

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
FOREST DEPARTMENT**

**From**

Sri G.Satish, SFS.,  
District Forest Officer,  
TIRUPATI.

**To**

✓ The District Forest Officer,  
Nellore.

**Rc. No.1557/2020/TO, Dt. 19.08.2024**

**Sir,**

Sub:- Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 – proposals for diversion of 32.48 Ha of Forest Land in Compartment No. 91 of Momidi RF – Proposals uploaded and pending for upload of Part-II and site inspection in login District Forest Officer, Nellore – Not recommended – Request to upload Part-II and Site Inspection Report of District Forest Officer, Tirupati in PARIVESH portal – Reg.

- Ref:-
1. Proposals uploaded by user agency on 06.07.2020
  2. Prl.CCF(HoFF) RcNo. Efs02-15029/15/2018FCA SEC-PCCF/FCA-3 dt 23.08.2022 and Useragency submitted six sets of hardcopies to DFO Nellore on 13.09.2022.
  3. File transferred to District Forest Officer, Tirupati vide Ref.No.379/2022F11 dt 06.11.2022
  4. CA Scheme falls in Rapur Range forwarded to District Forest Officer, Tirupati vide Rc.No.167/2013F11 dt 20.09.2023

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It is to inform that M/s Sri Mines Managing Partner Sri G. Sri Ranga Reddy, Nellore has uploaded the proposal for diversion of Forest Land for Silica Mining over an extent of 32.48 in Compartment No. 91 of Momidi R.F. of Nellore Division, subsequently the areas were tagged on to Tirupati Division due to reorganization of Divisions with co-terminous of Revenue Districts. Accordingly the subject file was transferred to Tirupati Division in reference 3<sup>rd</sup> cited. Further it is to inform that the User Agency has identified CA land in Rapur Range of Nellore Division CA scheme was prepared and got approved by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Guntur and sent to this office in reference 4<sup>th</sup> cited.

In this connection it is informed that subject land was inspected on 15.06.2024 and come to know that several firms/individuals have applied for Silica Mining in Momidi R.F. As seen from the records available in this office, the extent of proposals applied by the various firms / individuals is more than the total extent of block area.

In light of the above and in absence of impact assessment and detailed study, the proposals for diversion of Forest Land in Compartment No. 91 of Momidi R.F. cannot be recommended. Site inspection report, Part-II and other required certificates are here with enclosed and request the District Forest Officer, Nellore to upload the site inspection report and Part-II which are in login of the District Forest Officer, Nellore for taking further action.

**Encl:** As stated above.

Yours faithfully,

  
District Forest Officer,  
TIRUPATI.

19/8/24



**REGARDING THE AREA PROPOSED FOR DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND TOWARDS GRANT OF QUARRY LEASE FOR SILICA SAND IN F/O M/S SRI MINES (MG. PARTNER: SRI G. SRI RANGA REDDY) IN COMPARTMENT NO. 91 OF MOMIDI RF, CHILLAKUR MANDAL TIRUPATI DISTRICT.**

The proposed quarry lease for Silica sand falls in Compartment No. 91 of Momidi RF of Varagali Beat, thamminapatnam Section of Naidupet Range over an extent of 32.48 Ha covering Momidi (V) of Chillakur Mandal in Tirupati Forest Division. The proposed area for diversion does not falls in any Sanctuary / National Park / Biosphere Reserve / tiger corridor / elephant corridor etc. The proposed diversion of Forest land not falls in any scheduled area.

Sl.No.	Linear											
	Area Proposed			Admitted row as per Gazette			Road constructed prior to 1980 (carriage way / Blacktop portion)			Net area required Total		
	Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (ha)
<b>-NIL-</b>												



## 2. Non-Linear

Non-Linear	
Total Area	<b>32.48 Ha</b>

## 3. Purpose of the proposal :

- Purpose: for Mining Silica Sand
- Component wise break up of forest land involved:

Compartment No.	RF	Purpose	Extent (Ha)
91	Momidi R.F.	Mining Silica Sand	30.62
91	Momidi R.F.	Safety Zone Area	1.86
<b>Total :</b>			<b>32.48</b>

Purpose wise breakup of the area requested for forest clearance consonance with the mining plan was approved by the Dy. Director of Mines & Geology in letter No. 291/MP/SS/NLR/2021, Dt:02.07.2022.

- Non-forest land involved: **No Non-Forest land involved.**
- Whether non-forest land involved is having wildlife: **No.**
- Whether the non-forest land is falling in ESZ and the project requires Environmental clearance.: **No.**







**4. Comments by the inspecting authority to the Justification given by the User agency:**

**Justification given by the User agency is not valid ,as informed by the user agency that most of the non-forest areas of surrounding areas was already occupied by the APIIC, SEZs etc.,.**

- Whether unavoidable to take forest area - Establishing its inescapability for locating the project in forest area:

**Abundant Mineral is available out side the R.F. Therefore mining proposals in this R.F can be avoided.**

- Whether Alternatives examined and reasons for rejection of other alternatives:  
**No alternatives examined by the user agency**
- If unavoidable, whether barest minimum forest area is proposed.

**No. an area of 30.62 Ha for Mining Silica Sand and Safety Zone Area of 1.86 Ha as applied by User Agency is not barest minimum.**

- Whether any suggestions to reduce the forest area for the project (may be examined at the time of DGPS survey ).



**DGPS survey was done and got authenticated long back**

#### **5. 1) Vegetation:**

- Dominant species, indicator species and other ecologically important species in the vicinity, (any Rare, Endangered, Threatened and endemic species are present).

**The vegetation exists in the proposed mining area is degraded forest having mostly Scrub & thorny bushes with the species of *Syzygium cumini* (Neredu), *Casuarina equisetifolia* (Casuarinas), *Anacardium Occidentale* (Cashew), *Ficus benghalensis* (Marri), *Azadirachta indica* (Neem), *Borassus flabellifer* (Palmyrah), *Eucalyptus globules* (Eucalyptus)**

- Density of vegetation/tree growth: (In large areas weighted average can be taken)

The total area consists several cashew and casuarina trees. The total of 32.48 Ha is enumerated and 1218 trees having a girth range of 30 to 60 Cm. As seen from field conditions, it is the only RF situated along the sea coast having good vegetation of cashew and casuarina trees which act as shelter belt against cyclones.

- Forest Type:

As per the working plan prescription the forest land proposed for diversion in Compartment No. 91 of Momidi (S) RF falls under the classification of 7/C1 Southern tropical dry ever green forest and Sub-type of 7/C1/DS1 Dry ever green scrub with a forest quality of "poor-class-VI". The Density of the vegetation as per working plan is 0.1.

- Eco-class (as per the FCA guidelines issued by GoI, MoEF&CC, New Delhi dt.06.01.2022):

**The forest type is Eco-Class-IV, Open Forest .**

**As per my field observation during the field visit the density of vegetation is 0.4.**

- Number of trees to be felled: **1218 Nos**

#### **2) Fauna:**

- Different fauna available in the project area (10 km radius).



**Presence of Wild pig, sloth bear, hair etc., are noticed within 10 Km radius of the proposed mining area.**

- Scheduled-I animals or Rare, endangered or threatened species present in the vicinity (i.e 10 km radius).

**-NO-**

- Whether the surveyed area is falling in protected areas/ ESZ/ Tiger corridor/ Archaeological Heritage sites/ Geological heritage sites.

**No, the Forest land proposed for diversion is not falling in any Wildlife Sanctuary / National Park / Tiger Corridor/Biosphere reserve / Eco-sensitive zone etc.**

#### **6. Slope and soil:**

- Soil type: Red soil/Black soil/ Deltaic alluvial / Coastal alluvial / sandy /Laterite/ others if any specify:

**Proposed forest area of 32.48 Ha in compartment No. 91 of Momidi (S) R.F. consists soil type of Sand, and Sand loamy soils.**

- Site quality: I/II/III/IV:

**Site quality: II.**

- Slope/Terrain: Gentle / Medium/Steep

**The terrain of the area is plain with the gentle rolling.**

- Soil erosion

**Soil erosion will be inevitable if mining lease is granted.**

#### **7. Special plans - Mitigative measures to lessen the impact of the project, If any:**

- If any impact on (Wildlife) flora and fauna: Wildlife mitigation plan (either in PA or outside PA due to presence of abundant/ important species). Wherever schedule I animals presence is reported in RF area irrespective of PA, a wildlife mitigation plan to conserve such species may be implemented.



**No impact assessment on Wildlife is conducted.**

- If any impact on soil like erosion etc: Soil moisture conservation plan or any techniques to arrest erosion by vegetative means and engineering structures.

**Not possible to take up any engineering structures because of sandy soil .**

- If any impact of the project on catchment area: Catchment area treatment plan, river protection plan.

**No, streams, nalas inter connecting the other streams/nalas exist in the subject land, hence no CAT plan required.**

- If any impact on habitat fragmentation due to linear projects: mitigative measures to reduce the impact of linear projects.

**It is not a linear project, and no fragmentation is occurred due to diversion of the land for mining.**

- Any special suggestions / conditions to reduce the impact of project concerned.

**-NO-**

8. Whether any violation of Forest conservation Act, 1980 has been observed :

**No violation is noticed, as no work is carried out by the user agency by the time of inspection.**

#### **9. Recommendation:**

Not recommended in view of , the local villagers and Vana Samrakshana samithies who are cultivating the patta lands adjacent to Momidi Reserve Forest are opposing for granting the mining lease in Momidi Reserve Forest as mining in the Forest area may cause soil erosion, Salt water intrusion and affected with other adverse effects as the area is ecologically fragile since it is situated at a distance of 6 k.m only from the Sea coast of Bay of Bengal. Moreover, the Casuarina and Cashew plants existing in Momidi Reserve Forest were raised by the local villagers of Momidi and Vana samrakshana Samithis to act as barrier during cyclones. The said shelterbelt plantations protect the sea coast from cyclones. Granting of any Mining lease in the Momidi Reserve Forest to be considered

only after conducting Environmental impact study by any premier institute, as granting of one mining lease in the Forest area may lead to grant of other mining leases also which causes the entire Momidi Reserve Forest to be diverted in near future. Hence not recommended

Place: Tirupati  
Date: 15.06.2024

  
District Forest Officer,  
Tirupati.



## PART-II

**(TO BE FILLED BY THE CONCERNED DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS)**

State Serial No. of proposals :

7)	Location of the Project / Scheme	:	
i)	State / Union Territory	:	Andhra Pradesh
ii)	District	:	Tirupati
iii)a	Forest Division	:	District Forest Officer, Tirupati.
b	Forest Range	:	Naidupet Range
c	Forest Block	:	Momidi RF
d	Compartment No.	:	Compt.No.91 of Momidi R.F.
0iv)	Area of Forest land proposed for diversion (in ha)	:	32.48 Ha
v)	Legal status of forest	:	Momidi R.F. - notified U/s 16 of Madras Forest Act (v of 1882) Dt: 15.06.1891
vi)	Density of Vegetation	:	0.4
vii)	Species wise (Scientific names) and diameter class wise enumeration of trees ( to be enclosed). In case of irrigation / hydel projects enumeration of FRL-2 meter & FRL-4 meter also to be enclosed).	:	<b>Species</b> <b><i>Syzygium cumini</i> (Neredu),</b> <b><i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i> (Casurinas),</b> <b><i>Anacardium Occidentale</i> (Cashew),</b> <b><i>Ficus benghalensis</i> (Marri),</b> <b><i>Azadirachta indica</i> (Neem),</b> <b><i>Borassus flabellifer</i> (Palmyrah),</b> <b><i>Eucalyptus globules</i> (Eucalyptus)</b>
viii)	Brief note on Vulnerability of the forest area to erosion	:	Soil erosion will be inevitable if mining lease is granted.
ix)	Approximate distance of proposed site for diversion from boundary of forest	:	Falls in RF.
x)	Whether forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor etc., ( If so, the details of the area and comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden to be annexed).	:	No, the said area not falls under Wildlife Sanctuary / National Park / Tiger Corridor/Biosphere reserve / Eco-sensitive zone etc. No impact assessment on Wildlife is conducted by the user agency.



xi)	Whether any rare / endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the area if so details thereof.	:	-No-
xii)	Whether any protected archaeological heritage site / defence establishment of any other important monument is located in the area. If so, the details thereof with NOC from competent authority, if required.	:	-No-
8)	Whether the requirement of Forest land as proposed by the user agency in Col.2 of Part-I is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project. If no, recommend area item-wise with details of alternatives examined.	:	No. an area of 30.62 Ha for Mining Silica Sand and Safety Zone Area of 1.86 Ha as applied by User Agency is not barest minimum. Abundant Mineral is available out side the R.F. Therefore mining proposals in this R.F can be avoided.
9)	Whether any work in violation of the act has been carried out (Yes/No). If yes, details of the same including period of work done, action taken on erring officials, whether work in violation is still in progress?	:	-No-
10.	Details of compensatory afforestation scheme	:	
i)	Details of non forest area / degraded forest area identified for compensatory afforestation forests, number of patches, size of each path.	:	Non forests land (CA land) is identified in SyNo.122, 125, 126, 127, 128, 1291,130,131, 134 & 141 of Tegacherla (V), Rapur Mandal of SPSR Nellore District over an extent of 32.59 Ha.
ii)	Map showing non-forest / degraded forest area identified for compensatory afforestation and adjoining forest boundaries.	:	Map enclosed.
iii)	Detailed compensatory afforestation scheme including species to be planted, implementing agency, time schedule, cost structure etc.,	:	Scheme enclosed.
iv)	Total financial outlay for compensatory afforestation scheme	:	



v)	Certificate from competent authority regarding suitability of area identified for compensatory afforestation and from management point of view( To be signed by the concerned Deputy Conservator of Forests)	:	Enclosed
11)	Site inspection report of the DCF ( to be enclosed) especially highlighting facts asked in Col..7 (xi, xii) 8 and 9 above	:	Enclosed
12)	<b><u>District Profile</u></b>	:	
i)	Geographical area of the District	:	917400 Ha
ii)	Forest area of the District	:	264331.15 Ha
iii)	Total forest area diverted since 1980 with number of cases	:	963.34 Ha of Forest land has been diverted in 34 cases in Tirupati Forest Division.
iv)	Total Compensatory afforestation stipulated in the district / division since 1980 onwards	:	1295.09 Ha
a	Forest land including penal Compensatory Afforestation (PCA)	:	729.72 Ha
b	Non-Forest Land	:	705.23 Ha
v)	Progress of Compensatory afforestation as on (date)	:	
a	Forest Land	:	729.50 Ha
b	Non-Forest land	:	648.23 Ha
13)	Specific recommendations of the Dy. Conservator of Forests for acceptance or otherwise of the proposals with reasons.	:	Not Recommended.

Place: Tirupati  
Dated: .08.2024

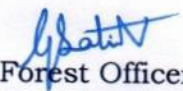
  
District Forest Officer,  
Tirupati.



## **Impact of Project on adjoining forests**

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Mining in the Forest area of 32.48 Ha of Forest Land for quarry lease for Silica sand in Compartment No. 91 of Momidi RF of Varagali Beat of Naidupet Range in Tirupati Division. may cause soil erosion, Salt water intrusion and affected with other adverse effects as the area is ecologically fragile since it is situated at a distance of 6 k.m only from the Sea coast of Bay of Bengal. Moreover, the Casuarina and Cashew plants existing in Momidi Reserve Forest were raised by the local villagers of Momidi and Vana samrakshana Samithis to act as barrier during cyclones. The said shelterbelt plantations protect the sea coast from cyclones. Granting of any Mining lease in the Momidi Reserve Forest to be considered only after conducting Environmental impact study by any premier institute.

  
District Forest Officer,  
Tirupati.

## **Certificate on Soil erosion**

Certified that the Soil erosion will be inevitable if mining lease is granted.

  
District Forest Officer,  
Tirupati.

## **Certificate**

Certified that the proposed area 32.48 Ha of Forest Land for quarry lease for Silica sand in Compartment No. 91 of Momidi RF of Varagali Beat of Naidupet Range in Tirupati Division, is not falling in any Wildlife Sanctuary / National Park / Tiger Corridor etc,

  
District Forest Officer,  
Tirupati.



## **Certificate**

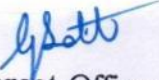
Certified that no rare, endangered, threatened species are present in the vicinity of 10 Kms radius of the proposed area for diversion.

  
District Forest Officer,  
Tirupati.

## **CERTIFICATE OF NON EFFECT ON HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE MONUMENTS**

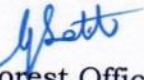
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Certified that the proposal does not affect any protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments.

  
District Forest Officer,  
Tirupati.

## **CERTIFICATE ON THE DEMAND OF FOREST LAND**

It is certified that an area of 30.62 Ha for Mining Silica Sand and Safety Zone Area of 1.86 Ha as applied by User Agency is not barest minimum. Abundant Mineral is available outside the R.F. Therefore mining proposals in this R.F can be avoided.

  
District Forest Officer,  
Tirupati.



**CERTIFICATE ON NON VIOLATION OF FC ACT**

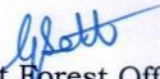
Certified that no violation of the said provisions of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 occurred in the proposed diversion area by the user agency.



District Forest Officer,  
Tirupati.

**CERTIFICATE ON FURNISHING OF PROPOSALS IN ENGLISH**

Certified that all the required annexures and particulars in the proposals are furnished in English.



District Forest Officer,  
Tirupati.