

**DENR Administrative Order  
No. 2001 – 30  
November 05, 2001**

**SUBJECT : Institutionalization of an “Adopt a Creek” in the DENR Programs.**

Pursuant to the thrust of the current Administration to revitalize the environmental soundness of esteros, creeks, waterways, rivers, drainagelines and other water bodies in urban areas and to institute measures towards promoting clean environment through holistic waterways management and the “Community Service Program”, the following guidelines for the institutionalization of an “Adopt A Creek” Project in the DENR programs are hereby promulgated.

**SECTION 1: GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT**

It is the policy of the DENR to institute standards for water, air and land through protection and enhancement of the quality of environment, not only for the present but for future generations as well.

**SEC. 2: OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE**

It is the objective of the DENR to develop strong advocacy, awareness and partnerships towards recognition of the values and functions of an active, clean and environmentally sound waterways (e.g. esteros, creeks, rivers and drainage lines) in the urban areas. This program offers citizen participation in waterways cleaning projects within the urban areas. Helping with this program is a great way for schools, community organization and private companies to demonstrate their concerns about the environment. Activities shall focus on:

- a) the identification and inventory of critical waterways, esteros, creeks, rivers and drainage lines within urban areas that requires urgent environmental attention;

- b) the clearing of waterways of any clogging or obstructive debris and materials;
- c) the introduction of pragmatic ways of sustaining the environmental soundness of the active waterways;
- d) the reduction of the occurrence of floods;
- e) the monitoring and maintenance of the waterways against waste/garbage generators;
- f) the establishment of national monitoring and surveillance network to conserve or preserve the quality of water in the esteros or creeks to acceptable level; and,
- g) the establishment of green belts and ecological zones along adopted esteros, creeks, rivers and drainage lines.

### **SEC. 3: SELECTION AND ADOPTION OF ESTERO**

The selection and adoption of a creek or estero shall take into account the existing and previous history of the water quality of the creek/estero, as well as the land use pattern of its surrounding environment, to determine its most desirable and beneficial uses. The selection and adoption of the creek/estero shall be on the basis of, but not limited to:

- a) the degree of water pollution;
- b) the long-term use;
- c) security of waterways;
- d) protection of water quality;
- e) ecological preservation; and
- f) sustainable development.

For a more effective designation of a creek/estero as priority/critical, a national system of selection shall be established. A local action plan and strategy shall be formulated for each adopted creek/estero, in close consultation and coordination with the DPWH, DILG, DOH, LGUs, Civil Society, Youth Organizations, Business Sector, Religious Groups and other stakeholders.

#### **SEC. 4: PARTICIPATION**

A set of existing safety and legal guidelines shall be followed to ensure the successful implementation of the estero clean-up projects. To qualify, any organized group or civil society shall follow these pre-requisites:

- a) Choose a Leader – A representative from any organized group or civil society can apply for an adoption of waterways.
- b) Application – The representative shall contract the DENR Adopt-A-Creek Program Coordinator. Before the adoption process can proceed, the representative shall submit the following: 1) a draft of “Memorandum of Agreement” for approval; 2) the proposed clean-up schedules and mode of operations with the Secretariat of PTFWEDM and SCO-DENR, for purposes of making representations, dialogues/consultations and agreements with the participating agencies and stakeholders.
- c) Map – A comprehensive map showing location, defining boundaries, name, barangay, and any relevant information/descriptions deemed necessary for the proposed creek shall be attached to the application.
- d) Legal and Safety Guidelines – Participating Parties must be guided at all times by the existing legal and safety provisions of the environmental laws in formulating the “Adoption Declaration” of the proposed creek.

#### **SEC. 5: WATER QUALITY STANDARDS**

Pursuant to the Philippine Water Code, the Sanitation Code and the Environmental Code, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Department of Health (DOH) shall jointly set the water quality standards for the adopted creek/estero and wastewater discharge from polluting sources.

#### **SEC. 6: CLEAN-UP AND REHABILITATION STRATEGY**

The DENR in consultation with DPWH, DOH and DILG shall guide and oversee the participating parties in the preparation and formulation of the “CLEAN-UP AND REHABILITATION STRATEGY” upon the completion and acceptance of the MOA. A “Community Clean-up Steering Committee” shall be instituted to ensure effective implementation of the MOA. The Committee shall act as community extension of the DENR with specific functions to be agreed upon by the participating parties.

#### **SEC. 7: INCENTIVES AND REWARDS**

The DENR and participating parties shall be allowed to solicit funds to be used solely for rewards and incentives to ensure sustainability of the program. Guidelines shall be prepared in granting incentives and rewards.

#### **SEC. 8: IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

The presidential task force on Water Resources Development And Management (PTFWRDM) and Special Concerns Office (SCO) of DENR, shall be the primary coordinating offices responsible for the implementation and enforcement of this order. In view thereof, these offices shall have the authority to tap technical experts from the DENR central and regional offices, bureaus and attached agencies as the need arises.

To ensure proper coordination and effective implementation of this order, concerned offices of the DENR shall submit a monthly status report to the office of the secretary through the PTFWRDM and SCO-civil Society action desk. For purposes of uniformity, the format of which will be prepared and provided by the PTFWRDM and SCO of the DENR.

**SEC. 9: REPEALING CLAUSE AND EFFECTIVITY**

All orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly. This order shall take effect immediately.

**(Sgd.) HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ**  
Secretary