

**Minutes of Meeting of Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority, held under the Chairmanship of Shri Karan Avtar Singh, Chairperson PWRDA, through Video Conference on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2020.**

The Meeting was attended by the following:

Shri Sushil Gupta, Member, and Shri Surinder Singh Kukal, Member.  
Shri A.S. Miglani, Secretary, PWRDA was in attendance.

Chairperson apprised that this meeting at short notice was necessary to immediately discuss and clarify the issue of jurisdiction of CGWA to regulate groundwater in the State after the constitution of the PWRDA under the Punjab Water Resources (Regulation and Management) Act, 2020.

Secretary, PWRDA stated that vide letter dated 10.8.2020, Regional Director CGWA (North West Region) had requested PWRDA to take over the work of groundwater regulation in the State. Thereafter, in the meeting of the Authority held on 10/09/2020 it had been decided that the Authority will formulate guidelines regarding water regulations in the state. The resolution was as under:

*“Since the Punjab Water Resources (Management & Regulation) Act, 2020 has been enacted and the Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority has been formed and has starting functioning, the Authority will formulate guidelines and take decisions as per law”*

He further stated that the Government had been informed about this resolution vide letter memo no 29, Dated: 11.09.2020. Moreover, through email dated: 11/09/2020, Chief Engineer (Policy Reforms), Department of Water Resources had, while giving comments on the Draft Guidelines for GW Regulation framed by Gol, informed the Regional Director CGWA (North West Region) that as PWRDA has been constituted, Punjab should be exempted from the Guidelines. However, in the notification Dated: 24/09/2020 issued by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the name of Punjab continues to be included in the list of states which are to be regulated by CGWA (Annexure- VIII of the Notification) and the CGWA is still processing cases for grant of permission for extraction of groundwater in the State as per this notification.

The Authority observed that even as per the Notification dated 24/09/2020 of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, groundwater extraction is to be regulated by CGWA only in those states which are not regulating it on their own (Para on Preamble and Background). It was further noted that the Authority has already framed the Draft Guidelines for regulation and conservation of Groundwater which are likely to be finalized in December, 2020 after inviting objections from the public as required under

the law. Meanwhile the Authority can give ad interim permissions for groundwater extraction as per the Draft Guidelines to units who opt for the same.

Therefore, it was decided that the State Government may be requested to immediately take up the matter with the Ministry of Jal Shakti, and CGWA to exclude the name of Punjab from the list of states (in Annexure-VIII of the Notification Dated: 24/09/2020) to be regulated by CGWA, and that CGWA should not process any cases pertaining to groundwater in Punjab.

Chairperson