

DHOLERA SPECIAL INVESTMENT REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

UDYOG BHAVAN, BLOCK No.11-12, 3RD FLOOR, SECTOR-11, GANDHINAGAR(382 017)

PHONE: (079) 232 40150 – 2 - 4, FAX: (079) 232 48443

CLARIFICATION TOWARDS REC COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS FOR CA LAND

The 15th Regional Empowered Committee (REC) meeting was held on 11/12/2023 at REC office Gandhinagar during which, the proposal for “diversion of 15.50 Ha. Reserved Forest Land for construction of new railway line between Bhimnath and Dholera” in village Ottariya was discussed. The REC committee vide their letter dated 21/12/2023 addressed to Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests), Govt. of Gujarat, raised the following observations:

- 1) Alternative alignments, comparative statement and justification for locating the project in forest land shall be duly certified by the concerned DCF and user agency.
- 2) As per DSS there is a river in the proposed CA land. Thus, the state government is requested to submit the revised CA area along with all the details i.e. CA maps, KML file, CA scheme and suitability certificate etc.

With reference to the observation point no. (2), DSIRDA would like to provide its clarification as under:

- 1) DSIRDA has offered 16 Ha. land in Gogla Village for compensatory afforestation purpose. The revenue survey nos. 399, 400, 401 & 404 have the current ownership in the name of DSIRDA. These survey numbers are located within a large land parcel (Gogla Village revenue survey number 407 admeasuring 2964.53 Ha.) which belongs to the forest department. Thus, the survey numbers 399, 400, 401 & 404 are surrounded by the large land parcel of the belonging to the forest department. DSIRDA believes that the land offered for CA purpose from the survey numbers 399, 400, 401 & 404 would ultimately add up to the large land parcel area of survey number 407 and will become a consolidated part of it. And thus, the suitability of CA land is established in terms of continuation.
- 2) Also, as the survey numbers 399, 400, 401 & 404 are located within large land parcel survey number 407, and therefore DSIRDA believes that the land characteristic is of similar nature for all these survey numbers
- 3) Before offering the survey numbers 400, 401 & 404 of Gogla village for CA purpose, DSIRDA had conducted a site visit on 05/04/2023 with the team of Forest Dept. representatives available locally at Dholera along with the Range Forest Officer (RFO). After the site visit, the RFO vide their letter dated 13/04/2023 (copy attached herewith) recommended their no-objection and acceptance towards the proposed CA land parcels of survey numbers 400, 401 and 404. Thus, DSIRDA only after acceptance of the land suitability from Forest Dept. personnel, had uploaded the CA land maps on Parivesh Portal for further approval process. The Deputy Conservator of Forest (Social Forestry), Ahmedabad, vide their letter dated 24/05/2023 (copy attached) had also given their acceptance to DSIRDA for the survey numbers 400, 401 &

404 of Gogla village proposed for CA purpose and also conveyed DSIRDA to pay the applicable processing and registration fees which DSIRDA have already paid. The DCF (social forestry) have already provided their suitability certificate annexure-20 and 21 (copy attached) for the proposed CA land and are uploaded on the Parivesh Portal.

- 4) The REC vide their observation point no. 2 above have stated that there is a river in the proposed CA land. However, DSIRDA would like to request REC to re-consider their observation as there is no flowing river in the said land parcels. DSIRDA also requests to refer the Survey of India Topo Sheet uploaded on Parivesh Portal for the proposed CA land area for the land characteristic type mentioned for the proposed CA land. Thus, from the Google Earth imagery it appears that there is flowing river in the proposed CA land but DSIRDA believes that the flowing marks are made due to the storm water runoff during the monsoon season. As there is currently no vegetation in the proposed CA land area and the area is mostly flat, it is evident that the storm water runoff follows the paths of natural contours and channels created over the years. Elevation difference in the area also contributes in creation of channels marks during monsoon season.

With the above clarification, DSIRDA requests Forest Department and REC Committee to accept the proposed CA land and provide their clearance for the project. The Bhimnath-Dholera Freight Rail line is of high importance for the development of Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR). Recently, the Government of India has approved establishment of India's first Semiconductor Fab facility at DSIR with total outlay of Rs. 91,000 crores and therefore the demand for providing rail based transport service to DSIR is now of utmost importance and priority for Government of Gujarat as well as Government of India. DSIR at present has no direct rail connectivity and in order to facilitate industries with a rail based service that could be used to transport raw material, construction material and heavy equipment's, finished goods and manpower, it is highly required to start implementation of Bhimnath-Dholera rail project at earliest which can be made possible only after according forest clearance. DSIRDA requests to grant the forest clearance for the project at earliest.


Additional Collector
DSIRDA

Additional Collector
Dholera Special Investment Regional
Development Authority
Gandhinagar




(Dr. Priyanka Gehlot)
Deputy Conservator of Forests
Social Forestry Division
Ahmedabad.