

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

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**Indira Paryavaran Bhawan**

Aliganj, Jorbagh Road

New Delhi - 110003

**Dated: 24<sup>th</sup> December, 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 25.11.2021 on the above cited subject forwarding the required information. After examining the said information, the following observations are made:

- I. As reported by the State Govt. 140.5978 ha. area proposed for CA is encroached by local people and 2.6503 ha area has pond. The area is therefore not free from all encumbrances. The State Govt. may therefore provide NFL which is free from all encumbrances.
- II. The site suitability certificate mentioning that the proposed CA area is suitable for plantation and free from all encumbrances shall be submitted along with the detailed CA scheme.
- III. CA schemes referring to planting of 200 grass species out of 1111 plants/ha has to be revised. A minimum of 1000 plants(tree species) per ha are required to be planted.
- IV. Out of the total forest area of 598.2427 ha sought for diversion, approx. 417 ha forest area was found submerged as per satellite imagery dated 26.09.2018. It is further observed that a dam like structure was erected at the river mouth during the year 2018, which seems to have led to this submergence. The State Govt. may therefore re-examine the matter in view of above information.
- V. The Cost benefit analysis has not been prepared on the format as prescribed in the guidelines issued by the Ministry.
- VI. The approved copy of CAT plan in accordance with Para 9.2 of Comprehensive guidelines dated 28.03.2019 has not been submitted.

Accordingly, it is requested to furnish the above mentioned information to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

**(Suneet Bhardwaj)**

Assistant 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.