



File No: 9-JKC-034/2022-Jammu

October, 2022

To

The Commissioner Secretary,
Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment,
UT of Jammu & Kashmir,
Civil Secretariat,
Jammu & Kashmir
(csforestjk@gmail.com)

Sub: **Diversion of 36.2511 ha of forest land for Development of Package-17 (KM 515+000 to KM 566+475) of Phase-II of Delhi-Katra Expressway, District Jammu & Reasi, UT of Jammu & Kashmir (Online proposal no. FP/JK/ROAD/146042/2021)-regarding.**

Ref: i) UT Admin of J&K online proposal received on 25.06.2022
ii) Nodal Officer J&K letter no. PCCF/FCA/3389/4555-56 dated 20.09.2022
iii) Minutes of the 9th REC held on 17.10.2022

Sir,

Please refer to the above cited subject and letters seeking prior approval of the Central government for the diversion of **36.2511 ha** of Forest land for non-forestry purpose in accordance with section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. After careful examination of the proposal of the UT Administration of J&K, *in-principle* approval is hereby being conveyed for the diversion **36.2511 ha** of Forest land in **Jammu Forest Division, Reasi Forest Division and Jammu Wildlife Division** in favour of **National Highway Authority of India** for **Development of Package-17 (KM 515+000 to KM 566+475) of Phase-II of Delhi-Katra Expressway, District Jammu & Reasi, UT of Jammu & Kashmir (Online proposal no. FP/JK/ROAD/146042/2021)** UT of Jammu and Kashmir, subject to the following conditions:

(A). Conditions which need to be complied prior to handing over of forest land by the UT Forest Department to the National Highway Authority of India (User Agency):

- i. Legal status of the forest land will remain unchanged.
- ii. Cost of compensatory afforestation (CA) as per CA scheme may be realized from User Agency. The CA will be maintained for 10 years.
- iii. The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted for non-forestry purpose from the User Agency, as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 30.10.2002, 01.08.2003, 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in IA No. 566 in WP (C) No. 202/1995 and as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide letter No. 5-3/2011-FC(Vol-I) dated 6th January, 2022 in this regard.
- iv. User agency shall deposit/transfer all the funds (Cost of CA, NPV etc) to CAMPA fund of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and climate change through *e-portal* (<https://parivesh.nic.in>).

- v. User Agency should ensure that the compensatory levies (CA cost, NPV etc.) are deposited through challan generated online on web portal and deposited in appropriate bank only. Amount deposited through other mode will not be accepted as compliance of the Stage-I clearance.
- vi. The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector.
- vii. Divisional Forest Officer shall furnish undertaking that the approved CA site(s) will not be changed without the approval of competent authority.
- viii. CEO State CAMPA shall furnish undertaking that the funds under state/UT CAMPA will be released to Divisional Forest Officer as per approved CA scheme.
- ix. The complete compliance shall be uploaded on **e-portal**(<https://parivesh.nic.in>).

(B) Conditions which need to be strictly complied on field after handing over of forest land to the user agency by the State Forest Department but the compliance in form of undertaking shall be submitted prior to Stage-II approval:

- i. Efforts should be made to fell minimum number of trees and in any case not more than **12981** trees under **Jammu Forest Division**, **746** trees under **Jammu Wildlife Division** and **7756** trees under **Reasi Forest Division** only shall be felled. Any felling shall only be done under the strict supervision of State Forest Department after issuance of felling permission from concerned DFO and the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department.
- ii. The UT Govt shall upload the KML files of the degraded forest area accepted for raising compensatory afforestation as well as the forest area proposed for diversion in the extant proposal in the E-Green watch portal of the Forest Survey of India.
- iii. Compensatory afforestation will be carried out over Degraded Forest land (DFL) upon **23 ha** of land in Dhamooni Forest, Compartment no. 2/N, Range-Jammu, Tehsil-Nagrota, District-Jammu and upon **13.2 ha** of land in Shibba Forest, Compartment no. 5/N, Range-Jammu, Tehsil-Nagrota, District-Jammu, as per proposed CA scheme, at a cost of **₹ 81,34,400/-** (Eighty one lakh thirty four thousand four hundred only) under **Jammu Forest Division**, upon **3.0 ha** of land in Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Compartment no. 2/R, Range-Wildlife Range Jammu, Tehsil-Jammu, District-Jammu, as per proposed CA scheme, at a cost of **₹ 25,57,000/-** (Twenty five lakh fifty seven thousand only) under **Jammu Wildlife Division** and upon **22.60 ha** of land in Sarna Protected Forest, Compartment no. 90a/K, Range-Katra, Tehsil-Katra, District-Reasi and upon **20.047 ha** of land in Sarna Protected Forest, Compartment no. 95/K, Range-Katra, Tehsil-Katra, District-Reasi, as per proposed CA scheme, at a cost of **₹ 42,44,000/-** (Forty two lakh forty four thousand only) under **Reasi Forest Division** provided by the user agency.
- iv. The user agency will submit No Objection Certificate from the Archaeological Survey of India or/and Geological Survey of India for presence of any material evidence in the Shivalik portion of proposed road. In case, any portion of Shivalik Region, involved in the road is found to be of archaeological importance, the user agency shall revise the alignment of road and bring the proposal before REC for consideration. The DFO(s) concerned shall ensure compliance.
- v. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government.

- vi. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
- vii. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department, or person without approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- viii. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
- ix. Sufficient firewood, preferably by the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel.
- x. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost, as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
- xi. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
- xii. The User Agency shall pay additional amount of NPV as and when increased by the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court.
- xiii. The User agency shall obtain Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable.
- xiv. No muck shall be dumped in the forest land in context of the undertaking given by User Agency.
- xv. The User Agency shall raise strip plantation on both sides and central verge of the road as per IRC norms.
- xvi. Speed regulating signage will be erected along the road at regular intervals in the Forest Areas.
- xvii. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per provision under 1.21 of the Handbook of Forest (conservation) Act, 1980 and Forest Conservation Rules, 2003 (Guideline & Clarification), 2019, MoEF&CC.
- xviii. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests and wildlife.
- xix. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change may revoke/suspend the clearance, if implementation of any of the above conditions is not satisfactory. The State government will ensure compliance of these conditions through Forest Department.

3. After receipt of the compliance report on fulfilment of the conditions under para-2, above final approval order shall be given under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. **The use of forest land will not be allowed till final approval is accorded.**

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-
(Raja Ram Singh)
DIGF (Central)
Regional Officer
IRO, Jammu

Copy to:

1. The IGF (FC), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh, Aliganj, New Delhi (ramesh.pandey@nic.in).
2. The Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), U.T. of Jammu & Kashmir, Forest Complex, Sheikh Bagh, Near Lal Chowk, Srinagar, UT of Jammu & Kashmir (pccfjkforest@gmail.com).
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), U.T. of Jammu & Kashmir, Van Bhawan, near Gummat, Jammu, UT of Jammu Kashmir (ccffcajk1@gmail.com).
4. The CEO, CAMPA O/o PCCF (HoFF), U.T. of Jammu & Kashmir, Forest Complex, Sheikh Bagh, Near Lal Chowk, Srinagar (jkcampacell@gmail.com).
5. The Divisional Forest Officer, Jammu Forest Division, UT of Jammu & Kashmir (dfojammu1@gmail.com).
6. The Divisional Forest Officer, Reasi Forest Division, UT of Jammu & Kashmir (reasidfo@gmail.com).
7. The Divisional Forest Officer, Jammu Wildlife Division, UT of Jammu & Kashmir (jkwildlife72@gmail.com).
8. National Highway of Authority of India, District-Jammu, UT of Jammu and Kashmir (piujammu@gmail.com).