A proposal has been received by this office from Executive Engineer, Road Division, Office of the Executive Engineer (Road Division), Near Government Housing Complex, Silvassa for diversion (under FCA-1980) of 2.4813 Ha. of Dadra & Nagar Haveli Wildlife Sanctuary area for non-forestry purpose. The subject envisages the use of forest land for Widening & Strengthening of Existing Road Stretch (Khanvel to Khadoli) from Tinoda to Bindrabin (Ch.15/8 to 17/4) of the Dadra Nagar Haveli Wildlife Sanctuary in the Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu. The site inspection of the land involved in the proposal has been done by me on 25/11/2021 along with the representatives of the User Agency and the Range Forest Officer, Central Range, Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

On inspection of the site, it is found that the land admeasuring 2.4813 Ha required by the user agency falls in the Dadra & Nagar Haveli Wildlife Sanctuary. The proposal is for widening from the existing 2 lane road to 4 lanes. The widening and strengthening of the Road from Khadoli to khanvel was accorded stage – I clearance for 4.95 Ha of Protected Forest Area (along the Road side) for diversion of 4.95 Ha vide proposal no 6- DNB045/2014-BHO/030 dated 27/01/2021. However the above approval required wildlife clearance too, as the project area is in the vicinity of the DNH Wildlife Sanctuary. Based on the re-survey conducted, it was observed that an additional 2.4813 Ha of the forest land forming part of the Sanctuary would be required to be diverted under provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 for successful completion of the project.

The project proponent accordingly has applied for Wildlife Clearance for an area of 2.4813 under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 separately. This proposal is for diversion of the 2.4813 Ha of the forest land forming Sanctuary area under Forest Conservation Act, 1980. It is pertinent to mention that the

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road proposed to be widened existed well before the constitution of the DNH Wildlife Sanctuary in Nov, 2000 and declaration of the Eco sensitive Zone of DNH WLS in 2015.

The requirement of forest land as proposed by the user agency in Col. 2 of part-I is unavoidable and is barest minimum required for the project.

There is no scientific study was conducted to record the endangered/endemic flora and fauna of the proposed area. The number of trees that are required to be felled is 250 for the proposed area.

Also, the user agency has not violated the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and no work has been started without proper sanction.

Hence, this proposal for diversion of **2.4813h.a**of Protected Forest Land for Widening & Strengthening of Existing Road Stretch at Tinoda to Bindrabin (Ch.15/8to 17/4) for State Highway in the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli is hereby <u>recommended</u>.

Place: Silvassa.

Date: 30/04/2022

(S. Rajthilak, IFS)

Deputy Conservator of Forests, Territorial

Dadra and Nagar Haveli

Silvassa