



सत्यमेव जयते

भारतसरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 पर्यावरण ,वनएवंजलवायुपरिवर्तनमंत्रालय
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &
 CLIMATE CHANGE**
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F.No.4-TNB103/2023-CHN/**705**Dated 13th June, 2023

To

The Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu,
 Environment & Forests Department,
 Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009

Subject: Diversion of forest land of 0.874 ha for construction of foot bridges for collector well 4 & 5 and MV Panel room for Collector well 5 and construction of headworks under Combined Water Supply Scheme to 8 Town Panchayats, 2452 Rural Habitations, 3 Municipalities in Sivaganga District across Maruthur RF in favour of Assistant Engineer, Tamil Nadu Waster Supply and Drainage Board, Kulithalai - Reg.

Sir,

Please refer to the State Government's Lr. No.**3801/FR.10/2023-1** dated **31.05.2023** and online application No.FP/TN/WATER/153702/2022 seeking prior approval of the Central Government for diversion of forest land in accordance with Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the above mentioned project.

After careful consideration of the proposal submitted by the State Government and considering the importance of the project, I am directed to convey the Central Government's in principle approval (**Stage-I**) under Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Diversion of forest land of 0.874 ha for construction of foot bridges for collector well 4 & 5 and MV Panel room for Collector well 5 and construction of headworks under Combined Water Supply Scheme to 8 Town Panchayats, 2452 Rural Habitations, 3 Municipalities in Sivaganga District across Maruthur RF in favour of Assistant Engineer, Tamil Nadu Waster Supply and Drainage Board, Kulithalai, **for a period of 50 years**, subject to the following conditions:

1. The legal status of forest land shall remain unchanged;

2. The demarcation of the proposed forest area shall be carried out by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 meters from the amount realized from the User Agency;
3. As proposed the State Forest Department shall carryout Compensatory Afforestation (CA) over **47 ha of DFL area identified in D.Edaiyapatty Bit-III RF , Karur Range** at the cost of the User Agency;
4. CA shall be raised in the vacant areas / less than 0.4 density areas within the **47 ha of DFL area identified in D.Edaiyapatty Bit-III RF , Karur Range** in a concentrated area rather than planting sparsely in the entire 47 ha and accordingly demarcation and proper signage to be placed. Considering portion of boundary of the proposed DFL area surrounded by human habitation, protection against the biotic interferences and grazing shall be ensured;
5. The degraded forest land identified for CA and the approved CA scheme shall not be changed without prior approval of the Central Government and the State Forest Department shall ensure that the amount realized from the User Agency towards CA should not be left unspent;
6. The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value of the diverted forest land measuring **0.874 ha** from the User Agency as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 28.03.2008 and 09.05.2008 in IA Nos.826 in 566 with related IA's in Writ Petition (Civil) No.202/1995 and Ministry's guideline No. 5-3/2011-FC(Vol-I) dated 06.01.2022 and clarification issued vide letter dated 19.01.2022 and 22.03.2022;
7. The project involves felling of 942 trees, however, the DFO reported density of the area as 'Zero', hence, the DFO shall realize correct NPV as per the actual density and eco class;
8. Additional amount of the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any, becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;
9. All the funds received from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>) ;
10. Issuance of FC approval is not overriding the Hon'ble Court/ Tribunal, Water Authority's orders in force. Hence, the State

Government shall ensure to obtain prior approval of the competent authority if any, to draw the water from river Cauvery;

11. **Proposed components i.e. staff quarters and office buildings have not been allowed.** Hence, the State Government may direct the User Agency to take up the same in revenue land. Trees standing in the proposed **Staff quarters and office building** area shall not be felled;
12. In case electricity supply required for the project, if the electricity line passes through Forest area permission under FCA, 1980 for such portion of forest area need to be obtained accordingly.
13. It is noticed that the State Government has already accorded approval for the proposal No.FP/Water/144597/2021 dated 14.07.2021 and now submitted the instant proposal for remaining part of the project, hence, splitting the proposal for the same project is not correct, hence, the State Government is hereby advised to consider the project holistically and should submit proposal in its entirety instead of splitting them, in future;
14. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
15. The User Agency shall provide fire wood preferably alternate fuel to labourers working at the site to avoid damage/tree felling;
16. Disturbance shall be kept minimal by creating labour camps outside the forest area as far as possible and it will be the responsibility of the User Agency to ensure that the labourers & staff engaged in execution of work do not destruct nearby forest flora & fauna;
17. Tree felling shall be carried out wherever required under the strict supervision of DFO concerned.
18. The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed **0.874 ha (staff quarters, office building, approach road, transmission line shall not be carried out in the forest area)** and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal;
19. The forest land proposed for diversion shall under no circumstances be transferred or sublet to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;

20. The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the transmission line projects;
21. Any other conditions that the Central Government or Regional Officer (Central) of Integrated Regional Office, Chennai may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, shall be complied by the User Agency;
22. In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions the User Agency is liable for penal action as per the rules / guidelines issued under FCA, 1980;
23. The State Government shall process and submit compliance report on the above conditions through online (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);

After receipt of the compliance report on above mentioned conditions, the proposal will be considered for final approval. This in-principle approval shall be valid for a period of 5 years from the date of issue of this letter. In the event of non-compliance of the above conditions, this in-principle approval shall automatically stand revoked after 5 years.

Yours faithfully,

**Sd/-
(K.Karthikeyan)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, Guindy Velachery Main Road, Guindy, Chennai - 32
2. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, Guindy Velachery Main Road, Guindy, Chennai - 32.
3. Inspector General of Forests (Central), MoEF&CC, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi-110003 **for information.**
4. EE TWAD Project DN Kulithalai, 18/13, Mutharasanallur post, TrichyTamil Nadu, 620101 eeprojkulithalai@gmail.com
5. Guard file

**Sd/-
(K.Karthikeyan)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)