ruiz Daza, Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong, Manuel F. Zubiri, Manuel T. Sagarbarria, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, John Peter D. Calderon, Luis N. Campos, Jr., Sandro L. Gonzales, Vincent Franco "Duke" D. Frasco, Way Kurat Zamora, Yasser Alonto Balindong, Angelo Marcos Barba, Joseph Sto Nino B. Bernos, Narciso R. Bravo, Jr., Alfel M. Bascug, Wilfredo "Willy" S. Caminero, Carl Nicolas C. Cari, Maximo Y. Dalog, Jr., Abdullah D. Dimaporo, Ria Christina G.

Fariñas, Jocelyn F. Fortuno, Ann K. Hofer, Glona G. Labadlabad, Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D., Pablo C. Ortega, Emmarie "Lolypop" Ouano-Dizon, Eddiebong G. Plaza, Hector S. Sanchez, Lorna T. Silverio, Kristine Alexie B. Tutor, Diego "Nonoy" C. Ty, Elizaldy S. Co, Argel Joseph T. Cabatbat, Sergio C. Dagooc, Godofredo N. Guya, Stella Luz A. Quimbo, Lawrence "Law" H. Fortun, Manuel DG. Cabochan III, Wilfrido Mark M. Enverga, Weslie T. Gatchalian, Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza, Roman T. Romulo, Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento, and Jesus "Bong" C. Suntay

Committee Referral: **COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION (Primary)**

Chairperson: **Rep. MARIO VITTORIO "MARVEY" A. MARIÑO**

Committee Referral: **COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS (Secondary)**

Chairperson: **REP. ELEANDRO JESUS F. MADRONA**

Committee referral: **COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS (Secondary)**

Chairperson: **REP. JOEY SARTE SALCEDA**

Committee Referral: **COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS (Secondary)**

Chairperson: **REP. ERIC GO YAP**

OBJECTIVES:

- To ensure and accelerate universal access to water supply and sanitation services
- To encourage responsible private sector participation, fostering and prioritizing infrastructure and public works that adopt innovative solutions and international best practices to address the challenges of climate change

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Creates, establishes, and mandates the Department of Water Resources to be the primary agency responsible for the comprehensive and integrated identification and mapping of all water resources, planning, policy formulation, and management of the ownership, appropriation, utilization, exploitation, development, sustainability and protection of water resources in the Philippines except fisheries or aquaculture
- Declares all water and water treatment infrastructure projects as projects imbued with national interest.
- Adopts the Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) as the strategic framework for national water management, policymaking and planning
- Empowers the Department on policy making, planning, management and regulation of water resources; and to develop institutional arrangements with public water organizations and ensure coordination with all stakeholders for all water resource development, integration and management activities, including sanitation, flood control, flood risk management and drought risk management.
- Empowers the Department to create when necessary, water resource subsidiaries, instrumentalities and entities to engage in water transmission,

water distribution, waste water treatment and management, and sanitation in accordance with existing relevant laws.

- Allows the Department to enter into contracts, joint venture agreements or understanding, public-private partnerships, and memorandum of agreements or understanding, either domestic or foreign relating to investment and financing water-related projects, under such terms and conditions as the Department may deem proper and reasonable subject to existing laws.
- Authorizes the Secretary of the Department to act as the Chairperson of the governing board of the agencies that are attached to the Department
- Attaches agencies to the Department as follows: 1. The Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA); 2. The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS); 3. The National Irrigation Administration (NIA); 4. The Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), whose mandate, powers and functions are defined under Republic Act No. 4850
- Subsumes the offices, functions and personnel of the following agencies to the Department, namely: 1. The National Water Resources Board (NWRB); 2. The River Basin Control Office (RBCO) of the DENR; 3. The Manila Bay Coordinating Office (MBCO) of the DENR; 4. The Water Resources Management Division of the Bureau of Soils and Water Management of the Department of Agriculture (DA); 5. The Water Supply and Sanitation Unit of the DILG; 5. The Water Quality Management Section of the EMB of the DENR; and 6. The Water Quality Management Section of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the DENR.
- Transfers to the Department the functions of the following agencies, bureaus, and units:
 - (1) The conduct of hydrological surveys and groundwater mapping of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the DENR.
 - (2) The conduct of hydrological surveys monitoring of stream flow and other water data collection function of the Bureau of Design and Bureau of Research and Standards of the DPWH.
 - (3) The protection and conservation of natural wetlands such as lakes, marshes, swamps of the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the DENR.
 - (4) The Planning, programming, administration, monitoring, management of the National Sewerage and Septage Management Program (NSSMP) by the DPWH.
 - (5). The flood management planning and sediment management function of the Flood Control Management Cluster of the DPWH.
 - (6) The Water Resource Management Division and the water research functions of the Soils and Water Research Division of the Bureau of Soils and Water Management under the DA.

- Creates the Water Pollution Adjudication Board to assume the powers and functions of the National Pollution Control Commission with respect to the adjudication of water pollution cases.
- Establishes interface and institutional arrangements with other agencies such as the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Energy (DOE), the National Power Corporation (NPC), the Department shall coordinate with the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC), the Climate Change Commission (CCC), PAGASA, NAMRIA, the Department of Tourism (DOT), the Philippine Reclamation Authority and economic zone authorities and other relevant government agencies, including Local Government Units (LGUs)
- Creates the National Water Sector Policy Board to approve the National Water Resources Management Framework Plan, provide overall policy direction and recommend policies on water resources requiring Presidential decision, advise the President on the status of water management and supply, recommend to the President the declaration of a state calamity in areas affected by water supply, and submit proposals to restore normalcy in the affected areas and ensure a multi-stakeholder participation in the development, updating, and sharing of information system as policy, planning and decision-making tools consistent with the IWRM
- Subrogates all rights and assumes all obligations of the government agencies and units whose powers and functions have been subsumed, absorbed, transferred or attached to the Department
- Creates the Water Regulatory Commission which will assume the economic regulatory units and functions of the MWSS, NWRB, LWUA, SBMA, PEZA, and TIEZA, specifically, empowering the Regulatory Units of the WRC to:
 - (1) Issue licenses authorizing the operation of water supply and/or sanitation services
 - (2) Impose fines, charges and other penalties
 - (3) Review, determine, fix, and approve, proposed water and sewerage tariffs, rates and charges that licensees may impose upon their customers/consumers
 - (4) Enforce technical, financial and other performance standards set by the Commission for licensees/utilities
 - (5) Respond to consumer complaints and investigate *motu proprio* price manipulation and anti-competitive behavior; Require the review and/or approval of contracts or agreements that may impact on the tariff and rates of service provision entered into by Service Providers
 - (6) Require the submission of reports, plans and other documents that define the performance targets of the licensees or utilities, and regular accomplishment reports

- (7) Amend, modify, suspend or revoke any License issued by them, after due notice and hearing
 - (8) Appoint an interim management committee to ensure continuity of service in case a licensee fails to meet the conditions of the license
- Provides quasi-judicial functions to the Commission for the purpose of any investigation, inquiry or proceeding
 - Requires the registration and licensing of all water supply and/or sanitation services
 - Creates the Water Trust Fund in the Bureau of Treasury to be utilized for water development, water sanitation and waste water treatment and management, and water sustainability programs and projects authorized under this Act

RELATED LAWS:

- Republic Act 6234 entitled, An Act Creating The Metropolitan Waterworks And Sewerage System And Dissolving The National Waterworks And Sewerage Authority, And For Other Purposes, as amended
- Presidential Decree No. 198 otherwise known as the Provincial Water Utilities Act of 1973, as amended by Letter of Instruction No. 700 - Providing Measures To Control And Regulate Increase In Water Rates, Letter of Instruction No. 744 - Relative To Reliable Water Supply At Reasonable Rates In The Countryside on the, Executive Order No. 124, 30 January 1987 - Reorganization Act of the Ministry of Public Works and Highways, Executive Order No. 123, 30 January 1987 - Reorganization Act of Ministry of Social Services and Development
- Republic Act No. 3601 as amended by Presidential Decree No. 552 and Presidential Decree No. 1702
- Republic Act No. 4850, as amended entitled, An Act Creating The Laguna Lake Development Authority, Prescribing Its Powers, Functions And Duties, Providing Funds Therefor, And For Other Purposes
- Executive Order No. 124-A S. 1987 Amending Executive Order No. 124, dated 30 January 1987, Reorganizing The Department Of Public Works And Highways, Redefining Its Powers And Functions, And For Other Purposes on renaming and reorganizing the National Water Resources Council into the National Water Resources Board.
- Commonwealth Act No. 146, as amended, otherwise known as the Public Service Act pertaining to all cases involving the fixing of rates
- Republic Act No. 7160 otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991”, and its implementing rules and regulations on the power of the local government units to fix the rates of water utilities owned, operated and maintained by them within their jurisdiction
- Republic Act No. 7916 as amended, otherwise known as “The Special Economic Zone Act of 1995”
- Republic Act No. 9593 otherwise known as “The Tourism Act of 2009” and its Implementing Rules and Regulations which mandate the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority to grant franchises, supervise the operation of

public utilities, and register, monitor and regulate enterprises within Tourism Enterprise Zones, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly

- Republic Act No. 3931 entitled, An Act Creating The National Water And Air Pollution Control Commission, particularly with respect to Section 6 letters e, f, g, j, k Presidential Decree 984 entitled, Providing For The Revision Of Republic Act No. 3931, Commonly Known as the Pollution Control Law, And For Other Purposes;
- Republic Act No. 9275 otherwise known as the “Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004”;
- Presidential Decree No. 1067, otherwise known as The Water Code of the Philippines;
- Presidential Decree No. 856, otherwise known as the “Code on Sanitation of the Philippines”;
- Executive Order No. 54 Series of 1999
- Executive Order No. 93 Series of 2019
- Republic Act No. 3601 as amended by Presidential Decree No. 552 and Presidential Decree No. 1702 pertaining to the creation of the National Irrigation Administration;
- Presidential Decree No. 424, as amended on the National Water Resources Board (NWRB)
- Executive Order No. 510 and Executive Order No. 816, as amended on the River Basin Control Office (RBCO) of the DENR
- DENR Administrative Order No. 2011-01, entitled: “Strengthening the Manila Bay Coordinating Office (MBCO)”
- Republic Act. No. 6758, otherwise known as the Salary Standardization Act
- Republic Act No. 8041, otherwise known as the Water Crisis Act of 1995
- Republic Act No. 6656 or the Government Reorganization Law
- Republic Act No. 11032, otherwise known as the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018