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सत्यमेव जयते

भारतसरकार  
**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
 पर्यावरण ,वनएवंजलवायुपरिवर्तनमंत्रालय  
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &  
 CLIMATE CHANGE**  
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F.No.4-TNB094/2022-CHN/ 282

Date 03<sup>rd</sup> March, 2023

To

The Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu,  
 Environment & Forests Department,  
 Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009

**Subject: Diversion of 2.5553 ha of forest land for widening and improvement of existing carriage way to 4-laning of Poondiyankuppam-Sathanathapuram section of NH-45A in the State of Tamil Nadu under NHDP Phase IV (Pkg-3) Bridge across Gopalamudram RF in Nagapattinam District in favour of NHAI, PIU, Puducherry, Bommaiypalayam, Tamil Nadu- Reg**

Madam

Please refer to the State Government letter Nos.11662/FR.10/2022-1 dated 12.09.2022 and online application No.FP/TN/ROAD/151511/2022 seeking prior approval of the Government of India in accordance with Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the above mentioned project. The project was accorded in-principle approval (Stage-I) by the Central Government vide letter dated 22.09.2022. The State Government vide letter No.11662/FR.10/2022-3 dated 21.02.2023 have reported compliance to the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval;

After careful consideration of the compliance report submitted by the State Government, I am directed to convey the Central Government's **final approval (Stage-II)** under Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of **2.5553 ha** of forest land for widening and improvement of existing carriage way to 4-laning of Poondiyankuppam-Sathanathapuram section of NH-45A in the State of Tamil Nadu under NHDP Phase IV (Pkg-3) Bridge across Gopalamudram RF in Nagapattinam District in favour of NHAI, PIU, Puducherry, Bommaiypalayam, Tamil Nadu, **for a period of 20 years**, subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;

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- (ii) Demarcation of the proposed forest area shall be carried out by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 meters at the cost of the User Agency;
- (iii) The State Forest Department shall carry out compensatory **afforestation over an extent of 5.2 ha of Degraded Forest Land identified in Point Calimere wildlife Sanctuary, in Kodiakarai Range, from the amount already been realized from the User Agency;**
- (iv) **Identified CA area and CA scheme shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;**
- (v) Additional amount of the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any, becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency;
- (vi) The User Agency shall construct retaining walls and check walls wherever required, by consulting the DFO concerned, at the project cost;
- (vii) The State Forest Department shall raise avenue plantation all along the roadside at the project cost with maintenance of 7-10 years at the cost of User Agency;
- (viii) **Felling of trees shall be carried out wherever necessary and the User Agency and the State Government shall strictly comply with the recommendation of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India /CEC in the matter of felling of trees of spontaneous growth;**
- (ix) **As the wildlife like Palm civet, Monitor lizard, Jackal, Cobra, etc wildlife present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion, the site specific Wildlife mitigation plan approved by the CWLW shall be implemented from the amount already been realized from the User Agency and all other necessary mitigation measures for ensuring free flow of the Wildlife from one part of the forest to the other whenever such forest is divided by roads shall be provided as directed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, at the project cost ;**
- (x) Construction of culverts / bridges, if any, over the natural streams/rivers/ canals shall be done in such a manner that it does not hamper the natural course of water, does not give rise



to water-logging, and also does not hamper movement of wild animals. **The pillars, if necessary to be constructed in the river, then proper precaution may be taken to ensure that it does not hamper the natural course of water;**

- (xi) Roadside cuttings and fillings which require engineering support shall be provided as per the instructions of the DFO concerned so as to stabilize the soil;
- (xii) The dug out material / overburden shall be dumped outside the forest area. Storage of any material shall not be done in the forest area;
- (xiii) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
- (xiv) The User Agency shall provide fire wood preferably alternate fuel to labourers working at the site to avoid damage/tree felling and no labour camp shall be established inside the forest area;
- (xv) Disturbance shall be kept minimum by creating labour camps outside the forest area as far as possible and it shall be the responsibility of the User Agency to ensure that the labourers & staff engaged in execution of work do not destruct nearby forest flora & fauna;
- (xvi) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed **2.5553 ha** and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal;
- (xvii) The forest land proposed for diversion shall under no circumstances be transferred or sublet to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
- (xviii) The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;
- (xix) Any other conditions that the Central Government or Regional Officer (Central) of Integrated Regional Office, Chennai may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, shall be complied by the User Agency;

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(xx) In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions the User Agency is liable for penal action as per the rules / guidelines issued under FCA, 1980;

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(K.Karthikeyan)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, Guindy Velachery Main Road, Guindy, Chennai - 32
2. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, Guindy Velachery Main Road, Guindy, Chennai - 32
3. IGF, ROHQ, MoEF&CC, New Delhi -110003 for information please
4. National Highways Authority of India, **PIU-Puducherry Street:#29, Sun City, ECR, Bommaiypalayam, Tamil Nadu-605104**[nhaipuducherry@gmail.com](mailto:nhaipuducherry@gmail.com)
5. Guard File.

Sd/-

(K.Karthikeyan)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)