Site inspection Report of District Forest Officer, Chennai Forest Division

Name of the Project: CMWSS- Metro water supply in Nanmangalam RF-Diversion of 0.24ha. of Forest Land in Nanmangalam RF for Metro water Pipeline

The User Agency, i.e., Chennai Metro water supply and sewage board has uploaded the Proposal (No: FP/TN/Pipeline/146983/2021 dated:08.09.2021) for conveyance of 150 MLD of product water through pipeline from the desalination plant at Nemmeli in east coast road-laying of pipes along Medavakkam Main road near Nanmangalam RF

The proposed area has been inspected on 14.09.2021 along with Forest Range Officer and staff of Tambaram Range in Nanmangalam RF. The Proposal is a linear Project and it passes through the Nanmangalam Reserve Forest of Tambaram Range, Chennai Forest Division, of about 0.24ha area in total.

Nanmangalam RF has been declared under section 16 of the Tamil Nadu Forest ACT vide G.O.931 dated: 18.11.1890. The vegetation of the area is described as 'Vandalur Scrub' and is dominated by thorny shrubs and hardy species. Though the Nanmangalam Reserve Forest has remarkable biodiversity – comprising of about 442 spp of plants, 100-125 spp of birds, 40 spp of butterflies, 15-20 spp of amphibians and reptiles, 15-20 spp of dragonflies and damselflies, etc., the conveyance of 150 MLD of product water through pipeline along Medavakkam main road in the proposed forest area shall not affect the movement of birds and other species mentioned above. The RF or any portion of the proposed area is neither forming a part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere reserve and Wildlife Migration Corridor nor forming a part of Eco-Sensitive Zone of any Protected Area notified under Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

Further, the forest area proposed for diversion under FC Act SH-635 passes along the state highway (Medavakkam Mainroad) Which is passes lies adjacent to the sub-urban residential areas and hence there is no specialized habitat (breeding ground/ nesting area) for any faunal spp. including avi-fauna and hence there is no disturbance for any form of wildlife as well.

Since, there is a acute shortage of drinking water in Chennai, a basic essential requirement for any living being, the proposed pipeline address this basic needs especially during summer period (April-August) and supports in survival of the people in the suburban areas of Chennai District.

Taking into consideration of the facts stated above, I recommend the proposal submitted by the user agency, CMWSS, for diversion of the Forest land (0.24ha) in Nanmangalam RF.

District Forest Officer, Chennai Forest Division.