Republic of the Marshall Islands
Jepilpin Ke Ejukaan

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) ACT 2016

Sponsored by:

HON. MINISTER MATTLAN ZACKHRAS

Approved:

HON. SPEAKER KENNETH A. KEDI /s/
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) ACT 2016

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A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the National Environmental Protection Act 1984 (35 MIRC Ch. 1) to specify the coordination of water use and sanitation in order to implement the National Water and Sanitation Policy and Action Plan adopted by the Cabinet in 2014.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE NITIJELA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

§1. Short Title

This Act may be cited as the National Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act 2016.

§2. Amendment

To include a new section as follows:

§127A. Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Sanitation

(1) The Authority shall, in consultation with the Office of the Chief Secretary, coordinate the monitoring and implementation of the National Water and Sanitation Policy and its Action Plan by the following:

(a) reviewing, recommending and enacting procedures for the monitoring and implementation of the Policy;

(b) reviewing and, where necessary, preparing legislation, regulations and policies relevant to the water and
sanitation sectors and the declaration and protection of natural water resources;

(c) establishing performance monitoring systems for water and sanitation providers for annual reviews;

(d) establishing performance monitoring systems for water and sanitation providers for annual reviews;

(e) reporting to the Cabinet on water resources in the Republic, including water and sanitation outlook;

(f) preparing an integrated strategic plan for the water and sanitation sectors for annual review;

(c) conducting water and sanitation sector assessments for donor reviews;

(h) facilitating periodic water and sanitation sectors program alignment;

(i) establishing and managing a water and sanitation database;

(j) developing and implementing public communications and awareness programs on water and sanitation issues, including National Water Day activities;

(k) overseeing licensing and use of groundwater resources.

(2) All references to “water use policy” or any variation thereof in the Planning and Zoning Act 1987 (10 MIRC Ch. 2) shall be repealed.

§3. Effective Date

This Act shall take effect in accordance with the Constitution and the Rules of Procedures for the Nitijela.
In March of 2014, the Cabinet endorsed the National Water and Sanitation Policy and the 5-year National Water and Sanitation Policy Action Plan. The Policy entails that a National Commission be established to oversee and coordinate integrated water resource management in the Republic. The protection of groundwater and other water resources of the Republic is critically important to providing an essential fresh water supply for the growing population demands of the nation. This is especially true in the face of climate change. The Policy covers the areas of water quality, water quantity, water and sanitation management, drought and extreme weather (climate change) and highlight the need to improve access for the disadvantaged.

However, rather than creating a National Commission to manage water use and sanitation, it was determined that the National Environmental Protection Act 1984 be amended to specify with such responsibilities. This Bill adds on the duties of monitoring and implementing the National Water and Sanitation Policy and the 5-year National Water and Sanitation Policy Action Plan to the EPA Authority.
NITIJELA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
37TH CONSTITUTIONAL REGULAR SESSION, 2016

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
(AMENDMENT) ACT 2016

SIGNATURES

DATE: _AUG.25,2016_        INTRODUCED BY _MIN. MATTLAN ZACKHRAS__/S__/