



SLEEBA VELLAKAYAM
HYDRO PROJECT PVT. LTD.

To

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Nodal Officer, FC Act & Chief Executive Officer, CAMPA
Forest Headquarters, Vazhuthacaud,
Thiruvananthapuram.

Sir,

Sub: Forest Clearance – Proposal for diversion of 0.138 ha of forest land in Kothamangalam Division for construction of Vellakayam Micro Hydro Electric Project (90 KW) – Submission of reply to clarifications sought – Reg.

Ref:

1. Online proposal FP/KL/HYD/144656/2021
2. Letter No. C3/74/2023-FWLD dated 22.02.2023 from the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, F&WLD addressed to RO, MoEF&CC, Bangalore
3. EDS sought by RO, MoEF&CC, Bangalore dated 12.06.2025
4. Your office Letter No. 1436/2024 dated 19.07.2025
5. Office Memorandum No. J-11013/1/2013-IA-I dated 28.05.2013
6. Letter No. FC-11/78/2023-FC-Part(1) dated 27.12.2023

With reference to the communication cited at Ref (4), the following clarifications are submitted for your kind consideration:

1. The proposed project is a **90 KW Micro Hydel Project**, categorized under **run-of-the-river** type. The forest area proposed for diversion is **0.138 ha**, located at **Vellalu near Vellakkayam in the Thodupuzha Reserve Forest**, under the **Mullaringad Range, Idukki District**.
2. The project site is located in the **Kothamangalam Thodu** which originates from **Venmani**. The water from the **Kothamangalam thodudrains** in to **Kaliyar stream** after travelling a distance around **20 km** and waters from **Kaliyar stream** further travels **12kms** and joins the **periyar river**, and it is clarified that this is the **first proposal** on this stretch of the thodu. Importantly, there is **no consumptive use of water** envisaged during the operational phase.
3. Regarding the status of **CIA/CCS studies**, the following points are submitted:
 - a. As per the **Office Memorandum dated 28.05.2013** (Ref 5), the responsibility for conducting Carrying Capacity Studies (CCS) of river basins lies with the respective **State Governments**. A copy of the OM is appended as **Annexure-A**.

b. The OM also stipulates that *"the process may be initiated in the next three months and completed within two years, after which CCS will be a pre-requisite for EC/FC clearances."*

c. A **preliminary report** titled *"Room for River – Periyar Basin"* prepared by the Government of Kerala is attached as **Annexure-B**.

d. The Government of Kerala has also issued **G.O.(P) No. 25/2025/WRD dated 26.06.2025** concerning the **Operational Framework for Integrated River Basin Conservation and Management(Annexure-C)**.

e. Under **Section 3** of the **Kerala Irrigation and Water Conservation Act, 2003**, all watercourses and their water are declared to be the property of the Government, with rights to conserve and regulate them for irrigation and electricity generation, subject to relevant provisions in the **Kerala Panchayath Raj Act, 1994** and the **Kerala Municipality Act, 1994**.

f. In line with **Section 218** of the Kerala Panchayath Raj Act, 1994, the **local Panchayat** has already issued a **No Objection Certificate (NOC)** for the project.

g. The **MoEF&CC communication dated December 2023** (Ref 6) explicitly mentions that in-principle approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 may be granted for the **first hydropower project in a river basin** without the requirement of CCS/CIS at that stage. A copy is enclosed as **Annexure-D**.

h. The **Minutes of the Environmental Appraisal Committee (EAC)** meeting supporting the above decision are attached as **Annexure-E&F(Agenda Item 1.13 & 2.5)**


4. A **soft copy of the KML file** of the proposed diversion area has been appended and uploaded to the **Parivesh Portal** for reference.
5. It may further noted that this Project got allotment from the Government of Kerala under **own land category** during 2019 as per the Small Hydro Policy, 2012 and submitted for Forest Clearance during 2021. Any further delay in obtaining forest clearance will lead to time and cost overrun of the project. (**Annexure G**).

In view of the above, it is submitted that the proposal may kindly be considered for **Stage-I (In-Principle) Forest Clearance since the project is a micro hydro project which uses the water for non-consumptive use and the micro turbine works like a small pump**, subject to the condition that, if required, a No Objection Certificate shall be obtained from the competent authority in relation to CIA/CCS studies of the **Kothamangalam Thodu**, a tributary of the **Periyar River**. The undersigned also undertakes to ensure that the proposal remains within the carrying capacity as recommended in the forthcoming CIA/CCS report at any stage of project implementation or operation.

In light of the commitments made by the User Agency and the details submitted, it is requested that the matter may kindly be forwarded to the **MoEF&CC** for early consideration and processing.

Yours faithfully,

01-08-2025
Chengamanadu

SLEESA VELLAKAYAM
HYDRO PROJECT PVT LTD

Director