

Justification for locating the project in forest area.

The propose construction of community center and social developmental centre at village-Vehergaon, Karla-Leni Tal-Maval District-Pune in forest S.No.165 Gat No.347 in 0.96 ha. (150mx 64m =9600 i.e.0.96 ha.)

The Karla cave complex of ancient Buddhist Indian rock-cut caves is at Karli which is 11km away from Lonavala and 60 km. away from Pune. Other caves in the area are Bhaje caves, Patan Buddhist cave, Bedse caves and Nashik caves as well as the Goddess Ekvira Temple is located over here. This temple complex consists of three alike shrines. It is the most popular historic place with stunning natural beauty and sculptures. That's why, a lot of tourists are fascinated towards it.

To visit the caves and worship the Goddess Ekvira , plenty of visitors, tourists and devotees comes here from various parts of India as well as from abroad for visiting the national heritage and for pilgrimage purpose throughout the year on a large scale. The devotees throng the temple on all occasions specially in the Navratri festival and Chaitra Navratri to worship and celebrate on a large scale. Therefore this place has throng all over the year.

But at this tourist place the facilities required for tourists are lacking. The karla caves and Ekvira

Temple is lacking in having a basic amenities and facilities such as clean drinking water, good quality and healthy food, place to stay, first aid kits, public rest room for refreshments, temporary accommodation, sitting arrangement for meals, space for luggage, a place to stay during rainy season, toilet and bathroom arrangement, signage, etc. Hence, we the project authority, of Ekvira Devi Yuvak Mandal, village-Vehergaon Tal-Maval District Pune took the initiative to provide the facilities for tourists and devotees.

But at this place no private land is available except forest land, as the karla caves, other caves and Goddess Ekvira Temple are situated on a high altitude and surrounded by forest land.

In this area for developing tourism business various natural beauties, Traditional arts, etc. are available in large scale.

The above circumstances and opportunities, we intended to construct community center and social developmental centre at the bottom of Karla caves at village-Vehergaon, Karla-Leni Tal-Maval District-Pune in forest S.No.165 Gat No.347. The required and demanded area is 0.96 ha.

Due to the development of tourism industry the problem of unemployment of the villagers of Vehergaon and nearby villages as well as the problem of basic amenities for tourist and devotees

would be solved.

We have examined all other possible alternatives, but it is not possible to avoid the forest land.

The required forest area for this purpose is only 0.96 ha. The required land is Reserved Forest land. However, the prior permission of the Government of India, under the provision of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, is necessary & essential for carrying any non-forestry work in such forest land. The demanded area is barest minimum and no trees are required to be felled.



(S. B. Devkar)

Chairman ,Ekvira Devi Yuvak Mandal
At-Vehergaon (Karla caves)
Tal –Maval Dist-Pune

Place:- Vehergaon

Dtd. 20 /07/2020

