

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi - 110003.
Dated: 10th May, 2021

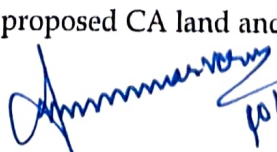
To,
The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Department of Forests,
Government of Gujarat,
Gandhinagar.

Subject: Proposal for diversion of 598.2427 ha. forest land for Methala Bandhara Irrigation Project near village Methala in Talaja Taluka in Bhavnagar District of Gujarat State (Online proposal No. FP/GJ/IRRIG/44298/2020) - reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Gujarat letter No. FCA-1020/8-01/20/SF-237/F dated 23.02.2021 on the above cited subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and intimate that the following shortcomings have been observed in the proposal:

1. The satellite imagery dated 26.09.2018 shows that out of total 598.2427 ha forest area sought for diversion, approx. 417 ha forest area is already submerged under water. The state govt. to submit justification as why the impounding has taken place without prior approval of the Central Government. State Govt. shall submit the details of the officers who has permitted the violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and what action has been taken against them.
2. The Cost benefit analysis as per the MoEF&CC guideline issued vide letter No. 7-69/2011-FC(Pt.) dated 01.08.2017 has not been submitted.
3. The approved Copy of CAT plan has to be submitted/uploaded on PARIVESH portal.
4. A legible copy of Geo-referenced maps of areas proposed for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) is to be uploaded on PARIVESH portal.
5. It has been observed on the DSS analysis, that the proposed CA area is being used for some commercial purposes. The state govt. shall therefore verify the present status of the proposed CA land and submit a site suitability certificate


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mentioning that the proposed area is suitable for planting and free from all encumbrances.

6. There is no mention of the density of vegetation in the site inspection report of the DFO/CF. It has been mentioned that there are no trees involved, however as per DSS analysis of the available files, 89 ha of land is characterized with Moderately Dense Forest and 77ha. of land as Open forest. The state govt. shall therefore submit the complete enumeration list of trees and also submit the correct density of vegetation.
7. It has been mentioned in Part-1 of the application form, that In-principle approval has been received for the 2.25 ha of project area on 29.09.2016. The proposal no. given is FP/GJ/IRRIG/20853/2016. The state govt. may provide the complete details of the above proposal and its link with the current proposal.

In view of the above, it is requested to submit the above information at the earliest for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

(Shrawan Kumar Verma)

Dy. Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The Pr.CCF (HoFF), Department of Forests, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar;
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Gandhinagar;
3. The Nodal Officer, FCA, O/o the PCCF, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.