



भारत सरकार  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND  
CLIMATE CHANGE



एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, जम्मू / Integrated Regional  
Office, Jammu

F.No.: 9-JKC002/2021-CHA

Dated: 08.05.2021

To

Commissioner Secretary,  
Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment,  
U.T. of Jammu & Kashmir,  
Civil Secretariat  
Jammu & Kashmir  
([csforestjk@gmail.com](mailto:csforestjk@gmail.com))

**Sub: Diversion of 49.5904 ha of forest land for approach road (17.814 km in length) starting from km 82.00 of NH-1 at Sitkari village (Sonmarg) and ending at Western Portal of Zojila Tunnel near Baltal Camp. This project will provide all weather connectivity from Srinagar to Kargil-Leh which is strategically important for national security under Forest Division Sindh & District Ganderbal, UT of Jammu & Kashmir (Online Proposal No. FP/JK/Road/48999/2020)**

Ref: (i) Nodal Officer J&K letter no. PCCF/FCA/3170/4599-4600 dated 13.02.2021  
(ii) Minutes of the 37<sup>th</sup> meeting of REC dated 16/02/2021  
(iii) Letter of Govt of J&K Forest, Ecology and Env no FST/Land/Parivesh/36/2020 dated 19/04/2021

Sir,

Please refer to the above cited subject and letters seeking prior approval of the Central Government for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purpose in accordance with section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Vide this office letter of even no dated 22.02.2021 *in-principle* approval was accorded after approval by REC in its 37<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 16/02/2021. The compliance of Stage-I was received vide letter no. FST/Land/Parivesh/36/2020 dated 19/04/2021 of Govt of J&K.

2. After careful examination of the proposal of the Govt of J&K, **approval is hereby conveyed** for diversion of **49.5904 ha** of forest land for the above mentioned project, subject to the following conditions:

- i) Legal status of the forest land will remain unchanged;
- ii) Minimum number of trees/plants and in any case not more than 474 trees and 273 plants will be removed;
- iii) Compensatory afforestation will be carried out over 99.18 ha of land on Comp No. 65 (b)/Sindh, village Sonmarg and Comp no. 65 (b)/Sindh village Rezon of

- Kullan Block, Sindh Range, Tehsil Kangan, District Ganderbal as per proposed scheme, at a cost of Rs.346.365/- lakhs provided by the user agency;
- iv) Additional CA will be carried out over 0.546 ha of land on Comp No. 63 (a)/Sindh, Village Sonmarg, District Ganderbal as per proposed scheme, at a cost of Rs.7.183/- lakhs provided by the user agency;
  - v) Compensatory afforestation will be done within one year from the date of issue of final approval over the extent of land as approved, out of the funds provided by the user agency.
  - vi) The CEO, State CAMPA Authority shall ensure release of funds under CAMPA to the DFO for raising CA plantation as per CA scheme approved by this office;
  - vii) The DFO shall ensure taking up CA plantations at approved CA site and shall not approved the sites without obtaining the permission of the competent authority.
  - viii) The forest land will not be used for any other purpose than that mentioned in the proposal;
  - ix) The forest land proposed to be diverted shall, under no circumstances, be transferred to any other agency, department, or person without approval of the Central Government;
  - x) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
  - xi) The user agency shall raise strip plantation on both side and central verge of the road at the project cost as per IRC specification with maintenance of seven to ten years;
  - xii) Speed regulating signage will be erected along the road at regular intervals in the Protected Areas/Forest Areas;
  - xiii) The user agency shall provide suitable under/over pass in Protected Area/Forest Area as per recommendation of CWLW/NBWL/FAC/REC;
  - xiv) User Agency shall obtain wildlife clearance as per the provision of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, if applicable;
  - xv) The user agency shall carry out muck disposal at pre-designated sites as per the scheme approved by the Forest Department. The required soil conservation measures should be taken up by the user agency for which fund should be provided as per the current rate of works;
  - xvi) No damage will be done to the adjoining forest land;
  - xvii) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
  - xviii) The trees should be felled under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
  - xix) The user agency shall pay additional amount of NPV as and when increased on the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court;
  - xx) The trees should be felled under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
  - xxi) The required soil conservation measures should be taken up by the user agency for which fund should be provided as per the current rate of works;
  - xxii) The User Agency shall provide firewood preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;
  - xxiii) Any other condition that this Regional Office may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
  - xxiv) The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above conditions to the UT Administration and to the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry regularly;
  - xxv) It will be the responsibility of the UT Administration/User Agency to obtain all other prior approvals/clearances under all other relevant Acts/Rules/ Court's

Rulings/instructions, etc., including environmental clearance, as applicable to this proposal;

4. The Ministry may revoke/suspend the clearance if implementation of any of the above conditions is not satisfactory. **UT Administration shall ensure fulfillment of these conditions through forest department.**

Yours faithfully,

Sd

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(K Z Bhutia)  
**Regional Officer,  
IRO, MoEF&CC, Jammu**

Copy to:-

1. The ADGF (FC), Ministry of Environment, Forests, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh, Aliganj, New Delhi ([adgfc-mef@nic.in](mailto:adgfc-mef@nic.in)).
2. The Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), U.T. of Jammu & Kashmir, Forest Complex, Sheikh Bagh, Near Lal Chowk, Srinagar, UT of Jammu Kashmir ([pccfjkforest@gmail.com](mailto:pccfjkforest@gmail.com)).
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), U.T. of Jammu & Kashmir, Forest Complex, Sheikh Bagh, Near Lal Chowk, Srinagar, UT of Jammu Kashmir ([ccffcajk1@gmail.com](mailto:ccffcajk1@gmail.com)).
4. CEO, CAMPA O/o PCCF (HoFF), U.T. of Jammu & Kashmir, Forest Complex, Sheikh Bagh, Near Lal Chowk, Srinagar, UT of Jammu Kashmir. ([jkcampacell@gmail.com](mailto:jkcampacell@gmail.com)).
5. The Divisional Forest Officer, Sindh Forest Division and District Ganderbal, UT of Jammu Kashmir.
6. NHIDCL PMU-SONAMARG, Zmorh camp site, Gagangir, Sonmarg, District Ganderbal, UT of Jammu & Kashmir ([nhidcl.sonamarg@gmail.com](mailto:nhidcl.sonamarg@gmail.com))

