## **JUSTIFICATION FOR LOCATING PROJECT IN FOREST AREA**

There has been extensive pressure on increasing passenger and freight services on existing Pune- Miraj Broad Gauge Railway Line. The line was initially laid around 1925. To cope up with continually increasing volume of traffic, the Railway Board had a proposal for doubling of existing Pune-Miraj Broad Gauge Railway Line. The Railway Board has sanctioned the proposal to double the existing Broad-Gauge line from Pune to Miraj. In the extant proposal, Nira-Lonand Section on the Pune- Miraj Broad- Gauge Line is proposed for doubling.

The Nira- Lonand Section of proposed doubling project traverse through a forest patch in Padegaon village of Khandala Tehsil of Satara District. Considering the type of topography, availability of land and techno-economic feasibility of the project, the new BG Line is inevitably required to be laid parallel to existing BG Line.

The proposal is essentially a site-specific and to be taken up within the existing RoW. There is no other alternative available with the Central Railway to locate the project elsewhere. Hence, the project is located in Forest Land. The Forest Land proposed for diversion is unavoidable and barest minimum

About 0.020 Ha. of the Forest Land is required for the project. The proposed project is categorized as Public Utility Service and Infrastructure Project.

Date: 12 / 8 /2022

Place: Pune

Office Seal:

Sachin Patil Dy. Chief Engineer, (Construction), Central Railway, Pune

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