



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD

RESOLUTION NO. 22-0718

**MORATORIUM ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF WATER PERMIT APPLICATION AND
GRANTING OF WATER RIGHTS IN BORACAY ISLAND**

(July 30, 2018 - 180th Board Meeting)

WHEREAS, Boracay Island, being a world-famous beach destination in the Philippines that contribute immensely to the socio-economic growth of the country, is a vital national asset and a source of national pride;

WHEREAS, years of indiscriminate development have led to environmental degradation, pollution and the depletion and destruction of the Island's biodiversity;

WHEREAS, the government imposed a six-month tourist ban for Boracay Island which commenced on April 26, 2018, to address sewage and environment-related problems and reverse the degradation of water resources, biodiversity and ecosystem;

WHEREAS, on May 8, 2018, President Rodrigo R. Duterte issued Executive Order (EO) No. 53 entitled "Creating A Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force, Providing For Its Powers And Functions And Those Of The Member-Agencies Thereof, And Other Measure To Reverse The Degradation of Boracay Island";

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 4, Letter (a.6) of the said E.O., DENR shall "Order the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) to issue a moratorium on the granting of new permits to draw water until full assessment of the aquifers rate of recharge has been undertaken";

WHEREAS, the NWRB, as the government agency mandated to regulate and protect the country's water resources, issued a moratorium on drilling and digging of new wells in Boracay Island in 2001 by virtue of NWRB Resolution No. 05-0501;

WHEREAS, NWRB's Monitoring and Enforcement Division (MED), conducted a thorough investigation and inventory of water users in the area and found out that numerous commercial establishments, as well as local dwellers, are illegally extracting groundwater;

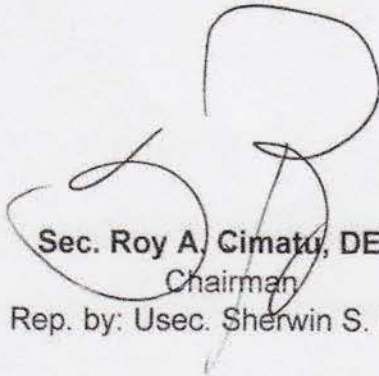
WHEREAS, the unhampered illegal groundwater extraction in the Boracay Island resulted in intense saltwater intrusion, land subsidence, deterioration of groundwater aquifers and fecal coliform contamination;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board IMPOSES a moratorium on the acceptance of water permit application and granting of water rights using groundwater as a source within Boracay Island;

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RESOLVED FURTHER that the Board directs the Secretariat to conduct a comprehensive water resource assessment of Boracay Island.

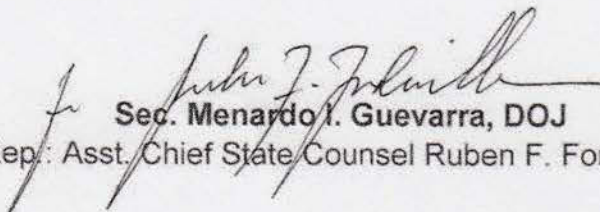
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we set our hands this 30th day of July 2018, in Quezon City, Philippines.



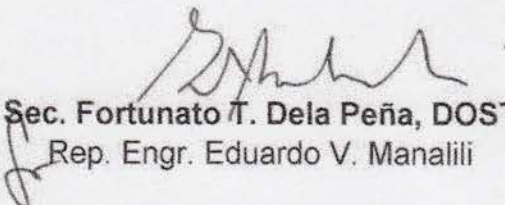
Sec. Roy A. Cimato, DENR
Chairman
Rep. by: Usec. Sherwin S. Rigor

Sec. Ernesto M. Pernia, NEDA
Vice-Chairman
Rep by: DDG Rolando G. Tungpalan

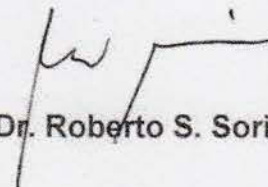
Members:



Sec. Menardo I. Guevarra, DOJ
Rep.: Asst. Chief State Counsel Ruben F. Fondevilla



Sec. Fortunato T. Dela Peña, DOST
Rep. Engr. Eduardo V. Manalili



Dr. Roberto S. Soriano, NHRC