Government of Himachal Pradesh
Department of Irrigation & Public Health

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No.IPH-B(F)1-3/2013 Dated:Shimla-171002, November 18 , 2013

NOTIFICATION

The Governor, Himachal Pradesh is pleased to notify the "Himachal Pradesh State Water Policy-2013" as per Annexure appended to this Notification for information of all concerned.

2. This Notification has already been uploaded on H.P.Govt. Website .

By order

(Vineet Chawdhry)
Additional Chief Secretary (IPH)to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

Endst.No.IPH-B(F)1-3/2013 Dated:Shimla-171002, the November 18 , 2013

Copy to:

1. The Secretary, Govt.of India, Ministry of Water Resources, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. The Member Secretary, National Water Board, Govt. of India, Ministry of Water Resources, Centre Water Commission, 840(S), Sewa Bhawan, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-66.
3. The Commissioner(PP), Govt. of India, Ministry of Water Resources, Sharam Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi.
4. The Joint Secretary , Govt.of India, Ministry of Water Resources, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi w.r.t. D.O. letter No.3/16/2008-GW, dated 5th January, 2010.
5. All Administrative Secretaries to the Govt. of H.P.
6. All Heads of Departments in H.P.
7. All Divisional Commissioners in H.P.
8. All Deputy Commissioners in H.P.
9. All Members of H.P. Water Management Board .
10. The Engineer in Chief, IPH, H.P. Shimla-1 .
11. All Chief Engineers , IPH Department,H.P.
12. All the Superintending Engineers, IPH Department, H.P.
13. The Director, Govt. of India, M&A Directorate, SDA Complex,Shimla-9.
14. The Regional Director Incharge, Central Ground Water Borad, Govt. of India, NHR Dove Cottage, Ramnagar,P.O.Ramnagar, Dharamshala(HP).

(Dr.S.K.Kapta)
Special Secretary (IPH)to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh
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HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE WATER POLICY-2013

1. PREAMBLE

1.1 Water is the elixir of life. Water, as a resource is one and indivisible: rainfall, river waters, surface ponds and lakes and ground water are all part of one system. It is part of a larger ecological system and vital to the essential environment for sustaining all life forms. It is a basic need for all life forms. Therefore, water must be managed in the most optimal manner so that consumption and development needs are met on a sustainable basis for ensuring its availability for our progeny.

1.2 In Himachal Pradesh availability of water is highly uneven in both space and time. Precipitation is confined to only about three or four months in a year and varies from about 600 mm in Lahaul & Spiti district to around 3200 mm in Dharamshala District Kangra. However, in spite of heavy rain and snow during the rainy season and winter the summer months are periods of water scarcity in many areas as the flow in the rivers and nallahs is quite low and traditional sources also dry up.

1.3 Therefore, the usage of water as a scarce and precious resource has to be planned, along with conservation and management measures, on an integrated, environmentally sound and sustainable basis, keeping in view the socio-economic needs of the community.

2. NEED FOR A WATER POLICY

2.1 Use of water has many socio-economic aspects and complex issues of equity and social justice as also environmental sustainability, public health concerns and development. Complex issues in regard to water usage and distribution have to be addressed systematically.

2.2 Expansion of economic activity inevitably leads to increasing demands for water for diverse purposes: **domestic, commercial, industrial, irrigation, hydro- power generation and recreation, etc.**

2.3 The domestic and industrial water demand in rural areas is expected to increase sharply as the development programmes improve economic conditions and **more industries come up there. Impounding of water for hydropower generation will also increase as** the potential in this sector is harnessed. Disputes in sharing of water between individuals and or communities hamper the utilization of water through scientific planning on basin/sub basin basis.

2.4 The development and exploitation of the groundwater resources in the State have raised concerns about the need for scientific management, conservation **& regulatory mechanisms.**

2.5 Water quality is impacted by untreated or inadequately treated industrial effluents and sewage flowing into nallahs and rivers or affecting the surface and ground water. Improvements in existing strategies, innovation of new techniques resting on a strong science and technology base are needed to eliminate the pollution of surface and ground water resources, to restore the pristine quality of former years.

2.6 All such factors underscore the need for the utmost efficiency in water utilization on sustainable basis and public awareness of the importance of conservation and maintenance of water quality. Common policies and strategies are necessary to address these issues.

3 PRIORITIES IN STATE WATER POLICY 2013

3.1 Water resources shall be held in public trust for the people & the State is obliged to protect the water sources as a trustee for benefit of all. However, overriding ownership rights over water sources rest with the State as a public trustee even if some of the functions of the state in relation to water are entrusted to any public or private agency.

3.2 Water resources available to the State need to be mapped & brought within the category of utilizable resources to the maximum possible extent.

3.3 Utilisation of available water resources to meet drinking water needs and irrigation requirements should also promote conservation and engender community participation including payment for use of water. Water scarce neighborhoods will enjoy priority entitlement to avail the water available in adjoining areas for meeting their drinking water needs.

3.4 Harnessing of water for commercial, industrial and hydro- power generation usage takes place in a sustainable manner with due regard to maintenance of water quality.

3.5 Water resources development and management will have to be planned for a hydrological unit such as drainage basin as a whole or for a sub-basin, multi-sectorally, taking into account surface and ground water for sustainable use incorporating quantity and quality aspects as well as environmental and sustainability considerations.

3.6 Promoting water shed management through extensive soil conservation, catchment-area treatment, preservation of forests and increasing the forest cover and the construction of check-dams and trenching along with efforts to conserve the precipitation in the catchment area itself.

3.7 Enhancing the capabilities of the community to adopt climate resilient technological options. Increasing water harvesting, storage and recycling and its reuse through climate resilient technological options such as dual plumbing. Similarly, industrial processes should be made more water efficient.

3.8 Integrating mandatorily, agricultural strategies, cropping patterns and improved water application methods with all irrigation schemes to enhance the water use efficiency, as also, the capability for dealing with variability because of climate change.

4 WATER ALLOCATION PRIORITIES

4.1 In the planning and operation of systems, water allocation priorities would be broadly as follows:

-Drinking water **& Sanitation**

-Irrigation

-Ecology/ aforestation/biodiversity/tourism

-Hydro-power

-Agro-industries

- Non-agro-based industries.

-Navigation and other uses.

However, this is subject to modification if warranted by special considerations in any area/region.

5 DRINKING WATER & SANITATION

5.1 The state recognizes that every individual has a right to a minimum quantity of potable water for essential health & hygiene & within easy reach of the household. Needs of human beings and domestic animals shall be the first charge on any available source of water.

5.2 Adequate, safe and sustainable drinking water facilities will be provided to the entire population both in urban and rural areas throughout the year as per relevant BIS Standards/CPHEEO Manual.

5.3 **There shall be endeavor to supply water on 24X7 basis subject to the community accepting metered payment for the same as per fixed tariffs.**

5.4 Use of Water ATMs at places of mass public congregation like temples, fairs etc. will be promoted so as to ensure availability of quality water. The government would endeavour to progressively convert all public water stand posts into automated 'water on demand' posts.

5.5 Implementation of a participatory demand driven approach will ensure that the public obtains the level of service they desire and can afford to pay for through the mechanism of a tariff policy.

5.6 Monitoring and surveillance of the quality of drinking water is of utmost importance. Efforts will be made to utilize IT tools to exercise remote oversight over the operation of water supply schemes as well as quality of water supplied.

5.7 A "Catchment Area Approach" shall be adopted by involving grass root level educational and technical institutions in utilizing existing resources and strengthening them by providing additional technical and financial support for their activities in this area.

5.8 Urban water supply and sewage treatment schemes would need to be integrated and executed simultaneously. Water supply bills should include sewerage charges.

5.9 Sewerage plans shall be drawn up for all urban and rural communities. The State aspires to mandatorily connect all households to sewerage networks. Safe disposal of sewage shall be promoted and establishment of STPs in rural areas and their O&M shall be suitably incentivized.

6 IRRIGATION

6.1 The major consumptive use of water in the State has been for irrigation. The gross irrigation potential of the State is estimated to be 3.35 lakh hectare, while the irrigation potential created has reached 2.56 lakh hectare by September 2013. Production of food grains in H.P. has increased from around 0.7 million tonnes in the year 1966-67 to about 1.45 million tonnes in the year 2012-13. This will have to be raised to around 2.4 million tonnes by the year 2025 AD to meet the needs of the projected population of 92.25 lakh. The production of fruits and vegetables has increased from 0.05 million tonnes (1966-67) each to 1.09 and 1.35 million tonnes (2012-13) respectively. We need to cover the balance area of 0.84 lakh hectare by irrigation schemes so that the productivity of the culturable land area of the State improves, food grain output increases and through diversion of the land to cultivation of vegetable, horticulture and cash crops the economic prosperity of the agriculturists is ensured and enhanced.