

By on-line / E-mail

C.No.TS3/17316/2021

Office of the Principal Chief Conservator  
of Forests (Head of Department),  
Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet, Chennai-15.

Dated: 15.11.2021.

Sub Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Chennai Forest Circle / Chennai Forest Division - Proposal for diversion of 1.569 ha of forest land in Nanmangalam RF for Chennai Metro Rail Limited Phase II C5-06 Madhavaram to Sholinganallur corridor Nanmangalam forest land required for elevated metro Station in Chengalpattu District – Forest clearance proposal forwarded - Regarding.

- Ref 1 Online application uploaded by the User Agency – Chennai Metro Rail Limited Chennai, Admin Building, Poonamalle High road, Koyambedu Chennai 107 - Proposal No. FP/TN/Rail/141594/2021, dated 21.04.2021 and resubmission of proposal on 22.06.2021 and 20.07.2021
- 2 Principal Chief Conservator of Forests letter No. TS3/17316/2021 dated 26.08.2021
- 3 Part-II of Form-A uploaded by the District Forest Officer, Chennai Division on 07.10.2021
- 4 Part-III of Form-A uploaded by the Conservator of Forests Chennai Circle on 03.11.2021
- 5 Conservator of Forests, Chennai Circle Ref. No. D/6473/2021, dated 09.11.2021

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Attention of the Conservator of Forests is invited to the references cited.

1) In the references 1<sup>st</sup> cited above, Chennai Metro Rail Limited, Chennai Admin Building, Poonamalle High road, Koyambedu Chennai 107 has uploaded online forest clearance application under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 1.569 ha of forest land in Nanmangalam RF for Chennai Metro Rail Limited Phase II C5-06 Madhavaram to Sholinganallur corridor in Nanmangalam forest land required for elevated Metro Station in Chengalpattu District in Chennai Forest Division area.

2) In the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests reference 2<sup>nd</sup> cited, the proposal had been forwarded to the District Forest Officer, Chennai Division for necessary follow up action. While forwarding the forest clearance proposal to the



District Forest Officer, instruction was issued to adhere the orders issued by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) in O.A No. 112 of 2021 dated 13.07.2021 while processing the forest clearance proposal.

3) In the forest clearance proposal forwarded by the Circle, following shortcomings have been noticed.

i) Authenticated hard copy of Part-II of Form-A has not been furnished by the District Forest Officer.

ii) As per the details uploaded in the table of species-wise girth-class wise enumeration of trees, 112 number of misc trees are available in the proposed forest diversion area. However the status of the trees to be felled in the project area has not been reported (Planted trees or Spontaneous growth).

iii) For the proposed diversion of 1.569 ha of forest land, compensatory afforestation scheme to an extent of 3.14 ha has been selected in Kumili RF of Tambaram Range and CA scheme estimate with abstract to an financial outlay of Rs. 149.16 lakhs has been uploaded.

In this abstract report, amount towards NPV, compensation for the damages caused on the existing infrastructures like compound wall, chain link fencing, amount towards felling and transportation of trees to be felled etc have been included.

a) As per Government of India guidelines, amount towards Compensatory afforestation scheme and Net Present Value of forest area etc has to be recovered from the user agency and credited in the CAMPA account.

Hence CA scheme estimate with abstract of the CA scheme alone should be uploaded in the CA scheme section.

b) Other levies/details on compensation amount for creation of infrastructures has to be uploaded under additional details information details section.

c) Other levies like Felling and transportation cost of trees to be felled has to be deposited with District Forest Officer for immediate work execution.

d) In the document uploaded for the site suitability certificate of CA area, it has been reported that the selected CA area found suitable for afforestation as well as from management point of view and it is also easier to protect the land with existing staff. However one protection mazdoor till the maintenance period has been proposed at a cost of Rs. 22.60 lakhs. This should be justified.



e) In the Brief note on vulnerability of the forest area prone for erosion, it has been reported that the Nanmangalam RF being open forest with poor density prone susceptible to splash and rill, erosion. Without compensating the forest area in the already open forest with poor density in Nanmangalam RF, CA scheme has been proposed in Kumily RF. Reason for not selecting CA scheme area in Nanmangalam RF has not been reported.

f) Justification for providing amount towards awareness creation has not been furnished.

g) Further, in this proposed forest diversion area, recovery of amount for the expenditure spent for construction of compound wall over a distance of 985 m and Chain Link Fencing over distance of 15 m has been proposed. It is not clearly mentioned that the amount to be recovered from the user agency is inclusive of amount involved for reconstruction of the existing structures with escalation cost involved for the project in subsequent year.

iv) In the Part-II of Form A, density of forest area reported as 0.4 and eco class of forest area as 4. However Net Present Value of the forest land proposed to be recovered from the user agency with Eco class III in open forest category. This needs correction with appropriate value of forest land as per the Government of India guidelines.

v) Kml file uploaded for the CA scheme has not been displayed in the google earth map with area properties for checking, hence fresh kml file has to be uploaded.

vii) The User Agency has requested forest area diversion for a period of 99 years. The District Forest Officer, Chennai Division has not specified any period for the proposed forest diversion area and the Conservator of Forests, Chennai Circle has recommended the forest area diversion period for a period of one year.

Normally forest area diversion proposals are recommended for a period of 20 years for the road / railway/ transmission project involving forest area diversion proposals.

Reason for the short period of recommendation has not been reported in the project proposal.

viii) While forwarding the forest clearance proposal to the District Forest Officer instruction was issued to adhere the orders issued by the Hon'ble National



Green Tribunal (SZ) in O.A No. 112 of 2021 dated 13.07.2021 while processing the forest clearance proposal.

In District Forest Officer, Chennai Division letter No. 3616/2019/D, dated 07.10.2021 uploaded in the CA scheme section, it has been reported that National Green Tribunal has ordered the following.

a) The 3<sup>rd</sup> respondent CMRL is directed not to proceed with the project along the Nanmangalam RF area without getting necessary permission/approval under FC Act, 1980.

b) The Forest Department is directed to consider the application (if any) filed by CMRL and pass appropriate orders strictly in accordance with law. Applying the guidelines provided under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for converting the portion of forest area for non forestry purpose taking into account if biological diversity available in that area and providing necessary precautionary measures to protect the biological diversity in that area as well as without delay.

c) The CMRL is also directed to strictly comply with the condition (if any) to be imposed by the Forest Department and also carry out all the recommendations that have been suggested by the expert agency through which they have conducted the environment impact assessment and biological diversity assessment while carrying out the project taking into account that the protection of biodiversity is highly necessary for protecting the environment as well.

Action on compliance on the above condition No. b and c have not been reported in the project proposal.

The above shortcomings may be rectified and additional details required for processing the forest clearance proposal may be uploaded in the web portal early.

Sd/- V. Naganathan,  
For Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Department)

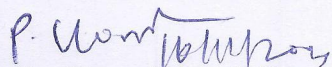
To

The Conservator of Forests, Chennai Circle, Chennai.

The District Forest Officer, Chennai Division, Chennai.

Copy to the Chennai Metro Rail Limited, Chennai Admin Building, Poonamalle High Road, Koyambedu, Chennai 107-17 (User Agency)

/ True copy / By order /

  
Senior Draughting Officer.