

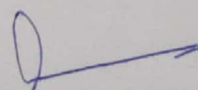
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER P W D (R&B) DIVISION**  
**UDHAMPUR.**

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**JUSTIFICATION LETTER FOR FOREST LAND DIVERSION**

1. The project for construction of road from Thial to Chountra Mata in km 6<sup>th</sup> RD 500 to km 19<sup>th</sup> RD 500 has been sanctioned under CRF Schemes (CRF-J&K-2016-15-138) and is being executed by PWD. Some stretches of this road passes through forest area. The above mentioned road takes off from the existing PWD road Dhema to Thial in village Thial. Majalta and Ramnagar were earlier one Tehsil and recently bifurcated. These Tehsils are socially and economically inter connected with each other but there is no direct connectivity at present between Tehsil Majalta and Tehsil Ramnagar. A population above 50000 souls take a length of route of about 80-90 kms to reach their destinations through Dhar Road and Udhampur Ramnagar Road. The proposed road when constructed will shorten this route by approximately 30 kms. Besides this Chountra Mata Temple is a famous pilgrimage site and is visited by more than 2 lacs people annually.
2. Forest area cannot be avoided as the alignment proposed is the only feasible alignment providing vital connectivity to the hamlets.
3. Hence, the diversion of the forest area land is the only choice to construct the road.

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