Letter No.MSRDC/NSK/ NH / 260 /2018 Date. 05 / 04 /2018



Maharashtra State Road
Development Corporation Ltd.
(A Government of Maharashtra Undertaking)

<u>Justification Letter for Forest Land Diversion</u>

The Government of India has newly declared the State Highway from "Pahur - Jamner-Bodhwad - Icchapur" into National Highway (NH- 752 L). The present road has been divided into two sections i.e. Pahur - Jamner - Bodhwad (Section- 1) and Bodhwad - Muktainagar -Icchapur (Section- 2). Both sections of the road are passing through forest area coming under Jalgaon forest division. Present road connects the state of Madhya Pradesh which is an important road link between the State of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. From Pahur village it further connects the two district headquarters of Aurangabad and Jalgaon districts of the state of Maharashtra. This road is an important link for one World Heritage site i.e. World Famous Ajanta caves, which is located in Ajanta village and is always an attraction for National as well as International tourist. The present road passes through ghat sections in the forest area where always accidents happen and at present the width of the road is less. There are lots of curve improvements on the road passing through forest area to avoid accidents. Presently, road also passes through agriculture area and lots of agriculture products transport through the project road. Some small and large agro product industries / factories are located on this road. Further this road joins the several districts of the State of Maharashtra. As per standard of National Highway the Rehabilitation and Upgradation of the road is required in the forest area for curve improvements and widening. Since long time the present project road was passing through this forest area which comes under protected/ reserved /un-class forest type and now for widening and curve improvement of the road forest land is required.

Therefore, the diversion of the forest land is only choice for widening of the newly declared National Highway: Pahur - Jamner- Bodhwad - Icchapur" into National Highway (NH- 752 L) [Pahur - Jamner - Bodhwad (Section- 1) and Bodhwad - Muktainagar - Icchapur (Section- 2)].

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