

# Water Code of the Republic of Armenia

## Part I. General Provisions

### Section 1. Principal Provisions

#### Article 1. Main definitions and concepts in the field of management of water resources

Water objects are the earth's surface and underground waters. These can be natural (rivers, lakes, brooks, marshes, underground water basins) and artificial (water reservoirs, man-made lakes, etc.).

Water pollution is a process of alteration of the qualitative composition and properties of waters caused by the human activities; this process brings about deterioration of quality of water to be used.

Littering of water is accumulation of foreign bodies in the water objects.

Use of water is utilization of a water object for the purpose of satisfying the demands of the population and economy.

Water Consumption is consumption of water from water objects. Underground water reserves are the amount of water accumulated in the upper layer of the earth's crust.

Water resources balance (or water budget) is a correlation of incoming and outflowing water of a given water object within a definite period of time, taking into consideration the degree of utilization and the alteration of the reserves.

Water protection is a system of measures aimed at preventing and terminating water pollution, littering and consumption. The State water cadastre is a systematized, comprehensive collection of information on water resources.

Cyclic water supply is a repeated supply of water for the purposes of using it in technological processes or for freezing after it has undergone preliminary treatment or freezing.

Water supply system is a network of engineer structures whereby the water is obtained, treated, transported and given to consumers.

National Water Program is a component of the Republic of Armenia's comprehensive economic program; the former is called upon to solve the problems of water reserves and their use, distribution, preservation and resource-provision.

#### Article 2. Goals of the Water Code of the Republic of Armenia.

The goal of the Water Code of the Republic of Armenia is regulation of relations apropos of utility and drinking water supply aiming at:

- safeguarding the efficient utilization of water;
- protecting water from pollution, littering and exhaustion;
- preventing and terminating the adverse impact on water;

- improving the state of water objects;  
as well as at
- protecting the rights of local bodies of State administration, of enterprises, organizations, offices and citizens; and
- strengthening of legality in the domain of water relation

**Article 3. Water legislation of the Republic of Armenia and water as State property.**

The water relations of the Republic of Armenia are regulated by this Code and by other legislative Acts of the Republic of Armenia.

Waters are a State property and are given only for use. The order of possession, management and use of waters is determined by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

**Article 4. The State unified water reserves**

All the waters (water objects) of the Republic of Armenia make up the State unified water reserves.

**Section 2. The State Regulation  
and Supervision in  
the Domain of the Use and Protection of Waters**

**Article 5. The powers of the Government of the Republic of Armenia in the domain of water relations regulation.**

The following come within the jurisdiction of the Government of the Republic of Armenia in the domain of the water relations regulation:

- 1) management of the State unified water reserves;
- 2) formulation of the rules for use of waters, for their protection from pollution, littering and consumption, and for prevention and termination of the adverse impact on waters;
- 3) formulation of methods and standards for water use and for water quality and its assessment;
- 4) formulation of the rules for the State registration of waters and of water-use in the Register and for the State water cadastre;
- 5) confirmation of
  - a) schemes of comprehensive use and protection of waters as well as of
  - b) water budgets;
- 6) planning of measures aimed at efficient use and protection of waters, at prevention of adverse impact on them;

7) establishment of the State control over the use and protection of waters and formulation of order of exerting of this control.

The above clauses are formulated and determined by the National Water Program.

**Article 6. The agencies executing State administration in the domain of water use and protection.**

The State administration in the domain of water use and protection is executed in the Republic of Armenia by the Republic of Armenia's Government, local bodies of State administration as well as by specially authorized State agencies for regulation of water use and protection.

**Article 7. The State control over water use and protection.**

The task of the State control over water use and protection is to safeguard that all the water-users will stick to the rules set for the water-use, will fulfill their obligations for protection of waters and for prevention and termination of adverse impact on the waters, will observe the rules of keeping the registration of waters as well as other rules laid down by the water legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

**Article 8. The Agencies Executing State Control Over the Use and Protection of Waters.**

The State control over the water use and protection is exercised by the local bodies of State administration and by the State agencies specially authorized for the task, in the manner stipulated by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

### Section 3. Siting, Design.

**Construction and Putting into Operation the Enterprises, Installations and Other Objects that Affect Water Quality**

**Article 9. Requirements to be Met in Cases of Siting, Design, Construction and Putting into Operation the Enterprises, Installations and Other Objects that Affect Water Quality**

When new or reconstructed enterprises, installations and other objects that affect water quality are designed, sited, constructed and put into operation, as well as when new technological processes are introduced it is required that the efficient use of waters be secured, first of all that the population's needs for domestic utility and drinking water supply be satisfied.

The envisaged measures must guarantee:

- accurate registration of the amounts of water taken from and returned to water objects;
- protection of water from pollution, littering and consumption;
- prevention of adverse impact on waters;
- restriction of inundation of land (reducing this inundation to the possible minimum);
- protection of land against salinization, washing away and dessication; as well as
- protection of favorable environmental conditions and landscapes.

When the enterprise, installations and other objects that affect water quality are designed, sited and constructed, it is required that proceeding from environmental conditions and economic circumstances, the possibilities of using the water objects for the purposes of sport and rest should be considered.

**Article 10. Terms Set for Design, Siting, Construction and Putting into Operation the Enterprises, Installations and Other Objects in the Fish-Breeding Pools.**

When new or reconstructed enterprises, installations and other objects are designed, sited, constructed and put into operation in the fish-breeding pools, it is required that, besides the requirements stipulated by Article 9. of this code, such measures should be taken in due time as to secure protection and adequate conditions for reproduction of fishes, of other water animals and plants.

**Article 11. Construction Siting and Design of the Enterprises, Installations and Other Objects that Affect Water Quality.**

The construction siting and design of the enterprises, installations and other objects that affect water quality must be coordinated with the bodies that regulate water use and protection, with the Executive Committees of the local Soviets of deputies, with the bodies of the State Sanitary Inspection, with the bodies that provide protection to fish reserves and with other bodies, - in the ways stipulated by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

**Article 12. Conditions Under Which the Putting into Operation of the Enterprises, Installations and Other Objects that Affect Water Quality is prohibited.**

It is prohibited to put into operation:

- 1) new or reconstructed enterprises, installations and other objects unless they are equipped with the devices that prevent pollution and littering of or the adverse impact on waters;

- 2) sprinkler and irrigation systems, water reservoirs and canals unless the measures protecting the land against inundation, washing away, swamping, salinization and erosion have been taken;
- 3) drainage systems, unless the water-receivers and other installations have been completed in conformity with the approved design;
- 4) water-receiving installations if they lack the fish-protecting devices envisioned by the approved design;
- 5) hydrotechnical installations unless the spillways for rainwater and fish-passes have been built in conformity with the approved design;
- 6) dewatering wells if they are not provided with water-regulating devices and, when necessary, with the sanitary protection belts;
- 7) water reservoirs till the completion of the column foundation envisioned by the approved design.

**Section 4. Conducting of Works  
in the Water Objects  
and in the Waterside Belts**

**Article 13. Waterside Belts**

As the waterside belts are considered the belts of:

- 1) sanitary protection of surface and underground water objects;
- 2) inner waterways;
- 3) water protection in water reservoirs;
- 4) as well as the waterside belts stipulated by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

**Article 14. The Order of Conducting the Works in the Water Objects and in the Waterside belts**

It is ordained that in the water objects and in the waterside belts all the construction, dredging and blasting works, utilization of mineral resources and water plants, laying of pipelines and other service lines, felling of trees, drilling, earth-digging and other works and kinds of land-use, which have a direct impact on water quality, be conducted only obtaining prior consent of the bodies regulating the water use and protection, of the Executive Committees of the local Soviets of the deputies, and of other authorized agencies, in conformity with the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

**Part 2.  
Water-Use**

**Section 5. Water-Users, Water-Use Objects and Kinds**

**Article 15. Water-Users**

The local bodies of State administration, enterprises, organizations, offices and citizens can be water-users in the Republic of Armenia.

In cases stipulated by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia other organizations and persons too, can be water-users.

**Article 16. Kinds of Water-Use**

The water objects are given for use to meet the population's health, medical, etc. needs of industry, agriculture, power-supply, transportation, fish-breeding as well as other State and public needs. The water objects can be given for use for one or several purposes.

The utilization of water objects for waste effluents can be permitted only in cases stipulated by Articles 61-63 of this Code and by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

**Article 17. General and Special Water-Use**

General water-use is of water without application of installations or technical devices that affect quality of water, whereas special water-use is of water by means of such installations or devices.

In some cases as special can be regarded such utilization of water objects when which affect the quality of water although neither installations nor technical devices are applied.

The list of special kinds of water-use is compiled by the bodies that regulate the use and protection of water.

**Article 18. Separate and Joint Use of Water**

The water objects can be used on separate or joint basis.

In separate use are those water objects (or parts of water objects) that have been given for use to a local body of State administration, to an enterprise, organization, office or a citizen by the decision of the State competent bodies.

Those water objects (or parts of water objects) that have not been given for separate use are used jointly.

**Article 19. Primary and Secondary Water-Use**

The primary water-users, viz. local bodies of State administration, enterprises, organizations, offices, citizens, who have been given the water objects for separate use, are in the position to authorize the secondary water-use, provided there is a consent of the bodies that regulate the use and protection of water.

The goal and principle terms of using the water objects shall be stated in secondary water-use permit.

**Section 6. The Order of Giving Water Objects for Use**

**Article 20. The Priority Given to the Population's Needs When Considering the Granting of Water Objects for Use**

The water objects are first of all given for use to satisfy the population's needs in utility and drinking water. Should a water object be given for multi-purpose use, the water-use for satisfying the population's needs in utility and drinking water cannot be decreased in favor of water-use for other purposes

**Article 21. The Order of Granting the Water Objects for Separate Use**

The water objects (entirely or partially) are given for separate use by the Government of the Republic of Armenia or by (with the Government's authorization) the agency that regulates the use and protection of water.

The right to joint water use of the water objects is given by the right-to-water-use-granting State Act, wherein the goal and main terms of use of a water object are stated.

**Article 22. Permit to Special Water-Use**

A permit to special water-use is given by the use and protection of water regulating agency in conjunction with the local body of State administration, with bodies conducting the State sanitary inspection, providing environmental protection and protection of underground waters, as well as with other bodies concerned.

**Article 23. The Order of Making General Use of Water**

The general use of water is made without a permit.

The general use of water shall be made in strict conformity with the requirements set by the agencies that regulate the use and protection of waters, that conduct the State sanitary inspection, that provide environmental protection and protection of the fish reserves, as well as in conformity with the regulations of protection of human lives in water and of efficient utilization and protection of water.

In case of general water-use, the local bodies of State administration determine the places in the respective areas where swimming, bathing, rowing, taking water for drinking and household purposes, watering of cattle, etc. are prohibited. The proposals pertaining to general water-use are advanced by the agencies regulating the use and protection of water, by the associations for life-saving in waters, by the bodies conducting the State sanitary inspection and by those providing the protection of animal world as well as by other bodies concerned.

It is incumbent upon the local body of State administration to inform the water-users in the terms of general water-user that it has set.

**Article 24. General Use of Water Objects Given for Separate Use**

The general use of water objects given for separate use is permitted on the terms set by the primary water-user in conjunction with the agencies regulating the use and protection of water.

Unless the primary water-user and the local body of State administration state the terms for general use of the water object given for separate use or prohibit the water-use, the unrestricted general water-use is permitted according to the water legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

**Article 25. Water-Use Fees**

The special water-use is paid for in the Republic of Armenia. The water relations between the agencies regulating the use and protection of water and the water-users are regulated by a bilateral agreement, wherein the volume, duration, rates of payment and other terms have been stated.

For the water they receive all the water-users are obliged to pay in a manner and according to the tariffs established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

**Article 26. Water-Use Duration**

The water objects are given for use for a definite term or on open-ended basis.

The water-use is considered to be on an open-ended basis if no time limit has been set for it.

The temporary water-use for a definite term can be short-term (up to three years) or long-term (from three up to twenty-five years). If needs be, the terms of the water-use can be prolonged for a period not exceeding the time-limits set for the short-term and long-term temporary use respectively. No term is set for the general water-use.

**Article 27. The Order of Estimating the Term of the Temporary Water-Use**

The term of the temporary use of a water object is estimated from the day when the decision on giving a water object for separate use was made or when the permit for special water-use was issued, provided there are no other dates fixed in the decision or in the permit.

**Article 28. The Order of Prolongation of Temporary Water-Use Terms**

The terms of temporary water-use of water objects can be extended upon the request of the water-users concerned by the State bodies that have made a decision on the separate use of a water object or that have issued a permit for a special water-use.



**Section 7. The Rights and Responsibilities of Water-Users**

**Article 29. The Rights of Water-Users**

When using the water object adequately to its functional purpose, in accordance with the established procedure the water users are entitled:

- 1) to accumulate water reserves for utilization in future;
- 2) to construct hydroeconomic installations, to reconstruct and to dismantle them;
- 3) to use water objects to satisfy the population's needs in utility and drinking water, as well as the needs of public services, agricultural, industrial, hydro-electric power, transportation, fish-breeding and hunting enterprises;
- 4) to use water objects for implementing sports, recreational, rest and health-restoring programs, for preserving natural sites and landscapes in favorable conditions as well as for other purposes that are not prohibited by the water legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

**Article 30. Limitations on the Rights of Water-Users**

Under the conditions of exceptional deficiency of water, of looming accidents in the water objects or epidemics of humans and animals, as well as in other cases envisioned by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, the rights of the water-users can be restricted.

When urgent measures are taken to forestall or to fight a natural disaster brought about by the adverse impact on water quality, the limitations on the water-users' rights are regulated by Article 86 of this Code.

The rights of users to separate use of water objects can be restricted by the body that has given this object for separate use, whereas in case of the rights of special water-use by the body that has issued a permit for special water-use. The right of secondary use of water can be restricted by the primary water-user in conjunction with the agency for the use and protection of water.

**Article 31. The Water-Users' Responsibilities**

The water-users are obliged:

- 1) to efficiently use water objects, to ensure rational use of water and water quality improvement;
- 2) to take measures to keep the index of pollutants in the waste effluents in the water objects within the standards;
- 3) not to violate the rights of other water-users as well not to incur damage to the objects of economy and nature (land, forests, animal world, mineral resources, etc.);

- 4) to keep in good working order treatment and other hydroeconomic installations and technical devices that affect quality of water, to improve their exploitation specifications, to control and register the use of water;
- 5) to use water objects only for the purposes that they have been given for.

**Section 8. Grounds for and  
Order of Suspending  
the Right to Water-Use**

**Article 32. Grounds for Suspending the Right to Water-Use.**  
The right to water-use is suspended if

- 1) there is no longer necessity in water-use or the water-user refused from it;
- 2) the water-use term expired;
- 3) water-using enterprises, organizations, and offices are abolished;
- 4) the hydroeconomic installations are transferred to other water-users;
- 5) there arose a need to take the water objects out of separate use;
- 6) the rules of water-use and water protection have been violated;
- 7) the water object has not been used as to its functional purpose.

The legislation of the Republic of Armenia can stipulate for other grounds for suspending the right to water-use.

**Article 33. Order of Suspending the Right to Water-Use.**

The right to water-use is suspended by rescinding the permit for special and for secondary water-use as well as by abolishing the water objects given for separate use.

The right to special water-use is suspended by the decision of the very body that sanctioned this use.

The right to secondary water-use is suspended by the decision of a primary water-user which must be coordinated with the body that regulates the use and protection of water.

**Article 34. The Removal of the Water Objects from Separate Use.**

The water objects are removed from separate use by the decisions of those State bodies which are authorized to give those water objects to separate use.

**Article 35. Compensation for the Damage Caused by Hydroeconomic Actions, by Suspension of Water-Use or by the Alteration of the Terms of Water-Use.**

The damage caused to water-users by implementation of hydroeconomic measures (hydrotechnical and other works) as well as by suspension of water-use or by alternation of the

terms of this water-use, shall be compensated in conformity with the provisions stipulated by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

**Section 9. The Use of Water Objects for Meeting the Population's Needs in Drinking, and Utility Water and Other Needs**

**Article 36. The Water Objects to be Used for Supplying the Population with Drinking and Utility Water and for Satisfying the Other Needs**

To meet the population's needs in drinking and utility water and other needs, such water objects are used, the water quality of which corresponds to the State-approved standards. To this end other water objects can be given provided there is consent of the sanitary inspection bodies.

**Article 37. Water-Supply of Population**

In the event of using the water objects for supplying population with drinking and utility water and for other needs, all water-users who control or use the supply systems of utility and drinking water, are entitled, in conformity with the special water-use permits and in accordance with the established procedure, to take water from the water-supply sources in order to process the water of potable quality and to supply it to consumers.

The water-users, enumerated in the first paragraph of this article, are obliged to register the volumes of water used, to establish regular supervision over the water quality in the sources of water supply and to report deviations (if any) from the fixed standards of the water quality to the local bodies of State administrations, to the bodies regulating the use and protection of water and to the bodies exercising State sanitary control.

**Article 38. The Use of Underground Water of Potable quality Satisfying Needs Other than Those in Drinking and Utility Water.**

The use of underground water of potable quality for ends other than satisfying the needs in drinking and utility water is, as a rule, prohibited.

In the area where there are no requisite surface water sources but where there is sufficient reserve of underground water of potable quality, the State bodies regulating the use and protection of water issue a permit for a temporary use of this water for ends other than supply of drinking and utility water.

**Section 10. The Use of Water Objects for Medical,**

## Health-Improving and Sports Purposes

**Article 39. The Water Objects Categorized as Medicinal Shall be Used Primarily for Medical and Health-Improving Purposes.**

The water objects categorized as medicinal shall be used primarily for medical and health-improving purposes. The bodies regulating the use and protection of water can, in exceptional cases, authorize the use of the water objects categorized as medicinal, for other purposes, coordinating this decision with the corresponding State bodies for public health protection and for sanatoria.

It is prohibited to discharge waste water into the water objects categorized as medicinal.

**Article 40. The Use of Water Objects for Amateur and Sports Fishing**

The use of water objects (with the exception of waters of nature reserves, fry-breeding pools and fish-farms as well as of other waters where fishing is prohibited) for amateur and sports fishing is allowed, provided the fishery regulations are observed.

**Article 41. The Use of Water Objects for Rest and Sports.** The procedures for the use of water objects for rest and sports are established by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia

**Article 42. The Use of Water Objects for Sailing Small-Size Boats.**

The use of water objects for sailing small-size boats (oar or engine-powered boats, launches, small sailing-boats, etc.) is allowed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

The small-size boats must be registered in accordance with the established procedure and have side-signs.

**Section 11. The Use of Water Objects for Agricultural Needs**

**Article 43. The Water-Use for Agricultural Needs.**

The use of water objects for agricultural needs is made in conformity with the regulations stipulated for special water-use.

The water-use for agricultural needs is made to secure a more favorable water regime for cultivated land as well as to meet the requirements of water supply for agricultural needs.

**Article 44. Planning of Water-Use for Agriculture and Approval of Plans.**

The water-use at irrigation, sprinkling and other hydroeconomic installations is made on the basis of individual and national water-use plans.

In conformity with the water-use plans, the bodies exploiting the irrigation, sprinkling and other hydroeconomic installations are obliged to sign contracts with water-users on the basis of the water-use standards currently in force, fixing the water-use terms as well as laying down mutual rights and duties of the parties.

The individual plans of water-use composed by the local bodies of State administration, by village and agricultural enterprises and by other water-use enterprises, organizations, offices and individual citizens, are coordinated with the enterprises exploiting the water objects and are approved by:

- the local bodies of State administration, in case of the systems having local significance;
- the bodies regulating the use and protection of water (in coordination with the agricultural bodies), in case of the systems having Republican significance.

**Article 45. The Duties of Water-Users Exploiting Water-Objects**

**for Agricultural Needs.**

The local bodies of State administration, enterprises, organizations, offices and individual citizens exploiting water objects for agricultural needs are obliged to abide by the established regulations, standards, plans and regime of water-use and to take requisite agrotechnical measures.

**Article 46. Irrigation by Effluents Which Underwent Treatment.**

The irrigation of cultivated land by effluents which underwent treatment, is allowed by the bodies regulating the use and protection of water in coordination with the bodies which exercise State sanitary inspection and veterinary control.

It is prohibited to use such waste effluents for irrigation which can have adverse impact on agricultural produce and pollute it.

**Article 47. Water Supply Agricultural Objects.**

The supply of water for agricultural objects is subdivided into centralized and not centralized. The centralized supply of water for agricultural objects is regulated by the rules laid down in Article 37 of this Code.

**Article 48. Irrigation of Land Occupied by Forests, Forest Belts and Saplings.**

The provisions held in Articles 43-47 of this Code regulate also irrigation of land occupied by forests, forest belts and saplings.

**Section 12. The Use of Water Objects for the Industrial, Hydro-Electric Power Engineering and Water Transport Purposes**

**Article 49. The Duties of Water-Users Exploiting Water Objects for Industrial Purposes.**

It is incumbent on water-users exploiting water objects for industrial purposes to abide by the established plans, technological standards and rules, as well as to take measures to reduce water consumption and to stop waste effluents by means of improving production technologies and water-supply schemes.

**Article 50. Limitation or Prohibition of Use of Drinking Water for Industrial Reasons.**

In the events of natural disaster, accidents and in other exceptional events, as well as in the event an enterprise has surpassed the limit of potable water assigned to it, the executive committees of the district Soviets of deputies are authorized to temporarily limit or prohibit the use of drinking water for industrial purposes.

**Article 51. The Use of Underground Waters for Supplying the Technical Water and for Meeting Other Production Requirements.**

The underground water not categorized as drinking or medicinal (sweet, mineral, hot waters) can be used in accordance with the established procedure for technical water-supply, for extracting chemical elements that the water contains, for obtaining thermal energy and for other industrial purposes, provided the rules of efficient water-use and water protection are observed.

**Article 52. The Use of Water Objects for the Needs of Hydro-Electric Power Engineering.**

The use of water objects for the needs of hydro-electric power engineering shall take into consideration the interests of other branches of national economy as well as shall be made in strict conformity with the requirements of the comprehensive water-use.

**Article 53. Water-Ways in Common Use.**

Rivers, lakes, water reservoirs and canals are considered to be water-ways in common use, with the exception of cases when their use in this capacities is partially or entirely prohibited or when they are given for separate use.

**Section 13. The Use of Water Objects for the Needs of Fish-Farming**

**Article 54. The Water-Use Rights and Duties of Fish-Farming Enterprises and Organizations.**

In conformity with the officially approved production plans the enterprises and organizations that make use of fish-farming water pools or fishery areas, do all necessary work for fish-farming in those water pools and areas as well as cultivate fish and other water animals and plants for commercial purposes.

On the demand of the bodies which secure the preservation of fish reserves they are obliged to take fish-breeding and land-reclamation technical measures to provide for the reproduction conditions of the fish reserves.

**Article 55. Restriction of Water-Use in Fish-Farming Water Reservoirs.**

The rights of water-users can be limited in those fish-farming water reservoirs (or in some of their separate sections) which are of special significance for protection and reproduction of valuable species of fishes and for other objects of water-extracting industries, proceeding from the fish-farming interests.

The list of such water reservoirs (or their sections) and the kinds of restrictions imposed on water-use are suggested by the bodies responsible for the preservation of fish reserves and finally decided upon by the bodies regulating the use and protection of water.

**Section 14. The Use of Water Objects for the Needs of Wildlife**

**Preservation and Hunting Organizations.**

**Article 56. The Right of the Enterprises of Wildlife Preservation and Hunting Organizations to Water-Use.**

The priority right to water-use in those water objects which have the status of nature reserves of wild waterfowls and of valuable fur-bearing animals (beaver, muskrat, coypu, etc.) can be given to the enterprises of wildlife preservation and hunting by the bodies regulating the use and protection of water, proceeding from the requirements of the comprehensive use of waters.

**Article 57. The Order of Use of Water Objects for the Needs of Wildlife Preservation and Hunting.**

Water objects are used for the needs of wildlife preservation and hunting organizations (for breeding of waterfowls and fur-bearing animals, for cultivation of plants and for implementation of other measures necessary for maintaining the wildlife preservation and hunting organizations) with the permission of the bodies regulating the use and protection of water and of other bodies concerned.

The order of use of water objects for the needs of wild-life and hunting organizations is established by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

**Section 15. The Use of Water Objects for the Needs of Nature Reserves.**

**Article 58. The Use of Water Objects for the Needs of Nature Reserves.**

The water objects of the Republic of Armenia are declared removed from common use and are granted to nature reserves for use by the decree of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

The water objects which are of special scientific, in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia cultural value are declared prohibited for common use and are given to nature reserves for permanent separate use, for the purpose of environmental protection and scientific research.

The order of the water-use in the nature reserves is determined by the Statutes concerning the nature reserves.

**Article 59. The Removal of Water Objects from the Use of the Nature Reserves.**

The water objects can be removed from the use of the nature reserves only in case of an emergency by the decree of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

**Article 60. Granting the Status of a Natural or Cultural Monument to Water Objects.**

Those water objects that have scientific or cultural value but have not been declared a nature reserve, are granted the status of a natural or cultural monument, in accordance with the established procedure. The population and interested organizations are notified about the decisions to grant the water objects the status of a natural or cultural monument and the provisions about the main terms of their use.

**Section 16. The Order of the Use of Water Objects for**

**Discharge of Waste Effluents**

**Article 61. The Order of the Use of Water Objects for Discharge of Waste Effluents.**

Water objects can be used for discharging the industrial, household and public utilities and drainage waste effluents only with the permission of the bodies regulating the use and protection of water, in coordination with the bodies exercising sanitary control and fish reserves protection.



It is prohibited in the Republic of Armenia to drill well and boreholes for injection and deep-well disposal of industrial, household and public utilities and drainage waste effluents.

**Article 62. The Authorized Discharges of Waste Effluents into Water Objects.**

Waste effluents are allowed to be discharged into water objects only in that case if the pollutants, that they contain, do not exceed the admissible maximum standards and on the condition that a water-user will provide wastewater treatment in conformity to the standards set by the bodies regulating the use and protection of water.

Should the requirements be broken, the discharge of waste effluents will be restricted, stopped or prohibited (including termination of activities of industrial stations, shops, enterprises and organizations and offices) by the bodies regulating the use and protection of water.

In case of a health-threatening emergency, the bodies exercising the State sanitary control shall stop the discharge of waste effluents as well as the activities of industrial and other objects and shall notify the bodies regulating the use and protection of water.

**Article 63. Terms on Which Waste Effluents Can be Discharged Into Water Objects.**

For discharges of waste effluents water objects are used in conformity with the requirements set by the permit of a special water-use and on the condition that newly constructed or reconstructed industrial, public utilities and agricultural enterprises (before they start functioning at the rated capacity) will take all measures to secure the treatment and neutralization of waste effluents discharged into water objects.

The order and terms of using the water objects for discharging the waste effluents are established by the bodies regulating the use and protection of water.

**Section 17. The Use of Water Objects for Fire-Prevention Purposes.**

**Article 64. The Use of Water Objects for Fire-Prevention Purposes.**

It is allowed to take out of any water object (without special permit) the amount of water requisite for fire-prevention purposes.

Water out of the water objects set apart for the fire-prevention purposes is prohibited to be used for other purposes.

**Section 18. The Exploitation of Reservoirs.**

**Article 65. The Filling and Operation Conditions of Reservoirs.**

It is incumbent upon the enterprises, organizations and other water-users that operate the collecting, receiving and delivering installations of the reservoirs to strictly observe the operation conditions of filling and exploiting the reservoirs, because these conditions have been set with due regard for interests of the water- and land-users of the areas which adjoin to the reservoirs.

**Article 66. The Order of Exploitation of Reservoirs.**

The order of exploitation of reservoirs is set for each individual reservoir, cascade or reservoir complex by the regulations that shall be approved by the bodies regulating the use and protection of water, in conjunction with the State sanitary inspection, with the bodies safeguarding fish reserves and with other bodies concerned.

**Article 67. Organization and Coordination of Measures that Secure the Appropriate Technical State of the Reservoirs and that Maintain them in Good Order.**

Organization and coordination measures that secure the appropriate technical state of the reservoirs and that maintain them in good order are done and the supervision over the observance of the regulations of their exploitation is exercised, in accordance with the procedure established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia by the bodies regulating the use and protection of water.

**Article 68. Lakes and Other Pools that are Used as Reservoirs.**

The Articles 65-67 of this Code regulate the exploitation of lakes and other used as reservoirs.

**Section 19. Regulation of the Use of Water Objects that the Republic of Armenia Shares with the Neighboring Countries.**

**Article 69. Regulation of the Use of Water Objects that the Republic of Armenia Shares With the Neighboring Countries.**

The regulation of the use of water objects that the Republic of Armenia shares with the neighboring countries is carried out by mutual agreement of the competent bodies of the Republic of Armenia and of the neighboring countries.

The order of water-use in the boundary waters of the Republic of Armenia is set by the competent bodies in conjunction with the high command of the frontier troops.

The use of water in the boundary waters of the Republic of Armenia is made on the basis of the international agreements.

**Section 20. The Order of Resolution of Disputes Over Water-Use.**

**Article 70. The Bodies Resolving the Disputes Over Water-Use.**

The disputes over water-use are resolved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, local bodies of State Administration, as well as by bodies regulating the use and protection of water and by other State bodies authorized for that, in accordance with the procedures stipulated by this Code and by other legislative acts of the Republic of Armenia.

**Article 71. The Order of Use and Management of Waters Located in the Frontier Zone of the Republic of Armenia and of the Neighboring Countries.**

The use and management of waters located in the frontier zone of the Republic of Armenia and of the neighboring countries is decided upon by mutual agreement between the Republic of Armenia and these countries.

**Article 72. The Resolution of Disputes that Spring up Between the Water-Users from Different Districts of the Republic of Armenia.**

The disputes that spring up between the water-users from different districts of the Republic of Armenia, over the use of water shall be solved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

**Article 73. The Resolution of Other Disputes over the Water-Use.**

The disputes over the water-use (with the exception of those disputes mentioned in the Article 72 of this Code) shall be settled:

1. by the body that has given this water object (Article 21 of this Code) in the event when the issue of water-use of the water object that has been given for separate use is in dispute;
2. by the body that has issued a permit for special water-use (Article 22 of this Code) in the event when the issue of the use of water object that has been given for special water-use is in dispute;
3. in all other cases - by those local bodies of State administration in whose territory the water object or a part of it are situated.

**Article 74. The Order of Arbitrating the Water-Use Disputes**

The disputes over the water-use are resolved by the body authorized to use and protection of water, on written application of the party concerned.

Should it be necessary to gather material about the case in the water-use disputes, the local bodies of State

administration will be in the position to set up commissions which will incorporate the representatives of the bodies regulating the use and protection of water and of other bodies concerned, as well as the water-economy, agricultural and other specialists.

The body that arbitrates the dispute over the water-use shall make a decision which will describe the implementation order of the decision and the measures aimed at restoration of the water-use rights that have been infringed upon.

**Article 75. The Resolution of Property Disputes Related to the Water-Use Relationships.**

The property disputes related to the water-use relationships shall be resolved in accordance with the procedures stipulated by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

**Part III**

**Protection of Water and Prevention of Adverse Impact of it**

**Section 21. Protection of Water.**

**Article 76. Protection of Water Against Pollution and Littering.**

All water objects must be protected against pollution, littering, and consumption, which can cause damage to public health, as well as can decrease the fish reserves, worsen the water supply conditions and bring about other unfavorable phenomena: the alteration of physical, chemical, biological and other properties of the water which is the result of violating the natural purification, hydrological and water-geological regime.

**Article 77. Implementation of Measures Securing the Protection of Water.**

Those enterprises, organizations and other water-users whose activities have an adverse impact on the water quality are obliged to take technological, forest and land reclamation, agrotechnical, hydrotechnical, sanitary and other measures which will be coordinated with the bodies regulating the use and protection of water, with the local bodies of State administration, with the State sanitary Inspection, with the bodies safeguarding the fish reserves and with other State bodies concerned or which will ensue from the decisions made by the State bodies authorized for the purpose and which will provide the protection of water against pollution, littering and consumption as well as for the improvement of water quality and regime.

**Article 78. Protection of Water Against the Pollution and Littering with Waste, Refuse and Waste Effluents.**

It is prohibited to discharge industrial, household and other waste, refuse and waste effluents into water objects.

It is incumbent upon the manager of water transportation facilities, pipelines, floating and other structures, as well as upon other enterprises, organizations, offices and citizens not to let the water of the water objects to be polluted or littered with grease and engine oils, with oil products, timber, and with chemical and other substances.

**Article 79. Protection of the Surfaces of Water-Collectors, and of Ice Cover of Reservoirs Against Pollution.**

The enterprises, organizations and other water-users are obliged not to tolerate the pollution and littering of the water-collector surfaces and the surfaces of ice cover with industrial, household and other waste, refuse and sediments, as well as with oil products and chemical substances.

**Article 80. Prohibition of Water Pollution With Fertilizers and Toxic Chemicals.**

The local bodies of State administration, enterprises, organizations, offices and citizens are prohibited to pollute water with fertilizers and toxic chemicals.

**Article 81. Sanitary Protection Belts**

With the purpose of protecting the water used for medicinal and health-improvement needs and of supplying the population with drinking and utility water, the sanitary protection belts are set up in conformity with the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

**Article 82. The Forest- and Land-Reclamation and Other Measures for the Protection of Water Against Consumption.**

To secure the favorable regime of rivers, lakes, reservoirs, underground waters and of other water objects, to prevent water erosion of land, silting up of reservoirs, and deterioration of the living conditions of the water animals, to minimize the fluctuations of water currents and for other purposes the forest- and land-reclamation, anti-erosive, hydro-technical and other measures shall be taken.

**Article 83. Location and Construction of Enterprises, Structures and Other Objects that Have an Adverse Impact on Water Quality.**

The bodies which regulate the use and protection of water when making decisions on location and construction issues of the enterprises, installations and other objects that have adverse impact on water quality, as well as when issuing permits for special water-use, are obliged to be guided by the schemes of the comprehensive water-use and water-protection and by

hydroeconomic balance and to take into consideration the interests of water-users and land-users.

**Article 84. Measures for Protecting the Underground Waters.**  
If during the geological prospecting the organizations that are engaged in mining discover water-containing strata they must immediately inform the bodies regulating the use and protection of water and take measures to protect the underground water, in accordance with the established procedure.

**Section 22. Prevention and Abolition of Adverse Impact on Water.**

**Article 85. The Duties that Water-Users Have to Discharge to Prevent and Abolish the Adverse Impact on Water.**

The enterprises, organizations, offices and other water-users are obliged to take measures which are agreed upon with the bodies regulating the use and protection of water, with the local bodies of State administration and with other State bodies concerned, or which are stipulated by the decisions of the authorized State bodies. These measures aim at averting the following adverse impact on water and at eliminating its consequences:

1. floods, inundation and deluges;
2. ruin of banks, shores, of high water dams and other installations;
3. swamping and salinization of soil;
4. land erosion, origination of gorges, landslides, torrents and other harmful phenomena.

**Article 86. Urgent Measures to be Taken to Avert the Natural Disasters Caused by the Adverse Impact on Water.**

The urgent measures to avert the natural disasters caused by the adverse impact on water shall be taken by anti-flood and other Committees set up by the Government of the Republic of Armenia and by the local bodies of the State administration. It is incumbent upon all enterprises, organizations, offices and citizens to fulfill the directives issued by these Committees.

## Part VI

### State Planning and Registration of Water and its Use

**Article 87. The Tasks of the State Planning and Registration of Water and its Use.**

It is the task of the State registration of water and its use to control the water quantity and quality as well as to register the data on the water-use for industrial needs and for the needs of the population in drinking and utility water. The planning of water-use shall provide scientifically substantiated distribution of water among the water-users setting priority of meeting the population's needs in drinking and utility water, and taking into consideration the protection of water and preventing the adverse impact on water.

The planning of water-use shall take into consideration the data of the water cadaster, hydroeconomic balances, schemes of comprehensive use and protection of water.

**Article 88. The State Water Cadaster.**

The State water cadaster incorporates water registration data on the basis of quantitative and qualitative indices, book-keeping of water-use as well as registration data of water-use.

**Article 89. Hydroeconomic Balances**

The hydroeconomic balances that evaluate the availability of water and the degree of the water-use are drawn for individual reservoirs, economic districts and the Republic.

**Article 90. The Schemes of Comprehensive Use and Protection of Water.**

The comprehensive water-use and protection main scheme and schemes for individual reservoirs (and territories) describe the principal hydroeconomic and other measures which shall secure that the prospective needs of the population and industry be adequately met and that adverse impact on the water be averted.

The State registration of water and its use, the keeping of the water cadaster, the drawing of the water-use balances and the elaboration of the schemes of comprehensive use and protection of water are conducted at the expense of the State.

**Part V.**

**Liability for Violation of Water Legislation**

**Article 91. Illegitimacy of Transaction that Violate the State Right**

**of Ownership of Water.**

The concession of the right to grant water-use and any other transactions that violate the State right of ownership of water are illegitimate.

**Article 92. Liability to Prosecution and Administrative Sanctions for Violating the Water Legislation.**

In conformity with the procedures stipulated by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, liable to prosecution and administrative sanctions will be individuals who will conduct transactions mentioned in Article 91 of this Code as well as who are guilty of:

1. unauthorized seizure of water objects or unauthorized water-use and the use of water not to the purpose,
2. taking water in violation of the water-use plans,
3. polluting and littering the water,
4. putting enterprises, household and other objects into operation without installations and devices that prevent the pollution and littering of water or the adverse impact on it,
5. not carrying out the State registration of water and the efficient use of water (which is extracted or allocated from the water objects),
6. violating the water-protection regime in the water-collectors, which brings about water pollution, water erosion of soil and other harmful phenomena,
7. executing unauthorized hydroeconomic work and other activities that affect the water quality,
8. damaging the hydroeconomic installations and devices and violating the rules of their operation,
9. not to make payment for the water received,
10. violating the rules (terms) of using the water objects for the purposes of the rest and sports.

The liability for other violations of the water legislation can be established by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

**Article 93. Application of Disciplinary Actions and of Measures of Public Influence.**

The disciplinary actions and measures of public influence shall be taken, in accordance with the established procedure, against the violators of the rules of rational use and protection of water or against the violators of the rights of other water-users, in case these violations are not that serious as to be liable to prosecution or application of administrative sanctions.

**Article 94. The Return of the Water Objects that Have Been Seized in an Unauthorized Way.**

The water objects that have been seized in an unauthorized way shall be returned to whom it belonged without compensation for the expenses made during the unauthorized use.

**Article 95. Compensation for the Damage Caused by the Violation of the Water Legislation.**

It is incumbent upon the local bodies of State administration, enterprises, organizations, offices and citizens to compensate



(in accordance with the established procedure and sums) for the damage that they caused by violation the water legislation.

The officials through whose fault the enterprises, organizations and other water-users had to pay the expenses for the compensation for the damage, shall be liable to fines.

#### Party VI.

#### International Agreements

##### Article 96. International Agreements

Should the rules and regulations, stipulated by the international agreements concluded by the Republic of Armenia, differ from the rules and regulations that this Code contains, those of the international agreement shall be effective.

President of the Republic of Armenia  
Petrossian

L. Ter-

March 23, 1992.  
City of Yerevan