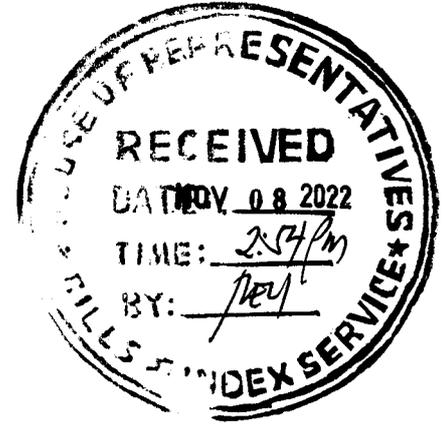




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5941



Introduced by Representative DAVID "Jay-Jay" C. SUAREZ and Representative ANNA MARIE VILLARAZA- SUAREZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Water is one of the principal physical resources that can play a major role in enhancing the pace of overall development of a country. Sustainable water resources can significantly contribute poverty alleviation and economic growth.¹

Water plays a vital role in life sustenance on earth and will become increasingly critical in the future given the continuing population growth and economic development. There is growing and conflicting demand for water for domestic, agricultural, and industrial purposes in the face of water scarcity, inadequate infrastructure, and limited access to water and habitat destruction and pollution, all of which affect water quality and quantity.

The availability of and access to water has become one of the most important challenges that countries face today, and water resource management becomes a major priority in most countries where water supply shortage is threatening their development.

The goal of water use program is to increase the amount of water available to users while protecting water resources, water- dependent natural systems and interrelated habitats.²

Based on the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) records, thirty-six (36) percent of the country's 3,128,631 irrigable areas do not have a well- functioning irrigation system. With this problem, the National Water Use Plan will address the perennial problem of water

¹ [Extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/nep158194.pdf](http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/nep158194.pdf)

² <http://pemsea.org>

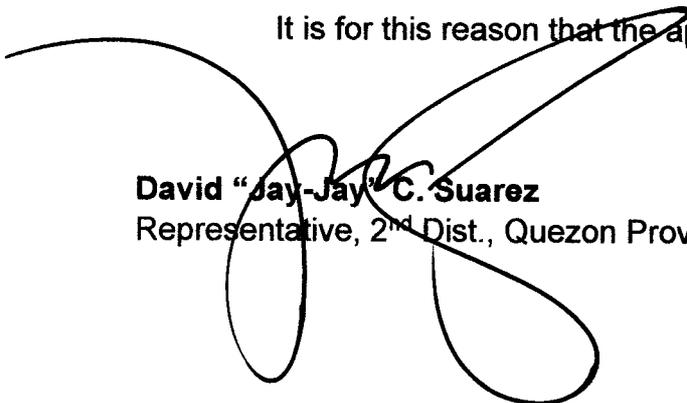
shortage for farmlands and subsequently, ensure a more efficient national food security program.

This Water Use Plan will likewise optimize the use of the country's natural resources, as well as complement the Farm-to-Market Road masterplan of the President.

Hence, this bill proposes to create a water use plan to ensure a cost- efficient, effective, and adequate water supply and access to farmlands throughout the country to ensure food security.

Thus, it is hoped that the Water Use Plan be given the priority it deserves in the Congress.

It is for this reason that the approval of this measure is respectfully sought.



David "Jay-Jay" C. Suarez
Representative, 2nd Dist., Quezon Province



Anna Marie Villaraza- Suarez
Representative, ALONA, Party-List



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NINETEENTH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 5941

**Introduced by Representative DAVID “Jay-Jay” C. SUAREZ and Representative ANNA
MARIE VILLARAZA-SUAREZ**

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR WATER USE PLAN TO PROVIDE
ACCESSIBLE WATER SUPPLY FOR FARMLANDS AND ENSURE EFFICIENT NATIONAL
FOOD SECURITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SEC. 1. This Act shall be known as the “National Water Use Plan”.

SEC. 2. This Act shall have the principal objective of ensuring a comprehensive program and cost- efficient use of water systems to address perennial problem of water shortage for farmlands and subsequently, ensure a more efficient national food security program.

The National Water Use Plan will also provide farmers with accessible water supply to improve their productivity and boost their incomes.

This Act shall likewise improve the country’s irrigation system, optimize natural resources and to complement the National Farm to Market Road plan.

SEC. 3. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the Department of Agriculture in coordination with other concerned agencies shall prepare a developmental water use plan

including its construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities that shall improve the irrigation system and water supply among farmlands. Provided, that the water use plan shall ensure the conservation of the country's natural resources.

Sec 5. The crafting of the National Water Use Plan shall involve all National Government Agencies with existing programs related to water use, including Civil Society Organizations and/or Non- government Organizations focused on water use. This is to take into consideration the adoption of the water use plan and its effects across various sectors including but not limited to irrigation, climate change, flood management/mitigation, disaster preparedness, rural and urban planning, among others.

Sec. 6. The amount necessary to cover the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged with the current year's appropriations of agencies and offices transferred and subsumed by the Department in the General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture shall include in their Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and shall augment such allocation internally generated funds of the Department of Agriculture.

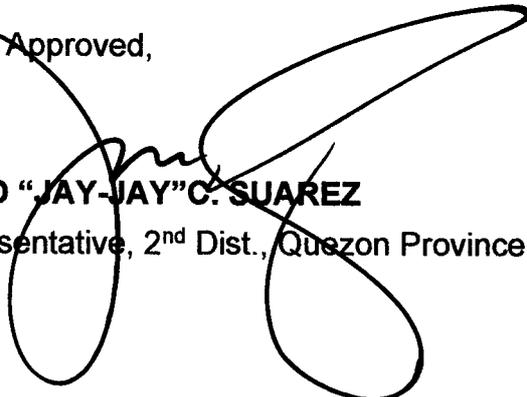
Sec. 7. The Secretary of Agriculture after the effectivity of this Act, shall in consultation with the concerned agencies as well as the farmers, shall promulgate the necessary and appropriate rules and regulations for the proper and effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 8. If in any reason, any portion or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Sect. 9. All other laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Sec. 10. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the official gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,


DAVID "JAY-JAY" C. SUAREZ
Representative, 2nd Dist., Quezon Province


ANNA MARIE VILLARAZA- SUAREZ
Representative, ALONA Party-List