Water Law of the People’s Republic of China (the PRC)

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Unofficial English translation prepared for reference only. The official Chinese text prevails.

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Adopted at the 24th Session of the Standing Committee of the Sixth National People's Congress on January 21, 1988; first revised at the 29th Session of the Standing Committee of the Ninth National People's Congress on August 29, 2002; amended for the first time in accordance with the Decision on Amending Certain Laws adopted at the 10th Session of the Standing Committee of the Eleventh National People's Congress on August 27, 2009; amended for the second time in accordance with the Decision on Amending the Energy Conservation Law and Five Other Laws adopted at the 21st Session of the Standing Committee of the Twelfth National People's Congress on July 2, 2016; and revised for the second time at the 25th Session of the Standing Committee of the Fourteenth National People's Congress on November 6, 2026.
Effective: March 22, 2027

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- Chapter IX — Supplementary Provisions

Chapter I — General Provisions

Article 1 — This Law is enacted in accordance with the Constitution for the purposes of protecting, rationally developing, utilizing and conserving water resources, preventing and controlling water disasters, achieving the sustainable utilization of water resources, safeguarding national water security, promoting high-quality economic and social development, and realizing the harmonious coexistence of humanity and nature and the sustainable development of the Chinese nation.

Article 2 — This Law applies to the protection, development, utilization and conservation of water resources and the prevention and control of water disasters within the territory of the People's Republic of China.

Water resources as used in this Law include surface water and groundwater.

The development, utilization, protection and administration of seawater shall be governed in accordance with the provisions of relevant laws and administrative regulations.

Article 3 — Water resources are owned by the State. The ownership of water resources is exercised by the State Council on behalf of the State. The water in the ponds of rural collective economic organizations and in the reservoirs built and administered by rural collective economic organizations shall be used by those rural collective economic organizations.

Article 4 — In protecting, developing, utilizing and conserving water resources and preventing and controlling water disasters, the guidelines, policies, decisions, arrangements and water-governance approaches of the Party and the State shall be implemented; priority shall be given to water conservation, spatial equilibrium and systematic governance; the synergy of government functions and market mechanisms shall be upheld; and the principles of comprehensive planning, overall consideration, addressing both symptoms and root causes, comprehensive utilization and efficiency shall be followed, so as to give full play to the multiple functions of water resources and coordinate the governance of water resources, water ecology, water environment and water disasters.

Article 5 — The State aims to comprehensively enhance its capacity to safeguard water security, focuses on improving the optimized allocation system of water resources, the basin flood prevention and disaster reduction system, and the water ecological protection and governance system, coordinates existing and incremental resources, strengthens interconnectivity, and accelerates the building of a systematic, complete, safe and reliable, intensive, efficient, green and intelligent, circularly flowing and orderly regulated national water network.

Article 6 — The State adopts measures to strengthen the protection of water resources.

The State implements a rigid-constraint system for water resources, adheres to determining cities, land, population and production by water, optimizes the pattern of territorial space development and protection, promotes the scientific and rational layout of population and cities, builds a modern industrial system commensurate with the carrying capacity of water resources, and promotes the economical and intensive utilization of water resources.

Article 7 — The State protects the lawful rights and interests of entities and individuals that lawfully and rationally develop and utilize water resources.

Entities and individuals that develop and utilize water resources have the obligation to protect water resources in accordance with law.

Article 8 — The State implements a water-drawing permit system and a system of paid use of water resources in accordance with law, except for the use by rural collective economic organizations and their members of the water in ponds and reservoirs of their own collective economic organizations.

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Article 9 — The State strictly practices water conservation, upholds and implements the policy of giving priority to water conservation, implements national water-conservation actions, strengthens water conservation in agriculture, industry and urban areas, establishes incentive and constraint mechanisms, and comprehensively builds a water-saving society.

All entities and individuals have the obligation to conserve water.

Article 10 — The State establishes and improves a water-disaster prevention and control system commensurate with economic and social development, strengthens water-disaster risk assessment, monitoring, forecasting and early warning, defense and emergency response, and enhances the capacity for disaster prevention, reduction and relief.

The State establishes and improves a strategic reserve system for water resources security.

Article 11 — People's governments at or above the county level shall strengthen the construction of water conservancy infrastructure and incorporate it into their national economic and social development plans and territorial space plans.

Article 12 — People's governments at or above the county level shall, in accordance with the principle of dividing fiscal powers and expenditure responsibilities, support the work of protecting and conserving water resources and preventing and controlling water disasters.

The State establishes, as needed, a fund for the construction of major water conservancy projects; the specific measures shall be formulated by the State Council.

The State guides social capital to participate in the protection, rational development, utilization and conservation of water resources and the prevention and control of water disasters in accordance with law, protects its lawful rights and interests, and encourages financial institutions to provide diversified financial services in accordance with market-oriented and rule-of-law principles.

Article 13 — The State implements a management system combining basin management and administrative region management for water resources.

The water administrative department of the State Council is responsible for the unified administration and supervision of water resources nationwide. Other relevant departments of the State Council are responsible, in accordance with the division of duties, for the work related to the protection, development, utilization and conservation of water resources and the prevention and control of water disasters.

The basin management bodies established by the water administrative department of the State Council on important rivers and lakes designated by the State (hereinafter referred to as basin management bodies) and their subordinate management bodies shall, within the scope under their jurisdiction, exercise the duties of water resource administration and supervision prescribed by laws and administrative regulations and delegated by the water administrative department of the State Council.

The water administrative departments of local people's governments at or above the county level are responsible, in accordance with prescribed authority, for the unified administration and supervision of water resources within their respective administrative regions. Other relevant departments of local people's governments at or above the county level are responsible, in accordance with the division of duties, for the work related to the protection, development, utilization and conservation of water resources and the prevention and control of water disasters within their respective administrative regions.

Article 14 — The State implements the river-and-lake chief system and establishes a four-tier river-and-lake chief system at the provincial, municipal, county and township levels. River-and-lake chiefs at all levels are responsible for the administration and protection of rivers and lakes (including reservoirs) within their respective administrative regions and for coordinating and resolving major issues. The water administrative departments of people's governments at or above the county level are responsible for the specific

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organization and implementation of the river-and-lake chief system.

Article 15 — The State encourages and supports the research, promotion and application of water conservancy science and technology, strengthens water conservancy informatization, and enhances the automation, digitization and intelligence of water conservancy work.

The water administrative department of the State Council shall organize the establishment and improvement of the technical standards system for water conservancy.

Article 16 — The State strengthens the protection of water cultural heritage, inherits and promotes water culture, and promotes the flourishing development of water culture.

People's governments at all levels and their relevant departments shall, through various forms, strengthen publicity and education on laws, regulations and relevant knowledge concerning the protection and conservation of water resources and the prevention and control of water disasters, enhance the awareness of the whole society of protecting and conserving water resources and preventing and controlling water disasters, and encourage entities and individuals to participate in activities for the protection and conservation of water resources and the prevention and control of water disasters.

Article 17 — Accountability shall be pursued in accordance with State provisions for major water-related ecological environment problems and dereliction of duty discovered in the course of ecological environment protection inspections and rectifications.

Article 18 — Entities and individuals that have made outstanding achievements in the protection, rational development, utilization and conservation of water resources and the prevention and control of water disasters shall be commended and rewarded in accordance with relevant State provisions.

Chapter II — Water Resources Planning

Article 19 — The State strengthens the overall planning for the protection, development, utilization and conservation of water resources and the prevention and control of water disasters, and coordinates water for domestic, production and ecological purposes.

Article 20 — The State formulates a comprehensive national water resources plan, which makes overall arrangements for the rational allocation, effective protection, economical and intensive utilization of water resources and the prevention and control of water disasters, and which shall be implemented after approval in accordance with prescribed authority and procedures.

Article 21 — The comprehensive basin plans for important rivers and lakes designated by the State shall be prepared by the water administrative department of the State Council together with the relevant departments of the State Council and the people's governments of the relevant provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government, and shall be implemented after approval in accordance with prescribed authority and procedures. The comprehensive basin plans for other rivers and lakes spanning provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government shall be prepared by the relevant basin management bodies together with the water administrative departments and relevant departments of the people's governments of the provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government where the rivers and lakes are located, and shall be submitted to the water administrative department of the State Council for examination; after soliciting the opinions of the relevant departments of the State Council and the people's governments of the relevant provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government, the water administrative department of the State Council shall submit the plans for approval and implementation in accordance with prescribed authority and procedures.

The comprehensive basin plans for rivers and lakes other than those specified in the preceding paragraph shall be prepared by the water administrative departments of local people's governments at or above the

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county level together with the relevant departments and relevant local people's governments as actually needed, and shall be submitted to the people's government at the corresponding level or its authorized department for approval, and filed with the water administrative department at the next higher level.

Comprehensive basin plans are an important basis for the protection, development, utilization and conservation of water resources and the prevention and control of water disasters in a basin. Water-related plans within a basin and an administrative region shall conform to the comprehensive basin plans.

Article 22 — The preparation of plans shall be based on comprehensive scientific surveys, investigations and assessments of water resources and shall be coordinated with national economic and social development plans and territorial space plans. Comprehensive scientific surveys, investigations and assessments of water resources shall be organized by the water administrative departments and natural resources administrative departments of people's governments at or above the county level together with relevant departments, and the relevant results shall be published in accordance with relevant State provisions.

In preparing plans, the mechanism for public participation and the system of expert consultation and demonstration shall be improved, and modern information technology and other means shall be comprehensively applied to improve the quality of planning.

Article 23 — The State strengthens the construction, administration and protection of the hydrological station network. The water administrative department of the State Council shall, together with the relevant departments of the State Council, make unified planning of the national hydrological monitoring network system, optimize and improve the layout of the hydrological station network, and enhance the capacity for hydrological monitoring, forecasting, early warning and supervision.

The water administrative departments of people's governments at or above the county level and basin management bodies shall, in accordance with their administrative authority, uniformly publish hydrological and water resource information, hydrological intelligence forecasts and early warnings, and water resources bulletins to the public. Basic hydrological data shall be made public in accordance with relevant State provisions.

Article 24 — Once approved, a plan shall be strictly implemented. The relevant departments of people's governments at or above the county level shall strengthen the monitoring and assessment of plan implementation.

Where an approved plan needs to be amended, it shall be submitted for approval in accordance with the original approval procedures.

The reasonable needs of plans involving land and space use shall be incorporated into the implementation and supervision system of territorial space plans for overall safeguarding.

Chapter III — Protection, Development and Utilization of Water Resources

Article 25 — The State protects water resources, adopts effective measures to protect vegetation, plants trees and grass in light of local conditions, conserves water sources, prevents and controls soil erosion and water pollution, and improves the ecological environment.

Article 26 — The preparation of national economic and social development plans and overall territorial space plans, and the layout of major construction projects, shall be commensurate with local water resource conditions and flood control requirements. In areas short of water resources, restrictions shall be imposed on the scale of cities and on industrial, agricultural and service projects that consume large amounts of water.

The State establishes and improves the system of water resource demonstration for construction projects and relevant plans involving the development and utilization of water resources.

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Article 27 — Where the development and utilization of water resources causes consequences such as degradation of the use function of water areas of rivers and lakes, over-extraction of groundwater, depletion of water sources, land subsidence, seawater intrusion, or water environment pollution, remedial measures shall be taken and the responsibility for remediation shall be assumed.

Where the exploitation of mineral resources or the construction of underground projects causes a decline in the groundwater level, depletion of water sources or land collapse due to drainage, the mining entity or construction entity shall take remedial measures and assume the responsibility for remediation.

Article 28 — The State establishes and improves the system of water function zoning.

The ecological environment administrative department of the State Council shall, together with the development and reform, water administrative and other relevant departments of the State Council, formulate, in light of the level of economic and social development and in accordance with the requirements of water ecological environment protection plans and comprehensive basin plans, the water function zoning for important rivers and lakes designated by the State, and submit it to the State Council for approval. The water function zoning for other rivers and lakes shall be formulated by the ecological environment administrative departments of the people's governments of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government together with the development and reform, water administrative and other relevant departments, submitted to the people's government at the corresponding level or its authorized department for approval, and filed with the ecological environment administrative department of the State Council. Where an approved water function zoning needs to be amended, it shall be submitted for approval in accordance with the original approval procedures.

The ecological environment administrative departments of local people's governments at or above the level of a city divided into districts and the basin ecological environment supervision and management bodies shall monitor the quality of the water ecological environment in water function zones, and where they find that the quality of the water ecological environment fails to meet the requirements, they shall promptly report to the relevant people's government for governance measures to be taken.

Article 29 — The State strengthens the protection of drinking water sources and implements list-based administration of drinking water sources.

The water administrative department of the State Council shall, together with the relevant departments of the State Council, formulate the list of important drinking water sources nationwide. The water administrative departments of the people's governments of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government shall, together with the relevant departments, formulate the lists of other drinking water sources within their respective administrative regions.

The water administrative departments of people's governments at or above the county level shall strengthen the administration of drinking water sources and regularly organize safety assessments of drinking water sources.

Article 30 — The State strengthens the administration and protection of groundwater and prevents and controls over-extraction of groundwater.

The water administrative department of the State Council shall, together with the natural resources administrative department of the State Council, organize the delineation of groundwater over-extraction areas nationwide and publish them to the public in accordance with law. In groundwater over-extraction areas, local people's governments at or above the county level shall take measures to strictly control the extraction of groundwater and gradually achieve a balance between groundwater extraction and replenishment.

The water administrative departments of the people's governments of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government shall, together with the natural resources and other

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relevant departments and as actually needed, comprehensively consider factors such as the delineation of groundwater over-extraction areas, groundwater utilization and geological environment conditions, organize the delineation of areas where groundwater extraction is prohibited and areas where it is restricted within their respective administrative regions, publish them after approval by the people's government of the province, autonomous region or municipality directly under the Central Government, and file them with the water administrative department of the State Council. Where it is genuinely necessary to adjust the areas where groundwater extraction is prohibited or restricted after their delineation, the adjustment shall be made in accordance with the original delineation procedures.

The extraction of groundwater in coastal areas shall undergo scientific demonstration, and measures shall be taken to prevent land subsidence and seawater intrusion.

Article 31 — The State establishes a groundwater reserve system. Except in extraordinary drought years and upon the occurrence of major emergencies, groundwater reserves shall not be used.

Article 32 — The development and utilization of water resources shall adhere to giving priority to conservation and protection and combining benefit with harm elimination, take into account the interests of upstream and downstream, left and right banks, main streams and tributaries, and the relevant areas, give full play to the comprehensive benefits of water resources, and conform to the overall arrangements for flood control.

Article 33 — In developing and utilizing water resources, priority shall be given to meeting the domestic water needs of urban and rural residents, safeguarding basic ecological water use and water for food security, and making overall arrangements for the needs of agriculture, industry, ecological restoration and navigation.

In developing and utilizing water resources in arid and semi-arid areas, the needs of ecological water use shall be fully considered.

Article 34 — No entity or individual may, in diverting, intercepting (impounding) or draining water, harm the public interest or the lawful rights and interests of others.

Article 35 — When people's governments at or above the county level organize the implementation of water transfer projects, they shall carry out comprehensive planning and scientific demonstration, make overall arrangements for the water security and ecological security of the areas from which water is transferred and the areas receiving water, strengthen water-conservation administration in the receiving areas, rationally utilize unconventional water such as local reclaimed water, optimize the allocation of water resources, enhance the carrying capacity of water resources, and prevent damage to the ecological environment.

Article 36 — Local people's governments at or above the county level shall strengthen farmland water conservancy and soil and water conservation, organize the water administrative departments and agricultural and rural departments to coordinate the construction, operation and maintenance of water sources, backbone works of irrigation areas and field canal systems, and establish and improve farmland irrigation and drainage systems; in areas prone to salinization and waterlogging and areas with concentrated saline-alkali cultivated land, measures shall be taken to control and lower the groundwater level.

Article 37 — The State supports the rational development and utilization of hydropower resources, carries out multi-purpose comprehensive development in light of local conditions on rivers rich in hydropower, and strictly controls the development and construction of small hydropower stations.

The construction and renovation of hydropower stations shall protect the ecological environment and make overall arrangements for the needs of flood control, water supply, irrigation, navigation and fishery.

Article 38 — The State encourages the development and utilization of water transport resources. Where permanent river-blocking sluices or dams are newly built, rebuilt or expanded on the migration channels of aquatic organisms or on navigable rivers, the construction entity shall simultaneously build facilities for fish

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passage and vessel passage, or take other remedial measures upon approval by the department authorized by the State Council, and shall properly arrange the protection of aquatic organisms and navigation during construction and impoundment; the expenses incurred shall be borne by the construction entity.

Where a river becomes navigable after sluices or dams are built on a non-navigable river or an artificial waterway, the entity building the sluices or dams shall simultaneously build facilities for vessel passage or reserve positions for such facilities.

Where navigation buildings such as ship locks are built on rivers or artificial waterways, the State may, as appropriate, allow a fee system to be implemented for vessels passing through.

Chapter IV — Allocation and Economical Use of Water Resources

Article 39 — The regulation and storage of runoff and the allocation of water quantities shall be based on comprehensive basin plans, and water quantity allocation plans shall be formulated on a basin basis.

The water quantity allocation plans for areas spanning provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government, and the water quantity dispatching plans for emergency situations such as drought, shall be formulated by the basin management bodies in consultation with the people's governments of the relevant provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government, and shall be implemented after approval by the State Council or a department authorized by the State Council. The water quantity allocation plans for other areas spanning administrative regions, and the water quantity dispatching plans for emergency situations such as drought, shall be formulated by the water administrative department of the people's government at the common next higher level in consultation with the relevant local people's governments, and shall be implemented after approval by the people's government at the corresponding level.

After the water quantity allocation plans and the water quantity dispatching plans for emergency situations such as drought are approved, the relevant local people's governments shall strictly implement them.

Where projects for the development and utilization of water resources are built on rivers between different administrative regions, they shall conform to the approved water quantity allocation plans for the basin and shall be approved by the relevant local people's governments at or above the county level upon submission to the water administrative department of the people's government at the common next higher level or the relevant basin management body.

Article 40 — The water administrative departments of people's governments at or above the county level and basin management bodies shall, in accordance with their administrative authority and on the basis of approved water quantity allocation plans, ecological flow control indicators and the predicted annual incoming water volume, formulate annual water quantity allocation plans and water resources dispatching plans, and implement unified dispatching of water resources. The relevant local people's governments and their relevant departments, and the entities administering water works, shall comply with the unified dispatching of water resources.

The unified dispatching of water resources shall implement total quantity control, section flow (water quantity, water level) control, hierarchical administration and hierarchical responsibility, and shall be dynamically adjusted according to changes in water conditions.

The dispatching of water resources shall be properly coordinated with flood dispatching, and on the premise of ensuring safety, the effective supply of water resources shall be increased through measures such as flood resource utilization and storing water in wet seasons for use in dry seasons.

Article 41 — The State implements a system of total quantity control and water level control for groundwater extraction to ensure the sustainable utilization of groundwater. The formulation and issuance of indicators for total quantity control and water level control of groundwater extraction shall be implemented in accordance

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with relevant State provisions.

Article 42 — The State implements a system combining total quantity control and quota-based administration of water use.

The water administrative department and the standardization administrative department of the State Council shall organize the formulation of national water use quotas for major crops, key industrial products and the service industry. The people's governments of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government may, as actually needed, formulate local water use quotas that are stricter than the national ones; where no national water use quotas have been formulated, they may formulate supplementary local water use quotas.

The water administrative departments of local people's governments at or above the county level shall, together with the relevant departments and on the basis of the water quantity available for use in their administrative regions determined by water use quotas, economic and technical conditions, water quantity allocation plans and groundwater control indicators, formulate annual water use plans for their administrative regions and implement total quantity control over annual water use.

Article 43 — Entities and individuals that draw water resources from rivers, lakes or groundwater shall, in accordance with law, apply to the water administrative department or basin management body for a water-drawing permit, obtain the water-drawing right, and pay the water resources tax in accordance with law, except for the drawing of small quantities of water for domestic use by households and for drinking by scattered free-range and penned livestock and poultry, and for other cases where a water-drawing permit is not required by laws or administrative regulations.

The specific measures for implementing the water-drawing permit system shall be formulated by the State Council.

Article 44 — The State implements differentiated control over water resources based on their carrying capacity. The water administrative department of the State Council shall, together with the natural resources administrative department of the State Council, organize the assessment of water resources carrying capacity, keep abreast of the carrying capacity of water resources and changes therein, and establish and dynamically update a list of areas where water resources are overloaded. In areas where water resources are overloaded, the granting of new water-drawing permits shall be suspended in accordance with relevant State provisions.

The people's governments of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government in areas where water resources are overloaded shall organize the formulation of plans for remediating water resource overloading and implement comprehensive remediation through measures such as water conservation, industrial structure adjustment, scientific water transfer and water source replacement.

Article 45 — Water drawing and use shall be metered and shall be carried out in accordance with the approved water drawing and use plan. Where the quantity of water drawn reaches or exceeds the scale for water drawing, online metering facilities shall be installed, their normal operation shall be ensured, and the metering data shall be transmitted to the water administrative department or basin management body with administrative authority. The scale for water drawing shall be prescribed and published by the water administrative department of the people's government of the province, autonomous region or municipality directly under the Central Government, and filed with the water administrative department of the State Council.

Article 46 — Water use shall be metered and charged. The State establishes and improves a water price formation mechanism commensurate with the level of economic and social development, water resource conditions, water supply costs, the affordability of water users and water conservation requirements, so as to

promote the economical and intensive utilization of water resources.

Where water supplied by water works is used, water fees shall be paid to the water supply entity in accordance with regulations. The specific measures shall be formulated by the people's government at or above the provincial level or its price administrative department.

Article 47 — People's governments at or above the county level and their relevant departments shall strengthen the administration of water conservation and promote water-conservation measures; establish a system for the development and promotion of water-conservation technology, promote new water-conservation technologies and processes, and foster and develop the water-conservation industry.

Article 48 — Water-conservation measure plans shall be formulated and water-conservation facilities shall be constructed as supporting facilities for the construction, reconstruction and expansion of construction projects. Water-conservation facilities shall be designed, constructed and put into use simultaneously with the main works, and their normal operation shall be ensured. The investment in the construction of water-conservation facilities shall be incorporated into the total investment of the construction project.

Article 49 — Local people's governments at or above the county level shall, in light of local water resource conditions, strengthen the treatment and reuse of sewage, incorporate unconventional water such as reclaimed water, collected rainwater, seawater and desalinated seawater, mine (pit) water and brackish water into the unified allocation of water resources, and make overall planning and construction of facilities for the development and utilization of unconventional water.

Article 50 — The State gradually eliminates backward technologies, processes, equipment and products that consume large amounts of water; the specific list shall be formulated and published by the development and reform department of the State Council together with the industry and information technology, water administrative, housing and urban-rural development and other relevant departments of the State Council. The production, import and sale of equipment and products listed in the aforementioned list are prohibited. Users in production and operation shall stop using the technologies, processes, equipment and products listed in the aforementioned list within a prescribed time limit.

Article 51 — Local people's governments at or above the county level shall promote water-conservation irrigation methods and technologies, adopt necessary anti-seepage measures for agricultural water storage and conveyance works, improve the efficiency of agricultural water use, strengthen the construction and renovation of irrigation areas, and develop water-saving agriculture.

Industrial and service enterprises shall adopt advanced and applicable water-conservation technologies, processes and equipment, increase the number of times water is recycled, and improve the rate of water reuse. High-water-consuming industrial enterprises whose water use level exceeds the water use quota shall carry out water-conservation renovation within a prescribed time limit.

Article 52 — Local people's governments at or above the county level shall strengthen the overall planning of domestic, production and ecological water use in urban built-up areas, apply water-conservation requirements to all links of urban planning, construction and governance, and comprehensively promote the construction of water-saving cities.

Public institutions shall play an exemplary role in water conservation, establish and improve water-conservation administration systems, change the mode of water use, strictly implement water use quotas, take targeted water-conservation renovation measures, and improve the efficiency of water resource utilization.

Local people's governments at or above the county level shall take measures to encourage the use of reclaimed water meeting standard requirements. Water for urban greening, road cleaning, car washing and toilet flushing, construction and ecological landscape shall give priority to the use of reclaimed water meeting standard requirements.

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Article 53 — The State implements an ecological protection compensation system and provides compensation to areas, entities and individuals that carry out water ecological environment protection in accordance with regulations or agreements.

The State fosters and regulates the market for water use right trading and supports the lawful trading of water use rights.

Article 54 — Local people's governments at or above the county level shall take measures to promote the coordinated development of urban and rural water supply and enhance the level of safeguarding urban and rural water supply.

Chapter V — Administration and Protection of Rivers and Lakes

Article 55 — The State coordinates the administration and protection of rivers and lakes and establishes a system of regular surveys of rivers and lakes. The water administrative department of the State Council shall organize surveys of rivers and lakes and implement list-based administration of rivers and lakes.

Article 56 — The administration of rivers and lakes shall follow the principle of combining unified basin-based administration with hierarchical region-based administration.

Important rivers and lakes designated by the State, important rivers and lakes spanning provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government, rivers and lakes at the provincial boundaries between provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government, and rivers and lakes at national (border) boundaries shall be administered in accordance with law by the basin management bodies and the water administrative departments of the people's governments of the provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government where the rivers and lakes are located, in accordance with the delineation made by the water administrative department of the State Council. Other rivers and lakes shall be administered in accordance with law by the water administrative departments of local people's governments at or above the county level, in accordance with the delineation made by the water administrative department of the State Council or the basin management bodies.

Article 57 — Management ranges shall be delineated for rivers and lakes. For rivers and lakes with dikes, the management range is the water area, sandbars, beaches, dikes and dike protection land between the dikes on both banks; for rivers and lakes without dikes, the management range is the water area, sandbars and beaches between the historical highest flood level or the designed flood level.

The management ranges of rivers and lakes directly administered by basin management bodies shall be delineated by the basin management bodies together with the relevant local people's governments at or above the county level; the management ranges of other rivers and lakes shall be delineated by the relevant local people's governments at or above the county level. The management ranges of rivers and lakes shall be announced to the public, and signs shall be erected at the boundaries of the management ranges.

Where dikes of rivers and lakes are newly built, rebuilt or expanded, the management ranges of the rivers and lakes shall be adjusted in a timely manner in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article.

Article 58 — It is prohibited to illegally occupy, unlawfully utilize or occupy the water areas and shorelines of rivers and lakes, reclaim lakes to create land, enclose river channels, or fill and bury rivers and lakes. Where occupation or enclosure has already occurred, local people's governments at or above the county level shall organize the return of land to rivers and lakes in a planned manner.

Article 59 — It is prohibited to construct buildings and structures within the management ranges of rivers and lakes that impede flood discharge, or to engage in activities that affect the stability of river regimes, endanger the safety of river banks and dikes, or otherwise impede flood discharge. For rivers and lakes with serious siltation, dredging and ecological restoration shall be carried out in a timely manner; the silt produced may,

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on the premise of ensuring flood control safety and ecological safety and not reducing the actual storage capacity of lakes, be comprehensively utilized and disposed of in light of local conditions.

Water-related construction projects shall follow the principles of genuine necessity, no avoidance and ensuring safety, conform to flood control standards and shoreline control requirements, and shall not endanger dike safety, affect the stability of river regimes, arbitrarily change the use of water areas and beaches, reduce flood discharge and regulation and storage capacity, or shrink water areas; where it is genuinely impossible to avoid reducing flood discharge and regulation and storage capacity or shrinking water areas, necessary equivalent replacement works shall be constructed simultaneously or other necessary functional remedial measures shall be taken.

Before the construction of a water-related construction project commences, its project construction plan shall be submitted to the water administrative department or basin management body for examination and approval. Where it is necessary to expand, rebuild, demolish or damage the original water works due to the construction of a water-related construction project, the construction entity shall bear the expenses for expanding, rebuilding or repairing the water works and the compensation for losses.

Article 60 — The utilization of land within the management ranges of rivers and lakes shall conform to the requirements of flood discharge, water conveyance and ecological environment protection.

No new forest land or cultivated land shall be added within the management ranges of rivers and lakes; where forest land or cultivated land already delineated affects flood control safety, the people's government of the province, autonomous region or municipality directly under the Central Government shall organize its orderly adjustment and withdrawal in accordance with law and in a prudent manner.

Where the construction and administration of nature reserves involve the management ranges of rivers and lakes, the protection needs of rivers and lakes shall be comprehensively considered, flood control requirements shall be met, and the implementation of flood control project construction and administration activities shall be ensured.

Article 61 — The State implements a permit system for the extraction of sand, gravel and soil within the management ranges of rivers and lakes. The specific measures shall be formulated by the State Council.

Basin management bodies and local people's governments at or above the county level shall, in accordance with planning and their administrative authority, delineate areas where extraction is prohibited and prescribe periods when extraction is prohibited, and announce them to the public.

It is prohibited to transport, purchase or sell sand, gravel and soil extracted by entities or individuals that have not lawfully obtained a permit.

Article 62 — Local people's governments at or above the county level may, as actually needed, delineate a shoreline protection range in a certain area extending from the boundary of the management range of rivers and lakes toward the landward side, and strictly control activities affecting flood control safety and the ecological environment within the shoreline protection range. The measures for shoreline protection shall be formulated by the people's governments of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government.

Article 63 — The State strengthens the safeguarding of ecological water use for rivers and lakes. The water administrative departments of people's governments at or above the county level and basin management bodies shall, in accordance with their administrative authority, determine the control indicators for ecological flow at river control sections, the control indicators for ecological water levels of lakes, and the indicators for ecological flow discharge from water works. In determining the control indicators for ecological flow and ecological water levels and the indicators for ecological flow discharge from water works, factors such as water resource conditions, climatic conditions, ecological environment protection requirements and domestic and production water use conditions shall be comprehensively considered, and the opinions of relevant

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departments shall be solicited and studied.

Newly built, rebuilt or expanded water works shall meet the requirements for ecological flow discharge; where existing water works fail to meet the requirements for ecological flow discharge, renovation measures shall be taken.

Water works shall incorporate ecological water use dispatching into their daily operation and dispatching procedures.

Article 64 — For rivers and lakes with deteriorating ecology, people's governments at or above the county level shall strengthen remediation and restoration, make comprehensive use of measures such as ecological water replenishment, biological purification, ecological dredging and interconnection of rivers and lakes, carry out comprehensive remediation of the ecosystems of rivers and lakes, and improve and restore the ecosystems of rivers and lakes.

Chapter VI — Construction and Operation of Water Works

Article 65 — The construction of water works shall conform to comprehensive basin plans. Where water works are built on important rivers and lakes designated by the State and on rivers and lakes spanning provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government, the construction entity shall not commence construction until the relevant basin management body has examined and approved whether the construction conforms to the requirements of the comprehensive basin plan; where water works are built on other rivers and lakes, the construction entity shall not commence construction until the water administrative department of the local people's government at or above the county level has examined and approved whether the construction conforms to the requirements of the comprehensive basin plan. Where the construction of water works involves flood control, it shall be implemented in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Flood Control Law of the People's Republic of China. Where the construction of water works involves other regions and industries, the construction entity shall solicit and study the opinions of the relevant regions and departments in advance.

Article 66 — Those engaging in the construction of water works shall strictly follow the basic construction procedures and ensure the quality and safety of the works. Those engaging in the survey, design, construction, supervision and quality inspection of water works shall lawfully obtain the corresponding qualifications and engage in the relevant activities within the scope permitted by their qualifications.

Where reservoirs, dams, dikes, channels, sluices and other water works are newly built, rebuilt, expanded or reinforced, hydrological and other facilities shall be constructed as supporting facilities in accordance with relevant State provisions.

Water works shall be accepted in accordance with relevant State provisions; works that have not been accepted in accordance with regulations or have failed acceptance shall not be put into use or undergo subsequent construction. The measures for the acceptance of water works shall be formulated by the water administrative department of the State Council and other relevant departments in accordance with their duties.

Article 67 — Where rural collective economic organizations or their members lawfully invest in the construction of water works on land collectively owned by the members of their collective economic organization or on State-owned land used by farmers collectively in accordance with law, they shall administer and rationally use the water works and the water stored therein in accordance with the principle of "whoever invests in and builds, whoever administers and benefits".

The construction of reservoirs by rural collective economic organizations shall be subject to approval by the water administrative department of the local people's government at or above the county level.

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Article 68 — The State implements the policy of developmental resettlement for the resettlement of residents from large and medium-sized reservoirs, properly arranges the subsequent production and life of the resettled residents, and protects the lawful rights and interests of the resettled residents.

Resettlement shall be carried out simultaneously with project construction. The construction entity shall, in accordance with the principles of environmental capacity of the resettlement area and sustainable development, formulate a resettlement plan in light of local conditions, which shall be organized and implemented by the relevant local people's government after approval in accordance with law. The necessary resettlement funds shall be included in the project construction investment plan.

Article 69 — People's governments at or above the county level shall take effective measures to ensure the safety of water works, especially reservoir dams, dikes and sluices. The water administrative departments of people's governments at or above the county level shall, together with the relevant departments, strengthen the supervision and administration of the safety of water works.

The water administrative departments and relevant departments of people's governments at or above the county level and basin management bodies shall, in accordance with their duties, register the water works under their administration and establish water works archives.

Article 70 — The water administrative department of the State Council and the relevant departments of the State Council shall, in accordance with their duties, establish and improve the administration system for the safe operation of water works.

The owners or administering entities of water works shall secure the funds for the operation, management and maintenance of water works, strengthen the maintenance and safety monitoring of water works, and carry out safety appraisals of water works in accordance with relevant regulations, so as to ensure the safe operation of water works.

The water administrative departments and relevant departments of people's governments at or above the county level shall strengthen the guidance and supervision of the operation, management and maintenance of water works, and for water works with potential safety hazards, shall organize the owners or administering entities of the water works to take measures such as hazard removal and reinforcement, demolition and reconstruction or scrapping in accordance with relevant regulations, so as to eliminate safety hazards in a timely manner.

Article 71 — The State protects water works. The project management and protection ranges of water works shall be delineated in accordance with regulations.

For water works administered by the water administrative department of the State Council or basin management bodies, the project management and protection ranges shall be delineated by the water administrative department of the State Council or the basin management bodies in consultation with the people's governments of the relevant provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government. For other water works, the project management and protection ranges shall be delineated and the protection duties shall be defined in accordance with the provisions of the people's governments of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government.

Within the protection ranges of water works, it is prohibited to engage in blasting, well digging, quarrying, soil extraction and other activities that affect the operation of water works or endanger the safety of water works.

Article 72 — The water administrative, natural resources, ecological environment and other relevant departments of people's governments at or above the county level shall take effective measures to strengthen soil and water conservation and geological disaster prevention in reservoir areas, protect and restore the ecological environment of the drawdown zones, and ensure reservoir safety.

It is prohibited to occupy reservoir storage capacity. Where it is genuinely necessary to construct water-related construction projects in reservoir areas, the construction entity shall submit to the water

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administrative department or basin management body for examination and approval in accordance with this Law and take the necessary remedial measures.

Article 73 — No entity or individual may occupy or destroy reservoir dams, dikes, sluices, pumping stations, revetments, or project facilities for flood control, drainage, water supply, irrigation, soil and water conservation, hydrological monitoring or hydrogeological monitoring.

Article 74 — Where the construction of a project occupies agricultural irrigation water sources or irrigation and drainage project facilities, or adversely affects the original irrigation water use or water supply sources, the construction entity shall take corresponding remedial measures; where losses are caused, compensation shall be made in accordance with law.

Article 75 — The water administrative departments of people's governments at or above the county level and basin management bodies shall, on the basis of soliciting and studying the opinions of relevant departments, coordinate the objectives of flood control, drainage, water supply, drought resistance, irrigation, ecology, navigation and power generation, establish a comprehensive dispatching system, and organize the implementation of unified dispatching of water works in accordance with their administrative authority.

Chapter VII — Handling of Water Disputes and Supervision and Inspection

Article 76 — Where water disputes arise between different administrative regions, they shall be handled through consultation; where consultation fails, they shall be adjudicated by the people's government at the common next higher level, and all parties concerned shall comply with the adjudication. Before a water dispute is resolved, neither party may, without reaching an agreement between the parties or the approval of the people's government at the common next higher level, build drainage, water-blocking, water-drawing or water-intercepting (impounding) works within a certain range on both sides of the boundary line of administrative regions, or unilaterally change the status quo of the water.

Article 77 — Water disputes between entities, between individuals, or between entities and individuals shall be resolved through consultation; where the parties are unwilling to consult or consultation fails, they may apply to the local people's government at or above the county level or its authorized department for mediation, or directly bring a civil action before a people's court. Where mediation by the local people's government at or above the county level or its authorized department fails, the parties may bring a civil action before a people's court.

Before a water dispute is resolved, the parties shall not unilaterally change the status quo.

Article 78 — People's governments at or above the county level or their authorized departments have the right to take temporary measures in handling water disputes in accordance with law, and the parties concerned shall comply.

Article 79 — The water administrative departments of people's governments at or above the county level, basin management bodies and their subordinate management bodies shall strengthen supervision and inspection, investigate and deal with illegal acts in accordance with law, and carry out information sharing, joint monitoring and coordinated law enforcement as actually needed.

Article 80 — When performing their supervision and inspection duties under this Law, the water administrative departments of people's governments at or above the county level, basin management bodies and their subordinate management bodies have the right to take the following measures:

(1) consulting and reproducing relevant documents, certificates and materials, and sealing up documents and materials that may be transferred, destroyed, concealed or tampered with;

(2) requiring the inspected entity or individual to provide explanations on matters relating to the implementation of this Law;

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(3) entering the production premises of the inspected entity or individual to conduct investigations;

(4) ordering the inspected entity or individual to stop acts violating this Law and to perform statutory obligations; and

(5) sealing up or seizing premises, facilities or property suspected of being involved in illegal activities.

When the water administrative departments, basin management bodies and their subordinate management bodies carry out supervision and inspection in accordance with law, the inspected entity or relevant personnel shall cooperate and shall not refuse or obstruct.

Article 81 — The personnel of the water administrative departments of people's governments at or above the county level, basin management bodies and their subordinate management bodies who perform supervision and inspection duties under this Law (hereinafter referred to as water administration supervision and inspection personnel) shall be devoted to their duties and enforce the law impartially.

When performing supervision and inspection duties, water administration supervision and inspection personnel shall present their law enforcement credentials to the inspected entity or individual.

Article 82 — The water administrative departments of people's governments at or above the county level shall strengthen the training and supervision of water administration supervision and inspection personnel and improve their law enforcement capacity and level.

Article 83 — Where the people's government at or above the county level or the water administrative department at a higher level discovers that the water administrative department at the corresponding or lower level has committed illegal acts or dereliction of duty in supervision and inspection work, it shall order it to make corrections within a prescribed time limit.

Chapter VIII — Legal Liability

Article 84 — Where staff members of the relevant departments of the State Council, local people's governments at or above the county level and their relevant departments, basin management bodies and their subordinate management bodies neglect their duties, abuse their power, or engage in malpractice for personal gain in the protection, development, utilization and conservation of water resources and the prevention and control of water disasters, they shall be given sanctions in accordance with law.

Article 85 — Where a water dispute arises between different administrative regions and any of the following acts is committed, the responsible leading personnel and directly responsible personnel shall be given sanctions in accordance with law:

(1) refusing to implement the water quantity allocation plan or the water quantity dispatching plan;

(2) refusing to comply with the unified dispatching of water resources;

(3) refusing to implement the adjudication of the people's government at the common next higher level; or

(4) before the water dispute is resolved, unilaterally changing the status quo of the water in violation of this Law without reaching an agreement between the parties or the approval of the people's government at the common next higher level. However, temporary measures lawfully taken in emergencies shall be excepted.

Article 86 — Where anyone draws water without approval in violation of this Law, the water administrative department of the people's government at or above the county level, the basin management body or its subordinate management body shall, in accordance with its authority, order the cessation of the illegal act, order the applicant to complete the procedures for a water-drawing permit within a prescribed time limit, and impose a fine of not less than RMB 20,000 but not more than RMB 200,000; where the procedures are not completed within the time limit or the completion is not approved, it shall order the removal of the water-drawing facilities within a prescribed time limit; where the facilities are not removed within the time

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limit, they shall be forcibly removed, and the expenses incurred shall be borne by the offending entity or individual.

Where anyone draws groundwater without authorization within areas where groundwater extraction is prohibited or restricted, the water administrative department of the people's government at or above the county level, the basin management body or its subordinate management body shall, in accordance with its authority, order the cessation of the illegal act, order the removal of the water-drawing facilities within a prescribed time limit, and impose a fine of not less than RMB 50,000 but not more than RMB 500,000; where the facilities are not removed within the time limit, they shall be forcibly removed, and the expenses incurred shall be borne by the offending entity or individual.

Where anyone draws water not in accordance with the conditions prescribed in the approved water-drawing permit, the water administrative department of the people's government at or above the county level, the basin management body or its subordinate management body shall, in accordance with its authority, order the cessation of the illegal act and impose a fine of not less than RMB 20,000 but not more than RMB 100,000; where the circumstances are serious, the water-drawing permit shall be revoked.

Article 87 — Where anyone whose water-drawing quantity reaches or exceeds the scale for water drawing fails to install online metering facilities, or the online metering facilities are not operating normally, in violation of this Law, the water administrative department of the local people's government at or above the county level, the basin management body or its subordinate management body shall, in accordance with its authority, order the installation, replacement or repair within a prescribed time limit and impose a fine of not more than RMB 20,000; where the circumstances are serious, a fine of not less than RMB 20,000 but not more than RMB 200,000 shall be imposed. Where the installation, replacement or repair is not completed within the time limit, measures to restrict water drawing shall be taken or the water-drawing permit shall be revoked.

Article 88 — Where the water-conservation facilities of a construction project are not designed, constructed and put into use simultaneously with the main works, or fail to meet the requirements prescribed by the State, and are put into use without authorization, in violation of this Law, the relevant departments and bodies of the people's government at or above the county level shall, in accordance with their authority, order corrections within a prescribed time limit and impose a fine of not less than RMB 20,000 but not more than RMB 200,000; where corrections are not made within the time limit, a fine of not less than RMB 200,000 but not more than RMB 2,000,000 shall be imposed, and measures to restrict water use shall be taken or the water-drawing permit shall be revoked.

Where the water-conservation facilities of a construction project are not operating normally, corrections shall be ordered within a prescribed time limit and a fine of not more than RMB 20,000 shall be imposed; where corrections are not made within the time limit, a fine of not less than RMB 20,000 but not more than RMB 200,000 shall be imposed, and measures to restrict water use shall be taken or the water-drawing permit shall be revoked.

Article 89 — Where anyone produces, imports, sells, or uses in production or operation the backward technologies, processes, equipment and products that consume large amounts of water and are listed in the list, in violation of this Law, punishment shall be imposed in accordance with the Ecological Environment Code of the People's Republic of China and other laws.

Article 90 — Where a high-water-consuming industrial enterprise's water use level exceeds the water use quota and it fails to carry out water-conservation renovation within the prescribed time limit, in violation of this Law, the water administrative department of the people's government at or above the county level, the basin management body or its subordinate management body shall, in accordance with its authority, order corrections and may impose a fine of not more than RMB 100,000; where it refuses to make corrections, a fine of not less than RMB 100,000 but not more than RMB 500,000 shall be imposed, and where the

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circumstances are serious, measures to restrict water use shall be taken or the water-drawing permit shall be revoked.

Article 91 — Where anyone illegally occupies, unlawfully utilizes or occupies the water areas and shorelines of rivers and lakes, reclaims lakes to create land, encloses river channels, or fills and buries rivers and lakes, in violation of this Law, the water administrative department of the people's government at or above the county level, the basin management body or its subordinate management body shall, in accordance with its authority, order the cessation of the illegal act, order the demolition of the illegal buildings and structures within a prescribed time limit, order restoration to the original state, and impose a fine of not less than RMB 20,000 but not more than RMB 200,000; where demolition, removal or restoration is not completed within the time limit, forcible demolition and removal shall be carried out and restoration to the original state shall be carried out on behalf of the offender, and the expenses incurred shall be borne by the offending entity or individual.

Article 92 — Where anyone constructs buildings or structures within the management ranges of rivers and lakes that impede flood discharge, or engages in activities that affect the stability of river regimes, endanger the safety of river banks and dikes or otherwise impede flood discharge, in violation of this Law, the water administrative department of the people's government at or above the county level, the basin management body or its subordinate management body shall, in accordance with its authority, order the cessation of the illegal act, order the demolition of the illegal buildings and structures within a prescribed time limit, order restoration to the original state, and impose a fine of not less than RMB 20,000 but not more than RMB 200,000; where demolition or restoration is not completed within the time limit, forcible demolition shall be carried out and restoration to the original state shall be carried out on behalf of the offender, and the expenses incurred shall be borne by the offending entity or individual.

Where anyone builds water works or water-related construction projects without authorization without the approval of the water administrative department or basin management body, the water administrative department of the people's government at or above the county level, the basin management body or its subordinate management body shall, in accordance with its authority, order the cessation of the illegal act, order the completion of the relevant procedures within a prescribed time limit, and impose a fine of not less than RMB 20,000 but not more than RMB 200,000; where the procedures are not completed within the time limit or the completion is not approved, it shall order the demolition of the illegally built water works or water-related construction projects within a prescribed time limit; where demolition is not carried out within the time limit, forcible demolition shall be carried out, and the expenses incurred shall be borne by the offending entity or individual.

Where anyone, with the approval of the water administrative department or basin management body, fails to build water works or water-related construction projects in accordance with the requirements, the water administrative department of the people's government at or above the county level, the basin management body or its subordinate management body shall, in accordance with its authority, order corrections within a prescribed time limit and impose a fine of not less than RMB 10,000 but not more than RMB 100,000; where corrections are not made within the time limit, a fine of not less than RMB 20,000 but not more than RMB 200,000 shall be imposed. Where the construction of water works or water-related construction projects seriously affects flood discharge, demolition and restoration to the original state shall be ordered within a prescribed time limit, and a fine of not less than RMB 20,000 but not more than RMB 200,000 shall be imposed; where demolition is not carried out within the time limit, forcible demolition shall be carried out and restoration to the original state shall be carried out on behalf of the offender, and the expenses incurred shall be borne by the offending entity or individual.

Article 93 — Where anyone engages in the extraction of sand, gravel and soil without obtaining a permit, in violation of this Law, the water administrative department of the people's government at or above the county level, the basin management body or its subordinate management body shall, in accordance with its

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authority, order the cessation of the illegal act, confiscate the illegally extracted sand, gravel and soil and the illegal gains as well as the vessels, equipment and tools used for the illegal activities, and concurrently impose a fine of not less than two times but not more than twenty times the value of the illegally extracted sand, gravel and soil.

Where anyone extracts sand, gravel and soil not in accordance with the conditions prescribed in the approved permit, in violation of this Law, the water administrative department of the people's government at or above the county level, the basin management body or its subordinate management body shall, in accordance with its authority, order the cessation of the illegal act, confiscate the illegally extracted sand, gravel and soil and the illegal gains, and concurrently impose a fine of not less than one time but not more than two times the value of the illegally extracted sand, gravel and soil; where the circumstances are serious or the extraction is carried out in areas or periods where extraction is prohibited, the illegally extracted sand, gravel and soil and the illegal gains as well as the vessels, equipment and tools used for the illegal activities shall be confiscated, the sand extraction permit shall be revoked, and a fine of not less than two times but not more than twenty times the value of the illegally extracted sand, gravel and soil shall be concurrently imposed.

Where anyone transports, purchases or sells sand, gravel and soil extracted by entities or individuals that have not lawfully obtained a permit, in violation of this Law, the water administrative department of the people's government at or above the county level, the basin management body or its subordinate management body, the relevant maritime administration body, and other relevant departments of the people's government at or above the county level shall, in accordance with their authority, order the cessation of the illegal act, confiscate the illegally transported, purchased or sold sand, gravel and soil and the illegal gains, and concurrently impose a fine of not less than RMB 20,000 but not more than RMB 200,000; where the circumstances are serious, a fine of not less than RMB 200,000 but not more than RMB 2,000,000 shall be concurrently imposed.

Article 94 — Where newly built, rebuilt or expanded water works fail to meet the requirements for ecological flow discharge, in violation of this Law, the water administrative department of the people's government at or above the county level, the basin management body or its subordinate management body shall, in accordance with its authority, order corrections within a prescribed time limit, give a warning, and impose a fine of not less than RMB 10,000 but not more than RMB 100,000; where the circumstances are serious, a fine of not less than RMB 100,000 but not more than RMB 500,000 shall be concurrently imposed.

Article 95 — Where any of the following acts is committed, the water administrative department of the people's government at or above the county level, the basin management body or its subordinate management body shall, in accordance with its authority, order the cessation of the illegal act, order restoration to the original state within a prescribed time limit, confiscate the illegal gains, and impose a fine of not less than RMB 50,000 but not more than RMB 500,000:

(1) engaging in blasting, well digging, quarrying, soil extraction and other activities within the protection ranges of water works that affect the operation of water works or endanger the safety of water works; or

(2) occupying or destroying reservoir dams, dikes, sluices, pumping stations, revetments, or project facilities for flood control, drainage, water supply, irrigation, soil and water conservation, hydrological monitoring or hydrogeological monitoring.

Article 96 — Where anyone violates this Law under circumstances for which lighter or mitigated punishment or exemption from punishment is prescribed in the Administrative Penalty Law of the People's Republic of China, lighter or mitigated punishment or exemption from punishment shall be applied in accordance with its provisions.

Article 97 — Where anyone harms the public interest or the lawful rights and interests of others by diverting, intercepting (impounding) or draining water, it shall bear civil liability in accordance with law.

Article 98 — Where anyone violates this Law and the act constitutes a violation of public security administration, public security administrative penalties shall be imposed by the public security organ in accordance with law; where the act constitutes a crime, criminal liability shall be pursued in accordance with law.

Chapter IX — Supplementary Provisions

Article 99 — For the purposes of this Law, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) "water works" means all kinds of works for the protection, development, utilization, control and allocation of water resources on rivers, lakes and groundwater sources; and

(2) "water-related construction projects" means wharf projects (including ferry crossings), bridge projects, road projects, railway projects, pipe (tunnel) projects, cable projects, shipbuilding (repairing and dismantling) projects, channel regulation projects, beach and bank regulation projects, and water-drawing and drainage facilities that are constructed across, through, alongside dikes of or adjacent to rivers.

Article 100 — Where international treaties or agreements concluded or acceded to by the People's Republic of China contain provisions different from those of this Law, the provisions of the international treaties or agreements shall apply, except for the provisions to which the People's Republic of China has declared reservations.

Article 101 — For activities related to flood control, where the Flood Control Law of the People's Republic of China or other relevant laws provide otherwise, those provisions shall apply.

Article 102 — This Law shall come into force on March 22, 2027.

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