

GOVT. OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL
TERRITORY OF DELHI



सत्यमेव जयते



WATER POLICY FOR DELHI

2017

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DELHI JAL BOARD
IN COLLABORATION WITH



INDIAN NATIONAL TRUST FOR ART AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

PREFACE

NCT Delhi constitutes a small sub-basin of the Yamuna river. The city is greatly dependent on external water resources having little of its own. The city is economically vibrant, being the economic engine of north India, and thus attracts many migrants resulting in a rapid population growth and commensurate demand for water.

So far NCT Delhi has focused on augmenting supplies from distant basins [the last augmentation being from Tehri Dam in 2006], plundering its aquifers, fire-fighting summer crises, showing indifference to the emergent scarcity at the first sign of monsoon showers and generally engaged in service related and billing issues.

A comprehensive strategic approach to the water sector has been absent. In 2011, Delhi Jal Board CEO Shri Ramesh Negi, initiated the task of formulating a water policy with the objective of ensuring water security for Delhi in the face of an uncertain resource scenario. Without a policy the water sector actions in Delhi will remain flavoured with ad hocism with changes in political governance.

The draft policy document was deliberated in 4 workshops where non-govt. experts, concerned NGOs, RWAs participated. In January, 2015 the document was posted on DJB website inviting public comments. Further, a fifth and final workshop on 10 September, 2015 was inaugurated by Hon. Chief Minister, Delhi, with participation from various govt. agencies and civil society organizations. Comments were invited from interested parties through newspaper advertisements. While these were welcomed it is clear that there is a great need for water literacy at all levels.

Subsequent to consideration of all inputs the final policy document is presented in the following pages. This is but the first step in a long road and not the end of the matter. The policy, to be effective, needs to be operationalized through the deliberation of relevant sub-groups. Policy implementation brings results in the long run. The process requires consistent support at the political level. Otherwise the policy would be remembered only at the time of crisis and then forgotten. Let us remember the wise saying :

“ DON'T DIG A WELL WHEN YOU ARE THIRSTY”

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