



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Director**
Legal Affairs Service

The Bureau Directors
Environmental Management Bureau
Land Management Bureau
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau

The Executive Director
Manila Bay Coordinating Office

FROM : **The Director**
Legislative Liaison Office

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE POSITION PAPER ON HB 6577 ALSO KNOWN AS "AN ACT EXPANDING THE BOUNDARIES OF LAS PIÑAS-PARAÑAQUE WETLAND PARK AND ITS VICINITIES AS PROTECTED AREA AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."**

DATE : 17 October 2023

In reference to the position paper dated 31 August 2023, submitted by the Office of the Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives on House Bill No. 6577 also known as "An act expanding the boundaries of Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park and its vicinities as protected area and for other purposes."

May we respectfully request your **comments** on the position paper, specifically the comments of the Biodiversity Management Bureau in coordination with the National Capital Region. Attached herewith is the position paper for your reference.


ROMIROSE B. PADIN

cc: Undersecretary for Special Concerns and Legislative Affairs



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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AUG 31 2023

HON. ELPIDIO F. BARZAGA
Chairperson
Committee on Natural Resources
House of Representatives
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

THRU : **MS. LUCILA GABRIEL**
Committee Secretary

Dear Rep. Barzaga:

In reference to the letter received by our Office dated 06 July 2023 from the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, requesting for the Department's position paper in relation to HB 6577 also known as:

- **"AN ACT EXPANDING THE BOUNDARIES OF LAS PIÑAS-PARAÑAQUE WETLAND PARK AND ITS VICINITIES AS PROTECTED AREA AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."**

We respectfully transmit to your good office comments/recommendations from the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) and other DENR concerned offices:

HOUSE BILL 6577

House Bill No. 6577 entitled "An Act Expanding the Boundaries Of Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park And Its Vicinities As Protected Area And For Other Purposes" by Rep. Camille A. Villar

DENR – BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT BUREAU (BMB) AND NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (NCR)

The BMB and DENR NCR submits their consolidated comments and recommendations on House Bill 6577, as follows:

The DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) and DENR National Capital Region (NCR) **support the initiatives of legislators to designate protected areas (PA) for biodiversity conservation, and to safeguard the country's natural resources for the present and future generations.** Hence, the Bureau recognizes the intention of Congresswoman Camille A. Villar to expand the boundary of the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park (LPPWP) to ensure the preservation of its ecological integrity, as well as to increase the capacity of the vulnerable coastal communities, within and adjacent to LPPWP, on mitigating the impacts of disaster and climate change.

Accordingly, establishment and modification of protected area boundaries shall follow the process prescribed under Section 5 of Republic Act 7586

(National Integrated Protected Area System [NIPAS] Act) as amended under Republic Act 11038 (Expanded NIPAS Act). However, *it should be noted* that lawmakers **are not precluded** from filing any bills, nor are bound by the process of the NIPAS/ENIPAS, in accordance with their constitutional mandate and the rules of their respective chambers.

To shed light on the matters raised concerning the Bill, below are the consolidated response to the following questions:

1. Whether or not a Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA) has already been conducted, and if so, kindly indicate the details and status of the said PASA;

- To date, no PASA has been conducted in relation to the proposed expansion of the LPPWP. However, the results from the study conducted by the DENR Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) may be translated into PASA Form 1 of the Assessment Report documents for the proposed 3-km seaward expansion; and the data concluded in the said study can readily be used to support the objectives of the Bill.

2. Whether or not the maps and Technical Description have already been prepared and vetted by all concerned agencies and stakeholders, as well as the details thereon;

- The DENR National Capital Region (DENR-NCR) has prepared a ground truthed Technical Description of the proposed 3-km expansion to which was reviewed and verified by the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA).

3. Whether or not the mandatory public consultations have been conducted, and if so, kindly indicate the details of the said requirements;

- Since the subject Bill emanated from Congresswoman Villar, the DENR has yet to undertake the public consultation as part of the process prescribed under the ENIPAS. However, it should be worth noting that the ENIPAS does not preclude the members of the Congress to introduce any bill. Such is the case for filing an LPPWP Expansion Bill in both Houses. In support to this undertaking, the DENR-NCR, through the LPPWP Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) and Protected Area Management Office (PAMO), is willing to set a schedule of public consultation with the concerned stakeholders.

4. Whether or not the issuance of a Proclamation and the endorsement of such Proclamation to Congress is necessary for the establishment or expansion of a protected area; and

- Granted that LPPWP has been established as a protected area under the Republic Act 11038, its proposed expansion should entail an act of congress rather than a proclamation in accordance with the hierarchical structure of law.

5. All other issues raised in the statements of the concerned House Members such as:

a. Studies and/or discoveries made that necessitates the LPPWP Expansion

- The Manila Bay Sustainable Development Master Plan (MBSDMP) which was developed by the NEDA in collaboration with the Orient Integrated Development Consultants, Inc. (OIDCI), University of the Philippines Los Baños Foundation Incorporated (UPLBFI), and Tractebel Inc. (TRACT), recommended for the provision of a buffer for the critical habitats along Manila Bay (including the LPPWP) of up to 3 km.
- The Master Plan essentially derived its recommendations from scientific studies of various experts in terms of: hydrology and water circulation by Villanoy, et.al; coastal erosion studies of Ecosystems Development Research Bureau (ERDB); Land Subsidence Study by Narod Eco by DOST in 2011, and by Siringan and Rodolfo in the same year. Further, the plan had cited the Executive Order 74 (2019) highlighting that review and approval of all proposed reclamation projects shall be based on the aggregate and cumulative impacts of all proposed and existing reclamation projects.

Moreover, The One Innovative Company (D.E. Juanico, 2021), as commissioned by the ERDB, conducted a study on the Impact of

Reclamation Projects in LPPWP where it made use of simulations of the four (4) proposed reclamation projects.

b. The Supreme Court Ruling on Villar vs. All Tech Reclamation

- We hereby refer comments on the decision of the Supreme Court to the Legal Affairs Service and the Environmental Management Bureau for legal opinion and recommendations on the matter.

c. Jurisdictional Issues on Bacoor Reclamation Projects which have been issued by ECC and Area Clearances

- Based on the maps generated, the proposed expansion will overlap areas to be reclaimed by the Local Government of Bacoor. Jurisdictional issues to be settled therein are hereby deferred to the concerned Offices to seek remedy and/or recommendations on how the proposed bill would consider such situation.

DENR – NATIONAL MAPPING AND RESOURCE INFORMATION AUTHORITY

The NAMRIA supports the enactment of this bill into law. Based on the result of our review of the Technical Description (TD) of the Expanded Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park submitted by DENR - NCR, the same was found correct in terms of its general location and total area, and compliant with the PRS'92 requirement and standard bearing-distance format. Further, its linear error of closure is within the allowable limit. We also overlaid the municipal waters as

delineated by NAMRIA to determine the approximate area covered by each concerned LGU.

Attached herewith is the map showing the boundary of the Expanded Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park (LPPWP) for your reference.

DENR – REGION IV-A CALABARZON

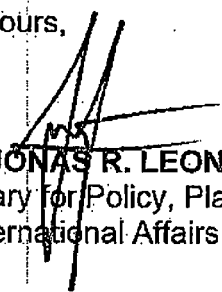
The DENR - Region IV-A (CALABARZON) interposes no objection with the contents of the subject House Bill. However, as the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park (LPPWP) is initially within the jurisdiction of DENR – NCR, we recommend that the same area undergo the process of Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA), as indicated in DENR – BMB Technical Bulletin No. 2016-04.

Furthermore, Sections 2 and 3 of the said Technical Bulletin indicates that the conduct of PASA shall support to the modification of its boundaries of existing protected areas, and shall form part of the supporting documents for the establishment/disestablishment of the protected are by the President and by Congress.

Should there be any additional comments, rest assured that the honorable committee will be provided once received by our office.

For your information and consideration.

Very truly yours,


ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES
Undersecretary for Policy, Planning
and International Affairs



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL MAPPING AND RESOURCE INFORMATION AUTHORITY
www.namria.gov.ph

REPRESENTATIVE ELPIDIO F. BARZAGA, JR.
Chairperson, Committee on Natural Resources
3/F Speaker Ramon V. Mitra Building
Batasan Complex, Quezon City

Dear Representative Barzaga:

This refers to your letter requesting our position paper on House Bill No. (HBN) 6577 entitled "*An Act Expanding The Boundaries Of Las Piñas Parañaque Wetland Park And Its Vicinities As Protected Area And For Other Purposes.*"

Please be informed that we support the enactment of this bill into law. Based on the result of our review of the Technical Description (TD) of the Expanded Las Piñas Parañaque Wetland Park submitted by DENR - NCR, the same was found correct in terms of its general location and total area, and compliant with the PRS'92 requirement and standard bearing-distance format. Further, its linear error of closure is within the allowable limit. We also overlaid the municipal waters as delineated by NAMRIA to determine the approximate area covered by each concerned LGU.

Attached is the map showing the boundary of the Expanded Las Piñas Parañaque Wetland Park for your reference.

For further inquiries, you may contact Forester Beata D. Batadlan, Chief of Land Classification Division, Resource Data Analysis Branch at Telephone No. (02) 8884-2863 or email her through bdbatadlan@namria.gov.ph.

Very truly yours,

Usec. PETER N. TIANGCO, PhD, CESO I
Administrator

cc: **THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DENR - NCR**

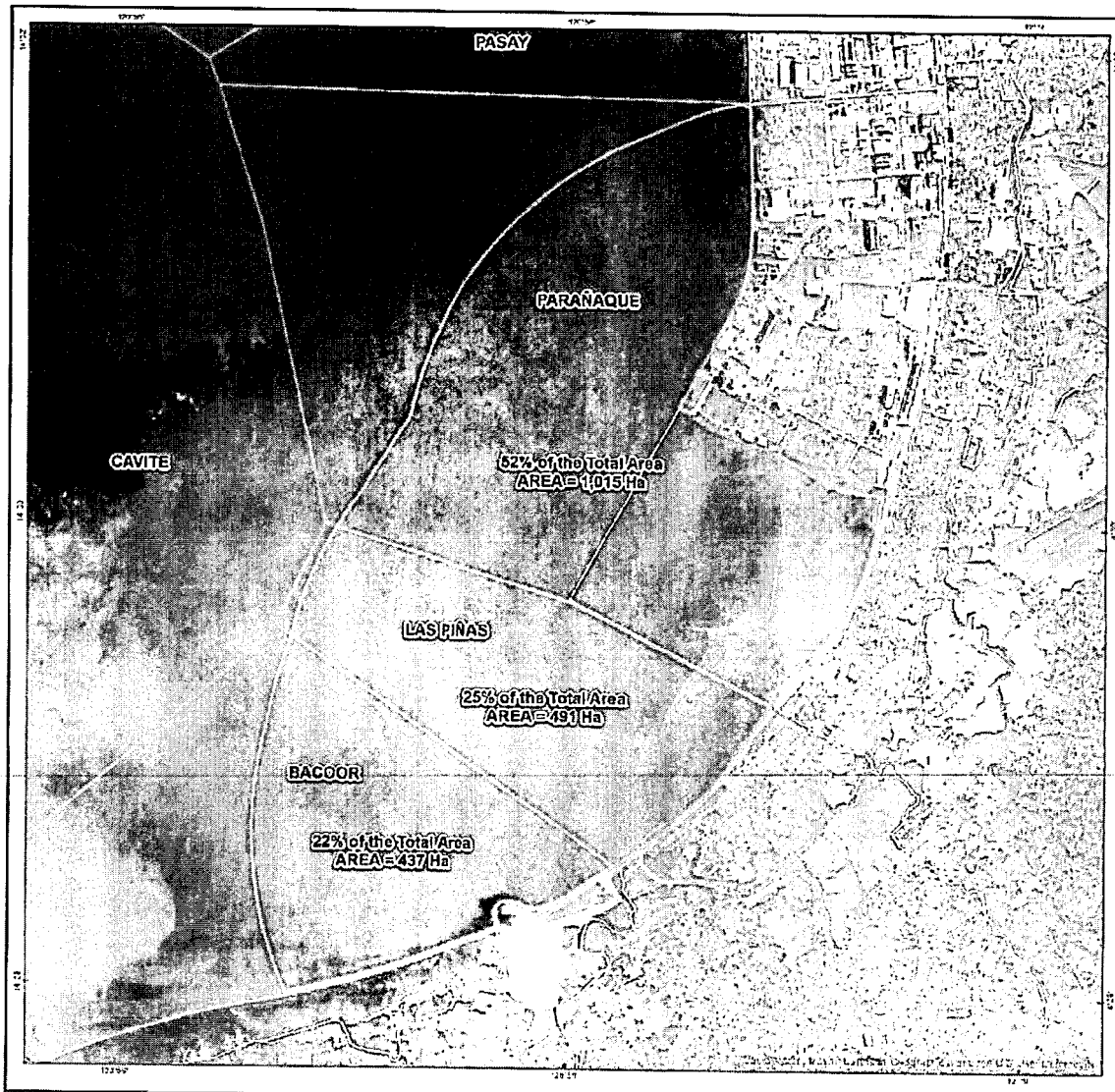
NAMRIA OFFICES:



☐ Lawton Avenue, Fort Bonifacio, 1634 Taguig City, PH ☎ (632) 8810-4831 to 41
☐ 421 Barraca St., San Nicolas, 1010 Manila, PH ☎ (632) 8241-3494 to 98






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CERTIFIED FOR MAPPING
AND GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE™
We invest in people Silver




MAP SHOWING THE INDICATIVE LOCATION OF EXPANDED LAS PIÑAS-PARAÑAQUE WETLAND PARK
 CITIES OF LAS PIÑAS AND PARAÑAQUE
 NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
 CITY OF BACOR
 PROVINCE OF CAVITE
 REGION IV CALABARZON
 SCALE 1:30,000

 AREA = 1,943 HECTARES
 Coordinate System: UTM Zone 11N
 Datum: WGS 84
 Projection: UTM
 Units: Meter
 Contour Interval: 5 Meters

LEGEND:

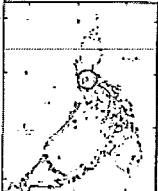
-  EXPANDED LAS PIÑAS-PARAÑAQUE WETLAND PARK BOUNDARY
-  MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY
-  DELINEATED MUNICIPAL WATERS

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

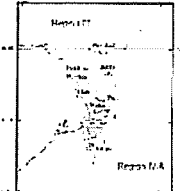
The map is a compilation of the Municipal Boundary of Las Piñas from COMA-NCR Geographic Information Agency
 LAS PIÑAS General Office, P.O. Box 846231
 NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY (NWRRA) for the delineated municipal waters

LOCATION MAP

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS




REGION IV CALABARZON



NOTE:
 This map is prepared for presentation and is not for navigation.
 All data are accurate as of 2010.

ISSUED:
 By the National Water Resources Authority (NWRRA) under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Manila, Philippines.

PREPARED BY:

 NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY
 DIVISION OF WETLANDS AND ECOSYSTEMS
 DIVISION OF WETLANDS AND ECOSYSTEMS
 DIVISION OF WETLANDS AND ECOSYSTEMS