

RESOLUTION NO. 009-0208
February 20, 2008 – 63rd Board Meeting
SUBMISSION OF WATER RESOURCES PROJECTS/PROGRAMS BY WATER-RELATED AGENCIES TO NWRB FOR REVIEW AND EVALUATION

WHEREAS, to address the issues on water use and management of the country, the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP 2004-2010) identified the implementation of IWRM as the general strategy in water resources management;

WHEREAS, the Philippine IWRM Plan Framework was launched in 2007 where different key stakeholders adopted a platform for action to implement IWRM;

WHEREAS, the IWRM Plan Framework is a collaborative platform for all stakeholders and water-related agencies to effectively work together to achieve water for all in a sustainable, equitable and ecologically balanced manner;

WHEREAS, NWRB as the apex body in the water sector mandated to coordinate and regulate the management and development of the country's water resources is the lead agency in the operationalization of integrated water resources management (IWRM);

WHEREAS, IWRM is the coordinated development and management of water resources that ensures that all uses are considered for a more sustainable water resources development;

WHEREAS, an updated information of all water related plans/programs of various agencies is necessary for a coordinated development and management of water resources;

WHEREAS, the NWRC Charter (PD 424 of 1974) provides for the review and approval of water resources development plans and programs of any agency within the context of the overall national plans and programs;

WHEREAS, Article 85 of the Water Code of the Philippines also provides that “no programs or projects involving the appropriation, utilization, exploitation, development, control, conservation or protection of water resources may be undertaken without prior approval of the Council (now Board)” except those which the Council may, in its discretion, exempt;

WHEREAS, there is a felt need to invoke the agency's mandate on the review of water resources development plans and programs given the very limited number of project proposals being received by the Board for review;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to require the submission of water resources projects/programs by different water-related agencies to NWRB for review and evaluation;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that in the context of IWRM, programs/projects to be submitted shall not be limited to feasibility studies involving appropriation, utilization, exploitation, development, control, conservation or protection of water resources, which has to be reviewed on the water availability aspect for the need to secure a water permit from the Board but to include studies relating to the management of water resources such as Master Plan studies and the like.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that for water studies such as Master Plan and the like, it is the Inception Report or Terms of Reference that would have to be submitted to the Board prior to implementation and the Draft Final Report towards the end of the study.

RESOLVED FINALLY, that the NWRB Secretariat shall develop the necessary guidelines as to what and how the Board will evaluate the projects/programs submitted, including a detailed enumeration of the scope of the Board's review.