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Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Maharashtra State

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Nodal Officer,
Maharashtra State, Nagpur

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Sub.:- Diversion of 9.1321 ha. forest land for Panvel – Karjat Suburban Corridor Project (Double Railway Line) in Raigad District in the State of Maharashtra.

No. : Desk-17/NC/II/ID 12768/(70) / 1831 /2019-20
Nagpur – 440 001, Dated: 05/02/2020

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Revenue & Forest Department
Mantralaya Mumbai -32

Ref:- Chief Conservator of Forests, (T) ,Thane letter No Desk-Desk-10/FCA/CR-47/2019-20/OW-555/19-20, dated 06/01/2020

The Deputy Chief Project Manager-I, Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation, Mumbai submitted the proposal for diversion of 9.1321 ha. Forest land for Panvel – Karjat Suburban Corridor Project (Double Railway Line) in Raigad District in the State of Maharashtra. Total 56.3879 ha. non-forest land involved in the project. The detailed area statement of forest land is as under :-

Sr. No.	Village	Taluka	New Survey No.	Area		Status of Forest
				Sq. Mtr.	Ha.	
1	Belavali	Panvel	136	1525.27	0.1525	Reserve Forest (Sec 4)
2	Bhingar	Panvel	26	533.16	0.0533	Reserve Forest (Sec 4)
3	Barvai	Panvel	58	9136.37	0.9136	Reserve Forest (Sec 4)
4			36	972.64	0.0673	Reserved forest under the provision of Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act, 1975
5			35	344.15	0.0344	
6			27	586.903	0.0587	
7	Bherle	Panvel	37	622.03	0.0622	
8			41	115	0.0115	Reserve Forest
9			42/1A	787	0.0787	
10			42/2A	1172	0.1172	
11	Vavrle	Khalapur	Forest	2700.0	0.2700	Reserve Forest
12			17	1306.87	0.1307	Reserved forest under the provision of Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act, 1975
13			153	3893.16	0.3893	Reserve Forest
14			156	103.14	0.0103	Reserved forest under the provision of Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act, 1975
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17			157	2896.18	0.2896	Reserve Forest
18			207	999.92	0.1000	Reserved forest under the provision of Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act, 1975
19			208	400.74	0.0401	Reserve Forest
20			205	1241.33	0.1241	Reserved forest under the provision of Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act, 1975
21			194	63.84	0.0064	Reserve Forest

upl
20/2/2020

Girth Class in Cms									
Below 30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90	91-105	106-120	121-150	Bamboo	Total
21	38	15	5	5	02	01	0	520	607

3.1.9 The proposed area belongs to Eco Value CI-I, having density 0.1

3.1.10 The non forest land covered under the project is not under the provision of Maharashtra Private forest (Acquisition) Act 1975 by virtue of application of section 35 of Indian Forest Act 1927, and are not recognized as deemed reserved forest as well as not included in the area identified as "Forest" as per dictionary meaning of forest as intimated to the expert committee under interim judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 12/12/1996.

3.2 User Agency has submitted the following undertaking/documents :-

- 3.2.1 To bear the cost of clearance/removal of the vegetation growth from the proposed forest land.
- 3.2.2 Agreed to bear the cost of Compensatory afforestation.
- 3.2.3 To bear the cost of Net Present Value.
- 3.2.4 Compliance of FRA-2006 has not been submitted by User Agency. However submitted the undertaking stating that the certificate will be submitted on receipt from Collector Raigad.
- 3.2.5 Environmental clearance Not applicable for the projects.
- 3.2.6 Copy of Government of India, Ministry of Railways letter No. 2013/Proj./MRVC/MUTP-III/15/1, dated, 20.12.2016 regarding sanction of Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP)-Phase-III.

4. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Alibag has recommended the proposal for approval as the proposal is public infrastructure facility and essential for convenient fast & safe travel. It is development project and the proposal of national interest undertaken by Govt of India. Project proponent is ready to bear all the Govt levies.

5. The Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Thane has recommended the proposal for approval.

6. In view of this, the proposal is recommended for approval under section - 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to the following conditions :-

- 6.1 The legal status of the land required will remain unchanged
- 6.2 Compensatory afforestation will be raised at the cost of the user agency on 20.00 ha degraded forest land at Compt. No 647, Village-Aaptvne, Tal-Sudhagad, Distt-Raigad. As per GOI guidelines dated 08/11/2017 at least 1000 plants per ha. will be planted on degraded forest land identified for compensatory afforestation.
- 6.3 The user agency will defray the cost of Net Present Value of 9.1321 Ha. of forest land as per the latest guideline of Government of India.
- 6.4 The user agency will defray the additional / revised cost of Net Present Value of forestland as per the latest Guideline of Government of India.
- 6.5 The user agency will defray the cost of removal of 607 trees in the forest area which are falling in the area under diversion. However, only the required and minimum number of trees will be felled under the strict supervision of concerned Deputy Conservator of Forests.

22			210	1035.84	0.1036	Reserve Forest
23			188	874	0.0874	Reserved forest under the provision of Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act, 1975
24			209	833	0.0833	
25			158/A	928	0.0928	
26			200	5	0.0005	
27			166	10196.55	1.0197	Reserve Forest
28	Kiravali	Karjat	26	16337.7	1.6338	Reserve Forest
29			25	3137.96	0.3138	Reserve Forest (Sec. 4)
30			18	11331.95	1.1332	
31			40	3842.65	0.3843	
32	Vanjale	Karjat	170	6887.169	0.6887	Reserve Forest (Sec. 4)
Total			91321	9.1321		
Length x Width – Irregular Shape						

2. The User Agency has highlighted that the traffic on CR has been rising at 4% a year. The pressure on CST-Panvel section is more than that of CST Kalyan line. The area between Panvel and Karjat is also developing rapidly and hence there is increasing demand for extending the suburban train services to Karjat. Currently 29.60 km track connects Panavel with Karjat. It caters only to goods and few long distance passenger trains. Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation plans to increase network capacity and improve customer services on this corridor. MRVC has therefore commissioned the services of Omega Analytics to undertake a feasibility study for constructing an additional line between Panvel to Karjat, In view of this about 9.1321 ha forest land is required to be diverted for doubling Railway line Panvel – Karjat.

3. The proposal has been submitted by Chief Conservator of forests (T) Thane vide letter No Desk-Desk-10/FCA/CR-47/2019-20/OW-555/19-20, dated 06/01/2020 alongwith following documents :-

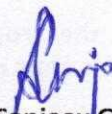
3.1 Deputy Conservator of Forests Alibag has certified that :-

- 3.1.1 No suitable Alternate non forest land is available for the purpose and demand for the required forest land is lowest minimum demand
- 3.1.2 Provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and guidelines, under it, have not been violated by user agency.
- 3.1.3 Deputy Conservator of Forests, Alibag certified that 20.00 ha degraded forest land of Compt. No 647, Village-Aaptvne, Tal-Sudhagad, Distt-Raigad has been identified for Compensatory Afforestation is suitable for Afforestation and it is free from encroachment and encumbrances.
- 3.1.4 The proposed area is not likely to affect any monument site of cultural, historical religious, archeological or recreational importance
- 3.1.5 Area proposed for project is not included in the area of any National Parks/Wildlife Sanctuary.
- 3.1.6 The proposed area is 11.1 km boundary of Karnala Bird Sanctuary and proposed railway line pass the Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone.
- 3.1.7 Deputy Conservator of Forests, Alibag has submitted Site Inspection Report dated 24/12/2019
- 3.1.8 There are 607 trees felling (including 520 Bamboo) involved in the proposed project, Girth wise details are as under

- 6.6 The user agency should submit the complete compliance of FRA-2006 at the earliest or along with compliance of Stage-I approval.
- 6.7 Speed regulating signage will be erected along the railway line at regular intervals in the Protected Areas/Forest Areas.
- 6.8 The user agency will obtain Environmental Clearance from competent authority, if required.
- 6.9 The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government.
- 6.10 No labour camps shall be established on forest land.
- 6.11 The user agency shall provide fuel-wood preferably alternate fuel to the labourers working at the site to avoid damage / felling of trees
- 6.12 The user agency will pay the cost of survey, demarcation, and erection of permanent pillars on the diverted forest land.
- 6.13 No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
- 6.14 The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than specified in the project.
- 6.15 The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of Govt of India.
- 6.16 All conditions mentioned in GOI, MoEF, Notification dated 04/02/2003 regarding notification of Matheran & Surrounding Region as Eco-Sensitive Zone shall be binding on the project authority.
- 6.17 Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of Forests & Wildlife shall be complied with by the user agency.

7. It is therefore requested that the Government of Maharashtra may kindly be moved to approve the diversion of 9.1321 ha. forest land in favour of The Deputy Chief Project Manager-I, Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation, Mumbai for Panvel – Karjat Suburban Corridor Project (Double Railway Line) in Raigad District in the State of Maharashtra under section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.


Encls : As above


 (Sanjeev Gaur)
 Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
 & Nodal Officer

Copy forwarded to Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Thane for information.

Copy forwarded to Deputy Conservator of Forests, Alibag for information.

Copy forwarded to The Deputy Chief Project Manager-I, Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation, Mumbai, Churugate Station Building, 2nd floor, Maharshi Kare Road, Mumbai-400020 (E mail – panvelkarjat2017@gmail.com)

Received into
 Copy for Gov. M.

 07/02/2020
 Prashant Gauria
 Sr. Project Engineer
 (MVR)

Diversion of 9.1321 ha. Forest land for Panvel-Karjat doubling Railway line (Panvel-Karjat Section) in Raigad District in the State of Maharashtra.

Specific Recommendation of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Maharashtra State (Head of Forest Force) with regards to acceptance or otherwise of the proposal supported by reasons

The Deputy Chief Project Manager-I, Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation, Mumbai submitted the proposal for diversion of 9.1321 ha. Forest land for Panvel – Karjat Suburban Corridor Project (Double Railway Line) in Raigad District in the State of Maharashtra. Total 56.3879 ha. non-forest land involved in the project. The detailed area statement of forest land is as under :-

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3	Barvai	Panvel	58	9136.37	0.9136	Reserve Forest (Sec 4)
4			36	972.64	0.0673	Reserved forest under the provision of Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act, 1975
5			35	344.15	0.0344	
6			27	586.903	0.0587	
7			37	622.03	0.0622	
8	Bherle	Panvel	41	115	0.0115	Reserved forest under the provision of Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act, 1975
9			42/1A	787	0.0787	
10			42/2A	1172	0.1172	
11			Forest	2700.0	0.2700	
12	Lodhivali	Khalapur	17	1306.87	0.1307	Reserve Forest
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Total				91321	9.1321	
Length x Width – Irregular Shape						

P/12-13

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PART -IV


Nodal Officer or Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force)

(Detailed opinion and specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with remarks)

Sub.- The Deputy Chief Project Manager-I, Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation, Mumbai has submitted the proposal for diversion of 9.1321 ha forest land for Panvel – Karjat Suburban Corridor Project (Double Railway Line) in Raigad District in the State of Maharashtra under section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The details of the forest land proposed for diversion is as under :-

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32			170	6887.169	0.6887	
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Specific recommendation of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) MS Nagpur is attached on page no. 10A.


(Sanjeev Gaur)

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Nodal Officer

Date : /02/2020
Place : Nagpur

2. The User Agency has highlighted that the traffic on CR has been rising at 4% a year. The pressure on CST-Panvel section is more than that of CST Kalyan line. The area between Panvel and Karjat is also developing rapidly and hence there is increasing demand for extending the suburban train services to Karjat. Currently 29.60 km track connects Panvel with Karjat. It caters only to goods and few long distance passenger trains. Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation plans to increase network capacity and improve customer services on this corridor. MRVC has therefore commissioned the services of Omega Analytics to undertake a feasibility study for constructing an additional line between Panvel to Karjat, In view of this about 9.1321 ha forest land is required to be diverted for doubling Railway line Panvel – Karjat.

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- P/81 3.1.3 Deputy Conservator of Forests, Alibag certified that 20.00 ha degraded forest land of Compt. No 647, Village-Aaptvne, Tal-Sudhagad, Distt-Raigad has been identified for Compensatory Afforestation is suitable for Afforestation and it is free from encroachment and encumbrances.
- P/36 3.1.4 The proposed area is not likely to affect any monument site of cultural , historical religious, archeological or recreational importance
- P/38 3.1.5 Area proposed for project is not included in the area of any National Parks/Wildlife Sanctuary .
- P/44 3.1.6 The proposed area is 11.1 km boundary of Karnala Bird Sanctuary and proposed railway line pass the Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone.
- P/69-72 3.1.7 Deputy Conservator of Forests, Alibag has submitted Site Inspection Report dated 24/12/2019
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- 3.2.3 To bear the cost of Net Present Value. p/39
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- 6.4 The user agency will defray the additional / revised cost of Net Present Value of forestland as per the latest Guideline of Government of India.
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- 6.17 Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of Forests & Wildlife shall be complied with by the user agency.

(Dr. N. Rambabu)
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)
Maharashtra State, Nagpur

Vhr
30/1/2010

S.D. Wadgaonkar