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Date : 02.03.2022

CCF's RECOMMENDATION REPORT ON PROPOSAL FOR THE DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TWIN TUNNEL (2+2 LANE) WITH FOUR LINE APPROACHES (FROM EXISTING ROADS) FOR PROVIDING DIRECT CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN ANAKKAMPOIL – KALLADI – MEPPADI IN KOZHICKODE AND WAYANAD DISTRICTS OF KERALA STATE

The proposal for the diversion of 17.263 Ha. of forest land for the construction of twin tunnel (2+2 lane) with four line approaches (from existing roads) for providing direct connectivity between Anakkampoil – Kalladi – Meppadi in Kozhikkode and Wayanad Districts is recommended by the undersigned on the following grounds.

Grounds:

1. Presently the National Highway 766 connects Kozhikkode district with Wayanad district and it to Karnataka State beyond. With increase in vehicular traffic there is heavy congestion along winding Ghat Roads, which is a two lane road. In case of emergencies a safe lane for evacuation is necessary and the proposed tunnel road shall serve the purpose.
2. The proposed area does not form part of any protected area/heritage site/site of archaeological importance/defence establishments.
3. The required land is barest minimum.
4. No displacement of families is required due to this project
5. The User agency has assured that provisions for wildlife rescue, mitigating human wildlife conflict in the area shall be provided at the project cost based on proposal submitted.
6. The User Agency has informed that provisions for air circulation, drainage, evacuation in case of emergencies, slope stabilization along cut open portions , muck disposal , temporary deposition of excavated materials etc. have been taken care off.
7. Required NPV and CA shall be borne by User Agency.

8. As in case of mining of river sand and boulders, the value of scheduled rates (PWD) of rocks, soil and pebbles obtained by through excavation can be used exclusively for forest and wildlife conservation of the State. The forest department is facing acute shortage of infrastructure facilities including vehicles, buildings, provisions for repair and maintenance of infrastructure, funds for engaging man power for human wildlife mitigation, forest protection, support to RRTs, office expenses etc. Hence, the amount obtained as scheduled rates (PWD) of the materials excavated can be used for meeting the above emergency and unavoidable expenses. The User Agency may be directed to deposit the amount in CAMPA fund as separate head and a plan for utilization of the amount shall be prepared for utilization of the same. The materials can be sold off by User Agency and revenue generated can be deposited in State exchequer.
9. Being an underground tunnel road, the disturbance to forest and wildlife will be minimal as compared to an open surface road.
10. The recommendations are purely for forest clearance and the impact on environment (environmental clearance) shall be reviewed and recommended by competent authority.

Yours faithfully,



Chief Conservator of Forests