

Minutes of 59th. Meeting of Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority held on 25.01.2023 at 3.00 PM in the Committee Room under the chairmanship of Sh. Karan Avtar Singh Chairperson PWRDA.

Present: Mr. Sushil Gupta, Member PWRDA.

In attendance: Mr. J.K. Jain, Additional Secretary.

Item No. 59.01: Regarding Publication of Punjab Directions for Groundwater Extraction and Conservation.

The Authority in its 53rd meeting held on 07.09.2022, decided as under on agenda item 53.05:

“a. Approved the Punjab Directions for Groundwater Extraction and Conservation, 2022 with some changes as at Annexure M-53.05.01; (Annexure-A-59.01.01).

b. Directed the Secretary to notify the Directions in the official Gazette of the State of Punjab.

c. After notification in the Gazette the Directions shall be uploaded on the website of the PWRDA, and a notice for information of the general public shall be published in not less than two newspapers including at least one daily regional language newspaper having wide circulation in the State of Punjab in accordance with Section 15 (5) of the Act.

d. After publication of the public notice, a copy of the Directions be sent to CGWA in response to their letters dated 02/11/2021 and 23/11/2021 as decided vide Resolution no.36.03”.

2. The State Government approved the Groundwater Charges on 13.09.2021 (**Annexure-A-59.01.02**). Thereafter, by memo no. 11/21/2020PJ-3/387 dated 28.09.2022 it conveyed some observations on the Groundwater Charges and sought comments of the Authority. The comments of the Authority were conveyed to the Government by memo no. 75340/PWRDA-PWRD0GENL/47/2021-PWRDA BR/38709 dated 14.10.2022.

3. Now, the Government has conveyed the approved Groundwater Charges by memo no. 11/21/2020-PJ3/16 dated 24/01/2023 (**Annexure-A-59.01.03**)

4. A brief of approved groundwater charges and relevant provisions in the Directions is at **Annexure-A-59.01.04**.

5. The latest assessment report on Ground Water Resources of Punjab has been included in the Report on National Compilation of Dynamic Ground Water Resources of India, 2022 published in November, 2022. A copy of the Report received by email dated 24.01.2022 (**Annexure-A-59.01.05**) from Water Resources Department Punjab. The categorisation of Assessment Areas (Blocks) contained in the Directions is based on the previous Report published in the year 2020.

Placed before the Authority for consideration.



Decision:

Authority observed that the Government has approved the Groundwater charges under section 17(5) of the Punjab Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Act, 2020 and the Groundwater charges are reflected in the Punjab Directions for Groundwater Extraction and Conservation 2022 (Annexure A59.01.01).

2. Annexure 1 (Ground Water Resource Assessment) of the Directions for (Annexure A59.01.01) be updated as per the assessment of Ground Water Resources of Punjab State as on 31 March 2022 contained in the Report on National Compilation of Dynamic Ground Water Resources of India published in December 2022. The map of Punjab in this Annexure also needs to be updated. The updated map shall be uploaded on the website of the Authority in due course of time.

3. The following be added at the end of paragraph 3.2 of Chapter 3 of the Directions (Annexure A59.01.01).

“For details see the Authority’s website: www.pwrda.org”.

4. The Directions (Annexure A59.01.01) shall now be called ‘Punjab Directions for Groundwater Extraction and Conservation, 2023’.

5. Additional Secretary holding the charge of Secretary will sign and forward the Notification to the Controller Printing and Stationery, Punjab for publication in the official Gazette of the State of Punjab.

6. The Notification be uploaded on the website of the PWRDA, and a notice for information of the general public be published in six newspapers two each of Punjabi, Hindi and English language having wide circulation in the State of Punjab.

7. A copy of the Notification be sent to CGWA in response to their letters dated 02/11/2021 and 23/11/2021 as decided vide Resolution no.36.03”.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.


Chairperson
25.1.23