

Government of Maharashtra

Bv Speed Post

No.FLD- 1124/C.R. 235/F-10
Revenue and Forest Department,
Mantralaya, Mumbai - 400 032.
Dated:-13.01.2025

To,

Deputy Director General of Forests (Central),
Regional Office, MoEF&CC,
Government of India, Civil Lines, Nagpur.

Subject: Forest Land-Mumbai Sub-Urban

Proposal for diversion of 0.7112 ha. Identified Private Forest land for Construction of Bridge over Ramchandra Nalla, near Evershine Nagar to Marve Road in P/N Ward at Village Valnai, Tal. Borivali, Dist. Mumbai Suburban in the State of Maharashtra (FP/MH/ROAD/146738/2021)

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Nodal Officer has submitted diversion of 0.7112 ha. Identified Private Forest land for Construction of Bridge over Ramchandra Nalla, near Evershine Nagar to Marve Road in P/N Ward at Village Valnai, Tal. Borivali, Dist. Mumbai Suburban in the State of Maharashtra .

The details of forest land proposed for diversion are as under: -

Sr. No.	Item of Work/Purpose	Survey / CTS No.	Name of Village	Taluka	District	Area (in Ha.)	Status
1	Construction of Bridge	307 / 146 Pt.	Valnai	Borivali	Mumbai Suburban	0.7112	Identified Private Forest
Total Forest Area (in ha.)						0.7112	

2. Mumbai is reckoned as the financial capital of India. It houses a population of 12.4 million besides a large floating population, in a small area of 437 Sq. km and is surrounded by sea and has nowhere to expand. The constraints of the geography and the inability of the city to expand have already made it the densest metropolis of the world. High growth in the number of vehicles in the last 20 years has resulted in extreme traffic congestion. This has led to long commute times and a serious impact on the productivity in the city as well as defining quality of life of its citizens. The extreme traffic congestion has also resulted in Mumbai witnessing the worst kind of transport related pollution. Comprehensive Traffic Studies (CTS) were carried out for the island city along with its suburbs to identify transportation requirements to eliminate existing problems and plan for future growth. CTS identified requirement of a new arterial road

along the Western Coast as part of the transportation networks. Based on this study, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) is in the process of constructing coastal road from Marine Drive to Existing Bandra Worli Sea Link. Further, Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC), is constructing Sea-link from Bandra to Versova. In order to provide further connectivity towards northern suburbs MCGM is planning to develop missing links which will provide uninterrupted connectivity along the west coast till Kandivali and also to the Madh and Manori area. This missing links are part of recommendations of Comprehensive Transport Strategy Study by Lea Associates in 2009. This will serve 53000 PCUs playing along S.V Road from Andheri to Kandivali and 164000 PCUs travelling along Link road from Indian Oil Nagar towards Kandivali. These newly developed DP roads are expected to cater around 75000 PCUs diverted from S.V road and Link Road.

MCGM has proposed construction of 6 bridges in western suburbs of Mumbai which are the missing links and are recommended by the report of Joint Technical Committee which has been submitted to the Secretary, Environment Department, GoM. The Joint Technical Committee was constituted by Government of Maharashtra under its Resolution No.ENV-2011/CR-55/TC3, dated 30th June, 2011. This missing links are mostly the part of Malad Manori Marve Area. Bridges over Ramchandra Nalla connects Mindspace area which is an industrial hub of western Mumbai to Malad Marve road which is also connected to the link road. Malad-Marve road then connects the second missing link which is Marve-Manori-Bridge. Currently both the places are at the distance of 4 km which takes about 20 Min minimum. Proposed connectivity will cut down this distance to 0.8 Km. This link will be useful to reduce traffic jam on link road hence add productivity.

3. The Divisional Forests Officer, Mumbai Mangrove Conservation Unit has certified that:-

- 3.1) The demand for the mangrove forest land for proposed for diversion is the barest minimum demand of the forest land.
- 3.2) The area belongs to Eco-value class-II, having density is below 0.1.
- 3.3) There is no (0) mangroves trees need to be cut in the proposed mangroves forest land for Construction of Bridge Over Ramchandra Nalla near Evershine Nagar to Marve Road in P/N Ward.
- 3.4) Proposed project is not included in the area of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary or Nature Reserve.
- 3.5) The proposed area is not likely to affect any monument site of cultural, historical, religious, archeological or recreational importance.
- 3.6) There is no violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

- 3.7) Nearest boundary of Sanjay Gandhi National park is at 3.7 km and distance from Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary is at 14.4 km from proposed area for diversion .
- 3.8) The non-forest area covered under the project is not under the provision of Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act 1975 by virtue of application of Section 35 of Indian Forest Act 1927 and are not recognized as deemed reserved forest as well as not included in the area identified as "forest" as per dictionary meaning of forest as intimated to the expert committee appointed under interim judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 12/12/1996.
- 3.9) The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Mangrove Cell has certified that 1.00 ha. land bearing Survey No.358 of Village Virathan Budruk-2, Tahsil, Palghar, Dist. Palghar identified for Compensatory Afforestation is suitable for plantation from management point of view and is free and all sorts of encumbrances and encroachments.
- 3.10) The User Agency has carried out detailed study of alternatives and the comparison is as below. The Route map showing alternative routes is enclosed herewith.

Sr. No.	Alignment	Area for diversion (ha.)
1	Proposed alignment	0.7112
2	Alternative alignment No.1	Nil
3	Alternative alignment No.2	1.57
4	Alternative alignment No.3	0.41

The Proposed alignment demand for 0.7112 ha. and no mangroves trees are present on the site. Alternate Alignment No.1 demand no forest area but it passes through existing residential buildings and other structures hence not feasible. Alternate alignment no.2 passes through dense mangrove area and demand for 1.57 ha. area. Alternate alignment No.3 requires 0.41 ha. land but it passes through the Creeklet and hamper the free flow of water. Considering this analysis the proposed alignment is best suitable from forestry point of view.

4. The User Agency has submitted undertakings:-

- 4.1 to defray the cost of Net Present Value.
- 4.2 to defray the cost of Compensatory Afforestation.
- 4.3 to submit compliance under FRA-2006.

5. The Divisional Forests Officer, Mumbai Mangrove Conservation Unit has recommended the proposal for approval under Section-2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

Specific recommendation of the Divisional Forest Officer, Mumbai Mangrove Conservation Unit:-

'The project will connect Mindspace area of Malad to Marve Road in Western Mumbai and reduce the travel distance considerably, thus reducing travel time. Hence the proposal is recommended and it is beneficial for the public.'

6. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Mangrove Cell, Mumbai has agreed with the recommendation of the Divisional Forest Officer, Mumbai Mangrove Conservation Unit and recommended the proposal.

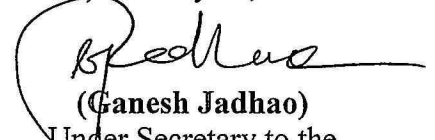
Specific recommendation of the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Mangrove Cell, Mumbai:-

'The project will connect Mindspace area of Malad to Marve Road in Western Mumbai and reduce the travel distance considerably, thus reducing travel time. Hence, the proposal is recommended as it is intended to ease out the traffic congestions'

7. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State, Nagpur, has recommended the proposal subject to the conditions, given in his recommendations, under Section-2 (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. His recommendations are enclosed in the proposal.
8. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Maharashtra State, Nagpur has recommended the proposal subject to the conditions, given in his specific recommendations, under Section-2 (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. His specific recommendations are enclosed in the proposal.
9. In the circumstances explained in aforesaid paragraphs and enclosures, the State Government recommends that the said forest land may be allowed to be diverted under Section-2 (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 subject to conditions proposed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) and Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer, Nagpur as well as following additional conditions:-
- i) User Agency shall obtain CRZ clearance, prior to commencement of the work.
 - ii) The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, Mumbai Mangrove Conservation Unit shall ensure legal status of proposed Forest land, prior to commencement of the work.

- iii) User Agency shall obtain permission regarding to cutting of Mangrove trees from Hon'ble High Court of Bombay, prior to commencement of work.
- iv) User Agency shall compensate the Private landholders of the proposed Land, as per prevalent Acts and Rules in this regard.

The matter may kindly be placed before the Government of India for its approval under Section-2 (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.


(Ganesh Jadhao)
Under Secretary to the
Government of Maharashtra

Under Secretary
Revenue and Forests Department
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk
Madam Cama Road, Mantralaya
Mumbai 400 032

Encl: A) Set of case papers

B) The following documents are enclosed:-

1. Prescribed form as per Rules.
2. Area Statement
3. Undertaking for defraying the cost of Net Present Value & Compensatory Afforestation.
4. Brief note of the project
5. Site Inspection Report.
6. Certificate in Part IV.

Copy:

1. Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, New Delhi.
2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Maharashtra Stage, Nagpur.
3. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & C.E.O, Maha-CAMPA, Nagpur.
4. APCCF and Nodal Officer, Nagpur with reference to his letter No.Desk-17/Nodal/S1/PID-146738/Thane/1531/24-25, Dt.07.10.2024
5. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Mangrove Cell, Mumbai.
6. Divisional Forests Officer, Mumbai Mangrove Conservation Unit.
7. Executive Engineer, (WS) Bridges Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation.
8. Select File (F-10)

Sub:- Forest Land-Mumbai Sub-Urban

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PART -IV

(To be filled up by the Secretary In charge of Forest Department or by any other authorized officer of the State Government not below the rank of an Under Secretary)

**1. Recommendation of the
State Government**

The proposal is recommended
vide Government letter
No. FLD-1124/CR-235/F-10
Dated:- 13/01/2025



(Ganesh Jadhao)
Under Secretary to the
Government of Maharashtra

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Madam Cama Road, Mantralaya
Mumbai 400 032

Place: Mumbai

Date:- 13/01/2025