

RESOLUTION NO. 003-0109
January 21, 2009 – 74th Board Meeting
POLICY RECOMMENDATION FOR GOLF COURSES IN CRITICAL AREAS

WHEREAS, golf courses have been identified as users of large amount of water;

WHEREAS, intensive use of water by the booming golf course industry has adverse impacts on water resources which includes groundwater pollution and water scarcity such that during period of droughts and water use restrictions, irrigation of golf courses competes with other water uses like domestic and industrial purposes;

WHEREAS, during water shortages, it is explicitly provided for under the provision of the Water Code of the Philippines that the use of water for domestic and municipal purposes shall have a better right over all other uses which includes recreational purposes where golf courses are categorized;

WHEREAS, in the 1998 Master Plan Study on Water Resources Management of the Philippines, nine (9) cities, namely Metro Manila, Metro Cebu, Angeles, Baguio, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Davao and Zamboanga were identified as water critical areas;

WHEREAS, based on the findings under the “Water Resources Assessment for Prioritized Critical Areas” conducted by the CEST Consultants, Metro Manila and some parts of nearby Bulacan and Cavite provinces and parts of Metro Cebu were identified as groundwater critical areas and considered in need of urgent attention;

WHEREAS, the University of San Carlos - Water Resources Hydraulic Center in Cebu, in its report on “the Water Resources Integrated Developments (REMIND) Project,” showed that level and quality of the groundwater in Cebu City and Mandaue City continue to deteriorate progressively;

WHEREAS, policies on water allocation for golf courses in groundwater critical areas have to be developed to minimize its adverse impacts on water resources;

WHEREAS, towards the formulation of a policy on water allocation for the maintenance of turfgrasses, the staff conducted a review on the existing NWRB policies being implemented and research on the volume of water utilized for irrigation of golf courses in other countries as well as best management practices on the efficient use of water;

WHEREAS, the policy process involved consultations to solicit comments and recommendations from golf course’s operators and other stakeholders;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to adopt the following policies in areas within the declared critical areas, namely: Metro Manila and

parts of Cavite and Bulacan; Metro Cebu, Baguio City, Angeles City, Iloilo City, Bacolod City, Davao City, Cagayan de Oro City, and Zamboanga City:

1. The water duty for purposes of determining the water allocation for turfgrasses shall be as follows:

Critical Area	Location of Nearest Rainfall Station	Water Allocation (lps/hectare)											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1.Metro Manila	Science Garden, Port and NAIA	0.28	0.27	0.28	0.25	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.14
2. Cavite	Sangley Point, Cavite	0.28	0.27	0.30	0.27	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.17
3.Bulacan	Clark, Zambales	0.25	0.20	0.21	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.13	0.07
4. Metro Cebu	Mactan	0.03	0.08	0.17	0.18	0.11	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
5. Baguio City	Baguio City	0.29	0.26	0.24	0.06	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.26
6. Angeles City	Clark, Zambales	0.25	0.20	0.21	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.13	0.07
7. Iloilo City	Iloilo City	0.22	0.21	0.21	0.12	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.04
8. Bacolod City	Iloilo City	0.22	0.21	0.21	0.12	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.04
9. Davao City	Davao City	0.02	0.02	0.07	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.04
10.Cagayan de Oro City	Lumbia, Misamis Oriental	0.10	0.12	0.20	0.16	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.04
11.Zamboanga City	Zamboanga City	0.20	0.15	0.20	0.16	0.11	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.15

2. Policies relating to water permit and water permit applications:

- a. For water permit grantees:

1. Within two (2) years notice, water permit grantees shall be required to comply with the new water allocation and to implement water conservation measures and programs. The authorized volume of extraction of existing deepwells shall be reduced to comply with new water duty for turfgrasses as provided in paragraph 1 hereof. Failure to comply, shall be a ground for closure of well.
2. All deepwells shall be installed with metering device (production meters, flow meters and/or hour meters) duly tested and sealed by NWRB or by an authorized testing center. Monthly records of water extraction shall be submitted to NWRB on a quarterly basis.

- b. For water permit applications:

1. New and pending water permit applications for new deepwells shall not be accepted and/or be denied, respectively.

2. New and pending water permit applications for deepwells existing/operating prior to the date of approval of this policy may be accepted/ processed, subject to the following condition:
 - a. Water permit applications which were returned during the period when the Board declared a moratorium on the processing of water permit may be refiled. Filing fee will not be charged upon presentation of official receipt for the previous water permit applications.
 - b. Applicants shall be required to submit a Project Description Report which shall include the following:
 - Water Resources Study with a water balance study.
 - Water Conservation Plans and Programs which are based upon specific needs and conditions of the water system to which they apply such as drought emergency plan to balance the most critical golf course water demands during times of water restrictions; list of alternative sources of water available (surface water, groundwater, wastewater, recycled water, storage ponds or retention basin onsite to collect storm runoff water etc.); and management practices for water conservation.
3. Cease and Desist Orders shall be issued against golf course operator without water permit and the immediate closure of said sources shall be implemented within fifteen (15) days from receipt of order. Appropriate penalties shall also be imposed.