



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE
 CHANGE**
 क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, गांधीनगर/ **Regional Office, Gandhinagar**



B-215 & बी-216 "अरण्य भवन, झालाना संस्थानिक क्षेत्र, जयपुर /302004-B-215& B-216, "ARANYA BHAWAN", Jhalana Institutional Area, Jaipur-302004 दूरभाष 0141-2713858, Email: iro.jaipur-mefcc@gov.in

दिनांक: **As per e-sign**

सेवा में,
 शासन सचिव (वन)
 सिविल सचिवालय, राजस्थान शासन
 जयपुर, राजस्थान।

(ऑनलाईन क्रमांक **FP/RJ/WATER/153642/2022**)

Sub.: Diversion of 9.5611 ha of Protected Forest land for KALITEER LIFT SCHEME, DHOLPUR (RAJASTHAN) to provide drinking water to 483 Villages of 4 Tehsils of Dholpur- District in favour of Executive Engineer, Water Resource Division-II, Dholpur in Rajasthan.

संदर्भ: 31वीं आर.ई.सी. बैठक दिनांक 07.11.2025 का कार्यवृत्त (संलग्न)।
 महोदय,

I am directed to refer to the above-mentioned proposal submitted by the State Government to this Regional Office and inform that the said proposal has been examined by the REC in its 31st Meeting held on 07.11.2025 and decided as follows:

"Upon deliberation, the Committee recommended the proposal for approval subject to compliance with standard conditions under the Van (sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinivam, 1980 and guidelines issued there under. However, the Stage-I approval may be issued by the Regional Office only after the revised details as stated during the meeting by the Nodal officer are-furnished and also the PSC recommendation from the State Government."

In view of above decision of the REC, the state government is requested to furnish the following details

1. The site details and erosion vulnerability statement in the proposal need to be corrected to reflect ground reality and that suitable soil conservation and mitigation measures must be incorporated.
2. The inconsistencies in the CA cost, tree enumeration, and segment area data, must be reconciled and corrected in the proposal.
3. Recommendation of the PSC to be submitted.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Digitally signed by
Balaji Kari

भवदीय/Sincerely,

Date: 25-11-2025

14:21:00

(बालाजी करी/Balaji Kari)

सहायक वनमहानिरीक्षक/Assistant Inspector General of Forests
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, गांधीनगर/Regional Office, Gandhinagar.

प्रतिलिपि: (ई-मेल द्वारा)

- अतिरिक्त प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक एवं नोडल अधिकारी (वन संरक्षण), वन विभाग, अरण्य भवन, झालाना इंस्टिट्यूशनल एरिया, जयपुर, राजस्थान।
- उप वन संरक्षक, बरीया वनमण्डल, बरीया, राजस्थान।
- संबंधित प्रयोक्ता अभिकरण।
- आदेश पत्रावली।

Minutes of the 31st Meeting of Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Gandhinagar held on 07.11.2025 at 11.30 A.M. through Virtual Mode.

The 31st Regional Empowered Committee (REC) Meeting of the Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Gandhinagar was held under the Chairmanship of IGF (C), RO Gandhinagar on 07.11.2025 through virtual mode.

The following members/ special invitees and officials from the Regional Office and its sub- offices and State Forest Department, Gujarat were present during the meeting:

1.	Dr. G. Trinadh Kumar IGF(Central) & Head of Department, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Regional Office (RO), Gandhinagar	Chairperson
2.	Shri Shripal C-18, Silver Oaks Society, Greater Noida, 201310	Non-Official Member (Presented through VC)
3.	Shri Soumitra Dasgupta G 13614, Ground Floor, C.R. Park, New Delhi 110019	Non-Official Member (Presented through VC)
4.	Shri Rajendra Lunker B-601, Friends Ville Lifestyle, Panchvati Cross Road, Law Garden, Ahmbedabad 380006.	Absent
5.	Representative of the PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Govt. of Gujarat	Representative from Gujarat State
6.	Shri KCA Arun Prasad APCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Govt. of Rajasthan	Representative from Gujarat State
7.	Shri Balaji Kari AIGF (Central) & Member Secretary REC.	Member Secretary

The following Agenda were discussed in the REC meeting:-

AGENDA No.1

Diversion of 12.0209 ha Reserved Forest land for construction of eight lane Delhi Vadodara Expressway section of NE-4 for additional land width requirement beyond RoW in Dahod District in favour of Project Director, National Highway Authority of India (FP/GJ/ROAD/526951/2025).

Provisions of VSESA, 1980 & Rules made thereunder applicable to the proposal: Section: 2 (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Rule 10 Sub Rule (1) (3) of Rules, 2023.

The State Government of Gujarat has processed and forwarded the online proposal (**Proposal No. FP/GJ/ROAD/526951/2025**) vide letter no. FED/FLP/e-file/6/2025/1423/F dated 08.08.2025 to RO, Gandhinagar in **PARIVESH 2.0** portal for diversion of 12.0209 ha Reserved Forest land for construction of eight lane Delhi Vadodara Expressway section of NE-4 for additional land width requirement beyond RoW in Dahod District in favour of Project Director, National Highway Authority of India. The proposal for Delhi-Mumbai Highway was earlier submitted vide proposal No. FP/GJ/ROAD/3981 8/201 9 which was considered and final approval was accorded by the RO, Gandhinagar. Instant proposal is submitted by

the user agency and submitted that "During execution of the proposed alignment passing through hilly and rolling terrains, it is assessed that requirement of additional working space in Reserve Forest land area beyond the ROW in about 30-45 Mtr. for construction of combination of counter-fort retaining wall, RE Wall and RRM retaining wall upto height of 40 m to 60 m at the both side edge of acquired ROW of 100 meters at Chainage 726+400:727+660 and 750+700 in Villages Zerjitgarh and Hathiyavan of Ta. Limkheda and Village Guna and Vadodar of Devgarh Bariya of Dahod District." Details of the proposal are as follows:

FACT SHEET

1	Name of the Proposal	Diversion of 12.0209 ha Reserved Forest land for construction of eight lane Delhi Vadodara Expressway section of NE-4 for additional land width requirement beyond RoW in Dahod District in favour of Project Director, National Highway Authority of India.	
2.	Location		
	State	Gujarat	
	District	Dahod	
3.	Purpose wise breakup of the forest area required for diversion	Component	Forest Area (ha)
		LHS Area from Ch. Km. 726+350 to Ch. Km. 727+150	3.7947
		RHS Area from Ch. Km. 726+350 to Ch. Km. 727+100	2.8765
		LHS Area from Ch. Km. 727+720 to Ch. Km. 727+830	0.1977
		RHS Area from Ch. Km. 727+700 to Ch. Km. 727+830	0.3375
		LHS Area from Ch. Km. 750+700 to Ch. Km.750+830	0.4995
		RHS Area from Ch. Km. 750+700 to Ch. Km.750+830	0.4694
		LHS Area from Ch. Km. 750+860 to Ch. Km. 751+300	1.8919
		RHS Area from Ch. Km. 750+860 to Ch. Km. 751+300	1.9537
4.	Particulars of Forest		
i	Name of Forest Division	Baria Forest Division	
ii	Area of Forest land proposed for Diversion	12.0209 Ha	
iii	Legal Status of Forest land	Reserved Forest	
vi	Status of the User	Central PSU (NHAI)	



	Agency	
v	Density of Vegetation	Canopy: 0.3; Eco-class: IV
vi	Cost of the project	Rs. 6345 Crore or 634500 Lakhs
vii	Employment likely to be generated	During Construction phase: 91550 Man Days During Operational phase: 251250 Man Days
viii	Vulnerability of the forest area to erosion	Reported that not prone to erosion.
5	Whether forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. (if so, the details of the area the comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden to be annexed)	DFO reported that the forest area proposed for diversion does not fall under Sanctuary / National Park, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. It is 38.00 km away from Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary.
6	Whether any rare/ endangered / unique species of flora and fauna found in the area if so, details thereof.	No
7	Whether any protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area. If so, the details thereof with NOC from competent authority, if required.	No
8	Whether the requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency in col.2 of Part-I is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project. If no, recommended area item-wise with details of alternatives examined.	DFO, has reported that the requirement of forest land for diversion as proposed by the UA is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project.
	Whether any work in violation of the Act has been carried out (Yes/	

9	No). If yes, details of the same including period of work done, action taken on erring officials. Whether work in violation is still under progress.	The concerned DFO reported that there is No Violation of FC Act involved in the proposal.																		
10	Enumeration list of trees	Total Species: 53 Total Number of trees: 712 Number of trees which will actually be felled: 712																		
11	Compensatory Afforestation	Degraded Forest Land: The Total DFL for CA in Dahod District is as follows: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>District</th> <th>Area_Ha</th> <th>Sy No</th> <th>Village</th> <th>Range</th> <th>Tehsil</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Dahod</td> <td>25.00</td> <td>73pt</td> <td>Chatka</td> <td>Zalod</td> <td>Jhalod</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td colspan="5">25.00 Ha DFL</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	District	Area_Ha	Sy No	Village	Range	Tehsil	Dahod	25.00	73pt	Chatka	Zalod	Jhalod	Total	25.00 Ha DFL				
District	Area_Ha	Sy No	Village	Range	Tehsil															
Dahod	25.00	73pt	Chatka	Zalod	Jhalod															
Total	25.00 Ha DFL																			
	Number of trees proposed to be planted in the CA scheme per Ha	1111 per ha.																		
	Total Financial outlay for C.A. scheme (in Crores)	2.0374 (Two Point Zero Three Seven Four Crore(s) Only)																		
12	Recommendation																			
	DFO, Baria Forest Division	Recommend for acceptance of the proposal. User Agency has to provide suitable under/over pass in consultation with forest officials for free movement of wildlife in and around the forest area in accordance to eco-friendly measures to mitigate impacts of linear infrastructure on wildlife. As per the relevant law of mining department of Gujarat state, User agency has to pay royalty or other amount for the Stones/minerals going to be extracted from the proposed forest diversion area and going to be used in the project work.																		
	PCCF (HoFF), Gujarat	Recommended. This is an additional proposal for slope stabilization in the particular stretch of the Greenfield Expressway. Recommended for approval.																		
	State Government of Gujarat	Recommended, (1) 1424 trees are required to be cut in the demanded area. User Agency will have to transplant all the trees under the supervision of concerned Deputy Conservator of Forest at its own cost. (2) User agency will have to plant twice the number of trees to be cut on both sides of the proposed road at its own expense in consultation with the concerned officer. (Number of trees proposed to be felled is wrongly mentioned as 1424 in place of 712)																		
13	PSC Meeting	12.06.2025 Recommended the proposal.																		

(e)

Further,

1. Reported that No displacement of people due to this project.
2. Undertaking for Muck disposal plan not submitted.
3. Total period for which the forest land is proposed to be diverted (No. of years): 99
4. Clearance under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 stated as not required.
5. Cost- benefit analysis is not required as the area is less than 20 ha.
6. Non-forest of 0.12 ha is involved in the implementation of the project.
7. Justification for locating the project on forest land is submitted and alternative alignments are not submitted.
8. As per online Part-I, a related proposal of diversion of 92.0427 ha was submitted in the past by the User Agency and Stage-II approval has been issued for that on 31.05.2023.
9. **The RO Gandhinagar vide EDS letter dated 03.09.2025 had sought additional information and the state government had submitted their reply, which are furnished below:**

S.No	EDS raised by Regional Office	Reply submitted by the State
1	All the required undertaking to pay the compensatory levies by the user agency are to be submitted in the portal.	The Nodal Officer & PCCF/CWLW stated that the necessary undertakings for compensatory afforestation and NPV levies is submitted.
2	Working plan prescription for the forest land proposed for diversion is mentioned by the concerned as N/A. State Govt is requested to submit the necessary clarification in this regard	Nodal Officer reported that the forest land proposed for diversion falls in afforestation working circle in Baria forest division.
3	State Government is requested to submit the area calculation statement showing the requirement of area on the LHS as well as RHS of the existing road in different segment/chainage.	Nodal Officer informed that the demanded area statement on LHS and RHS along with chainages and village wise survey numbers is attached herewith
4	It is submitted that the State Govt vide letter dated 08.08.2025 informed that 1424 trees are required to be cut in the demanded area. But the concerned DCF in the part-II stated that total 712 tree will be felled. Therefore, State Govt is requested to submit the necessary clarification in this regard.	712 trees are required to be cut in the demanded area as reported by the Nodal Officer.
5	The State Government has identified 25.00 ha of degraded forest land for the purpose of Compensatory Afforestation. But as per VSES Rules 2023, rule 13 (1) An user agency shall provide land which is neither notified	The MOEF&CC, Gol Gazette Notification vide letter dt.20/09/2024, which grants relaxation for the Central Government Projects for non-forest land for CA. The user agency is

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<p>as forest under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 (16 of 1927) or any other law nor managed as forest by the Forest Department and it shall also bear the cost of raising compensatory afforestation over such land. Thus, the State Government may be requested to identify suitable non-forest land for the purpose of CA and submit the proposal with all the necessary details such as site suitability certificate, KML file, CA scheme and certificate from the concerned District collector that the land identified for CA will be Mutated in the name of Forest Department.</p>	<p>the Central Government i.e. National Highways Authority of India. Hence the State Government has identified 25.00 ha of degraded forest land for the purpose of Compensatory Afforestation and is uploaded on portal.</p>
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Deliberation: -

The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (AIGF) and the Member Secretary of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) has given a detailed presentation before the Committee on the proposal for the diversion of 12.0209 hectares of Reserved Forest land for the construction of an eight-lane Delhi-Vadodara Expressway section of NE-4 for additional land width requirement beyond the Right of Way (RoW) in Dahod District, Gujarat, in favour of the Project Director, National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) (Proposal No. FP/GJ/ROAD/526951/2025). The project involves additional land requirement beyond the RoW for slope stabilization and construction of retaining structures such as Counter-fort Retaining Walls, RE Walls and RRM Retaining Walls up to a height of 40 to 60 meters along the expressway passing through hilly and rolling terrain at various chainages between 726+400 and 751+300 across the villages Zerjitgarh, Hathiyavan, Guna and Vadodar of Dahod District.

The forest land proposed for diversion falls within the Baria Forest Division and is legally classified as Reserved Forest with a canopy density of 0.3 and Eco-class IV. The total project cost is ₹6,345 crore and it is expected to generate an employment of around 91,550 man-days during construction and 2,51,250 man-days during the operational phase. The Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) reported that no violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act has occurred and the area is not prone to erosion. REC members have objected to the statement of DFO that the area is not prone to erosion as it is a hilly and rolling terrain. The project area does not fall within any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, or Elephant Corridor and is situated approximately 38 km away from the Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary. A total of 712 trees belonging to 53 species are proposed to be felled, and compensatory afforestation has been planned over 25 hectares of degraded forest land in Village Chatka, Range Zalod, Tehsil Jhalod of Dahod District, with a planting density of 1,111 trees per hectare and a financial outlay of ₹2.0374 crore.

It has also been noticed by the Committee that the DFO, Baria Forest Division of Gujarat, recommended the proposal for approval with the condition that the user agency provide suitable underpasses or overpasses in consultation with forest officials for free movement of wildlife and adhere to eco-friendly measures to

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mitigate the impacts of linear infrastructure. The PCCF (HoFF), Gujarat, also recommended the proposal, noting that it is an additional requirement for slope stabilization in a specific stretch of the expressway, while the State Government of Gujarat recommended the proposal with conditions including the transplantation of all trees under the supervision of the Deputy Conservator of Forest at the cost of the user agency and the plantation of twice the number of trees on both sides of the road. The proposal was also discussed in the Project Screening Committee (PSC) meeting held on 12.06.2025, where it was noted that there would be no displacement of people, the muck disposal plan undertaking was pending, and environmental clearance was not required as per the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

The AIGF and Member Secretary further informed the Regional Office, Gandhinagar, had earlier sought certain clarifications, all of which were duly responded to by the State Government. These included confirmation that all undertakings for compensatory levies have been submitted, the forest area falls under an afforestation working circle, and the discrepancy in the number of trees to be felled has been resolved, confirming that 712 trees will be cut. The State Government also clarified that, as per the Gazette Notification dated 20.09.2024 issued by the MoEF&CC, relaxation has been granted for the use of degraded forest land for compensatory afforestation in Central Government projects, thus the identified 25 hectares of degraded forest land has been accepted. The AIGF and Member Secretary concluded that the proposal meets the requirements under the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2023, and the Committee deliberated upon all the aspects of the proposal in detail as presented.

REC Member Shri Soumitra Dasgupta raised a query regarding the condition proposed by the DFO, Baria Forest Division, regarding underpasses or overpasses for free movement of wildlife and adopt eco-friendly mitigation measures. Shri Dasgupta observed that, as per the records, the proposed site is located about 38 km away from the Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary, and therefore sought clarification on the objective of imposing such a condition when the protected area is significantly distant from the project site and the proposal is for slope stabilization but not for formation of road per se. In response, the representative of the Nodal Officer (FCA), Gujarat informed that although the protected area is more than 40 km away, some leopards and other wild animals are occasionally sighted in the vicinity of the proposed area, hence the Divisional Forest Officer had included the said condition as a precautionary measure. The Chairman of the REC clarified that the current proposal is not for a road construction but for slope stabilization works necessitated during execution of the main expressway. He further remarked that at this stage, the condition for providing underpasses for wildlife movement does not appear appropriate. Shri Soumitra Dasgupta concurred with the Chairman's view, stating that such conditions are sometimes imposed without adequate reasoning or field-based justification, and in this case, there seems to be no potential for wildlife conflict warranting such a mitigation measure in the instatn proposal. He added that if there were any real conflict concerns, they would have been addressed at the stage of the original project approval.

Further, Shri Soumitra Dasgupta sought clarification on the discrepancy regarding the number of trees involved in the proposal, as different figures — 1,424 and 712 trees were mentioned in the documents. The Chairman, REC clarified that the actual number of trees to be felled is 712, as per the clarification furnished by the SG in the EDS reply. Subsequently, Shri Dasgupta referred to the condition proposed by the State Government regarding transplantation of all the trees under the supervision of the Deputy Conservator of Forest at its own cost and also plant

twice the number of trees to be cut along both sides of the road. He questioned the feasibility of transplanting such a large number of trees, asking whether the State or the user agency had any prior experience of successfully implementing such large-scale transplantation. The representative of the Nodal Officer clarified that the condition regarding tree transplantation was not imposed by the Nodal Officer, but by the State Government, and that such large-scale transplantation is not practically possible. The Committee took note of this clarification and suggested for translocation of species which responds to transplantation with proper care and protection.

During the deliberation, REC Member Shri Shripal also suggested that, in the Fact Sheet of the proposal, only the recommendations of the Project Screening Committee (PSC) and the State Government are required to be mentioned, while the individual recommendations of the DFO and Nodal Officer may be omitted from the summary section. The Committee agreed to take note of this observation and update the documents accordingly.

The Chairman, REC informed that there is a court case pending in the Apex Court (WP No.1164/2023) regarding CA in general and if in future, Hon'ble court decides to make NFL mandatory for CA, the user agency has to give NFL for CA purpose. Therefore, an enabling condition is to be imposed in the prior approval in respect of CA. Members have agreed for the suggestion.

The Committee after examining the proposal in detail opined that the conditions proposed by the DFO regarding animal underpasses and the State Government regarding translocation of all the trees is practically not feasible on technical and scientific grounds, therefore the same are not agreeable.

Recommendation of REC:

Upon detailed deliberation, the Committee **recommended** the proposal for approval, subject to compliance with General, standard and specific conditions under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, Rules and guidelines issued thereunder.

AGENDA No.2 (Rajasthan)

Diversion of 9.5611 ha of Protected Forest land for KALITEER LIFT SCHEME, DHOLPUR (RAJASTHAN) to provide drinking water to 483 Villages of 4 Tehsils of Dholpur- District in favour of Executive Engineer, Water Resource Division-II, Dholpur in Rajasthan (FP/RJ/WATER/153642/2022).

Provisions of VSESA, 1980 & Rules made thereunder applicable to the proposal: Section: 2 (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Rule 10 Sub Rule (1) (3) of Rules, 2023.

The State Government of Rajasthan has processed and forwarded the online proposal (Proposal No. FP/RJ/WATER/153642/2022) vide letter no. P.1(97)Forest/2024 dated 04.11.2024 to RO, Gandhinagar in **PARIVESH 1.0** portal for diversion of 9.5611 ha of Protected Forest land for KALITEER LIFT SCHEME, DHOLPUR (RAJASTHAN) to provide drinking water to 483 Villages of 4 Tehsils of Dholpur- District in favour of Executive Engineer, Water Resource Division-II, Dholpur in Rajasthan. The factual details of the proposal are furnished below:

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FACT SHEET

1	Name of the Proposal	Diversion of 9.5611 ha of Protected Forest land for KALITEER LIFT SCHEME, DHOLPUR (RAJASTHAN) to provide drinking water to 483 Villages of 4 Tehsils of Dholpur- District in favour of Executive Engineer, Water Resource Division-II, Dholpur in Rajasthan.		
2.	Location			
	State	Rajasthan		
	District	Dholpur		
3.	Purpose wise breakup of the forest area required for diversion	S. No.	Component	Forest Land (Ha)
		1.	Approach Channel	0.8135
		2.	Pump House 1	0.1878
		3.	Pump House 2	0
		4.	Laying of pipeline, 33 KV Cable & Approach Road	8.5597
		5.	GSS 33/132 KV	0
			Total	9.5611
				8.6219
4.	Particulars of Forest			
i	Name of Forest Division	Chambal Sanctuary Sawaimadhopur		
ii	Area of Forest land proposed for Diversion	9.5611 Ha		
iii	Legal Status of Forest land	Protected Forest		
vi	Status of the User Agency	State Government (Department/Autonomous body)		
v	Density of Vegetation	Canopy: 0.5; Eco-class: III		
vi	Cost of the project	Rs. 800.04 Crore or 80004 Lakhs		
vii	Employment likely to be generated	Permanent - 02 Temporary: 10000 Man Days		
viii	Vulnerability of the forest area to erosion	Reported that not vulnerable to erosion.		
5	Whether forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. (if so, the details of the area the comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden to be annexed)	As per online Part-II of concerned DCF, the proposed forest patch is a part of Wildlife Sanctuary (1.6034 ha inside National Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary and 7.9577 ha inside Dholpur Tiger Reserve). Proposed diversion area is within National Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary and Dholpur Tiger Reserve. <i>It is submitted that the project is for underground drinking water pipeline and there will be no adverse impact on the wildlife, if implemented with proper mitigation measures.</i>		
	Whether any rare/endangered / unique			

6	species of flora and fauna found in the area if so, details thereof.	No															
7	Whether any protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area. If so, the details thereof with NOC from competent authority, if required.	No															
8	Whether the requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency in col.2 of Part-I is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project. If no, recommended area item-wise with details of alternatives examined.	DFO, has reported that the requirement of forest land for diversion as proposed by the UA is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project.															
9	Whether any work in violation of the Act has been carried out (Yes/ No). If yes, details of the same including period of work done, action taken on erring officials. Whether work in violation is still under progress.	DFO has reported that there is No Violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 involved in the proposal.															
10	Enumeration list of trees	Total Species: 18 Total Number of trees: 16106 Number of trees which will actually be felled: 16106															
11	Compensatory Afforestation	Non-Forest Land: The Total NFL for CA in Dholpur District is as follows: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Area_Ha</th> <th>Khasra No</th> <th>Village</th> <th>Range</th> <th>Tehsil</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>14.8859</td> <td>2058/2053</td> <td>Jheeri</td> <td>Sarmathura</td> <td>Sarmathura</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="5" style="text-align: center;">14.8859 Ha NFL</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Area_Ha	Khasra No	Village	Range	Tehsil	14.8859	2058/2053	Jheeri	Sarmathura	Sarmathura	14.8859 Ha NFL				
Area_Ha	Khasra No	Village	Range	Tehsil													
14.8859	2058/2053	Jheeri	Sarmathura	Sarmathura													
14.8859 Ha NFL																	
	Number of trees proposed to be planted in the CA scheme per	Not mentioned by the concerned DCF.															

	Ha	
	Financial Outlay for CA Scheme	Rs. 5879930- (Fifty-Eight Lakh, Seventy-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Rupees only)
12	Recommendation	
	DCF Chambal Sanctuary Sawaimadhopur	Recommended
	CCF, Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve	Recommended
	PCCF (HoFF), Gujarat	Recommended for approval
	State Government of Rajasthan	Recommended
13	PSC Meeting	No
14	District profile/ Division	Dholpur
	Geographical area of the district (ha)	303300 ha
	Forest area of the district (ha)	64968 ha
	Total forest area diverted since 1980 (ha)	2802.76 ha
	No. of Approved Cases	1
	Forest Land including penal C.A. (ha)	00 ha
	Progress of compensatory afforestation as on (date)	06/06/2024
	Forest land (ha)	00 ha
	Non-forest land (ha)	00 ha

Further,

1. Reported that No displacement of people due to this project.
2. Undertaking for Muck disposal plan is submitted.
3. Total period for which the forest land is proposed to be diverted (No. of years): 99
4. Clearance under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 stated as not required.
5. Cost- benefit analysis is not required (less than 20.00 Ha.)
6. Non-forest of 8.6219 ha is also involved in the implementation of the project.
7. Justification for locating the project on forest land is submitted and Alternative alignment along with comparative statement submitted on maps and statement.
8. Undertaking for cost of CA and amount of NPV are submitted by the User Agency.
9. **The RO Gandhinagar vide EDS letter dated 26.11.2024 had sought the following information:**

(11)

- i. प्रस्तावित वनभूमि राष्ट्रीय चम्बल वन्यजीव अभयारण्य एव धौलपुर बाघ संरक्षण क्षेत्र का भाग है, इसलिए राज्य शासन से अनुरोध है कि प्रस्तावित में संलग्न वन्यजीव बोर्ड से अनुमोदन प्राप्त करें एवं इस कार्यालय को राष्ट्रीय वन्यजीव बोर्ड से प्राप्त अनुमोदन की प्रति प्रेषित करें।
 - ii. इसके अलावा, सी.ए.एस्टीमेट हेतु दिये गये दस्तावेजों में, सी.ए. 50.00 हेक्टेयर दर्शायी गया है। सी.ए. क्षेत्र उपयुक्तता प्रमाण पत्र में प्रस्तावित वनभूमि 14.8859 हेक्टेयर दर्शायी गयी है। इस संबंध में राज्य शासन से अनुरोध है कि कृपया अपना स्पष्टीकरण दें।
10. **The State Govt. of Rajasthan has replied online on dated 08.09.2025 and submitted following information:**
- i. राष्ट्रीय वन्यजीव बोर्ड से प्राप्त अनुमोदन की प्रति एवं कार्यालय प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक एवं मुख्य वन्यजीव प्रतिपालक से प्राप्त सैद्धांतिक स्वीकृति की प्रति संलग्न है।
 - ii. सी.ए. एस्टीमेट (क्षेत्र 14.8859 हे0) की प्रति संलग्न है।

Deliberation: -

The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (AIGF) and Member Secretary of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) has given a detailed presentation before the Committee on the proposal for diversion of 9.5611 hectares of Protected Forest land for the Kaliteer Lift Scheme, Dholpur (Rajasthan), to provide drinking water to 483 villages across four tehsils of Dholpur District, in favour of the Executive Engineer, Water Resource Division-II, Dholpur (Proposal No. FP/RJ/WATER/153642/2022). The proposal, submitted under the provisions of Section 2(ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Rule 10, Sub-Rule (1) and (3) of the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2023, was forwarded by the State Government of Rajasthan vide letter No. P.1(97)Forest/2024 dated 04.11.2024 to the Regional Office, Gandhinagar through PARIVESH 1.0 Portal. The project aims to supply safe drinking water to a large population through the Kaliteer Lift Scheme and involves use of 9.5611 hectares of Protected Forest land and 8.6219 hectares of non-forest land for construction of approach channels, pump houses, laying of pipelines and cables, approach roads, and a GSS 33/132 KV substation, with an estimated project cost of ₹800.04 crore.

The AIGF in his presentation elaborated that the forest land proposed for diversion falls under the Chambal Sanctuary, Sawai Madhopur Forest Division, with a canopy density of 0.5 and eco-class III. The project area includes 1.6034 hectares within the National Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary and 7.9577 hectares within the Dholpur Tiger Reserve, as reported by the concerned DCF. It was stated that the project is primarily for underground pipeline laying and associated civil works and will not cause any adverse impact on wildlife if implemented with proper mitigation measures. The DCF reported that no violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has occurred and that the forest land proposed for diversion is unavoidable and the bare minimum required for the project. The total number of trees enumerated in the area is 16,106, covering 18 species, all of which are proposed to be felled for execution of the works. For compensatory afforestation, the State Government has identified 14.8859 hectares of non-forest land in Village Jheeri, Range Sarmathura, Tehsil Sarmathura, Dholpur District (Khasra No. 2058/2053), with a financial outlay of ₹58,79,930, though the number of trees proposed to be planted per hectare has not been mentioned by the DCF.

The AIGF further informed the Committee that the proposal has been recommended by the DCF, Chambal Sanctuary Sawai Madhopur, the CCF, Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, the PCCF (HoFF), Rajasthan, and the State

Government of Rajasthan. The presentation highlighted that the total period of diversion proposed is 99 years, there is no displacement of people, and the Environmental Clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is not required, as the project area is below the threshold limit. It was also stated that non-forest land of 8.6219 ha is involved in the project and that justification for locating the project on forest land has been provided along with comparative alternatives on maps. The User Agency has submitted undertakings for the cost of Compensatory Afforestation and Net Present Value (NPV). The Regional Office, Gandhinagar, vide EDS letter dated 26.11.2024, had sought clarification regarding approval from the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL), and the State Government, in its reply dated 08.09.2025, submitted a copy of the NBWL approval and clearance from the Chief Wildlife Warden, along with a copy of the approved Compensatory Afforestation site statement.

During deliberation, the Committee noted that while the State Government has identified 14.90 hectares of non-forest land for compensatory afforestation, the certificate from the concerned District Collector confirming that the land is free from encumbrances and will be mutated in the name of the Forest Department has not been provided. The Committee also noted that felling of 16,106 trees is involved, and that the DCF has not mentioned the plantation density per hectare for the compensatory afforestation scheme, which needs to be clarified.

The Nodal Officer, FCA (Rajasthan) informed that the revised CA scheme indicating the revised Financial Outlay for CA Scheme has been provided. As per the revised scheme the financial outlay is One crore twenty six lakh sixty-one thousand seven hundred only in place of 5879930- (Fifty-Eight Lakh, Seventy-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Rupees only) mentioned in the documets. It was clarified that the number of trees proposed to be planted per hactor is 1000 per hactor.

Shri Soumitra Dasgupta, Member of REC asked three questions from the Nodal Officer about the proposal. Is this a irrigation project or drinking water project (2). The 33 Kv line is proposed, what is the purpose of the same? (3) In the recommendation of the Standing Committee-NBWL, some amount of money suppose to be deposited by the project proponent in the RPACS, what they will do with this money? As a tiger reserve is involved, whether the money can go to the foundation of the tiger reserve or the RPACS?.

Nodal Officer replied that, the project is for supply of drinking water only and the electric line is proposed for providing electricity for pumping of water. As regards to the deposit of money into RPACS, it is clarified that RPACS stands for Rajasthan Protected Area Conservation Society and the money deposited in this account by the project proponent will be utilized for the implementation of mitigation measures as prescribed in the Wildlife clearance by the concerned divisions.

Shri Shripal, Member, REC, observed that the DFO's report incorrectly described the area as not prone to erosion, while the Chambal ravine area is known to be highly vulnerable to erosion. He further pointed out that the proposal does not contain the recommendation of the Project Screening Committee (PSC), which is now mandatory for projects involving more than five hectares of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2023. The Chairman, REC, noted that although the proposal was initiated before the establishment of the PSC, since the proposal has not yet reached finality and is being considered under the amended legal framework, the PSC's recommendation must be obtained before any approval is issued. It was accordingly agreed that the State Government shall obtain the recommendation of the PSC and forward the same to the Regional Office along with the updated and corrected proposal documents.

The Committee discussed the suitability of the CA land located in Chiri village and noted that the area is located in ravines and undulating terrain, which may pose challenges for raising successful plantation and may disturb the natural ecosystem. It was suggested that the State may explore an equivalent area of degraded forest land (DFL) for afforestation, in addition to the non-forest land identified, to improve the ecological effectiveness of the CA.

After detailed deliberation, the Committee observed that the proposal involves forest land located within the National Chambal Sanctuary and the Dholpur Tiger Reserve landscape and therefore requires strict compliance with the conditions stipulated by the Standing Committee of the NBWL and the Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan. The Committee further observed that the site details and erosion vulnerability statement in the proposal need to be corrected to reflect ground reality and that suitable soil conservation and mitigation measures must be incorporated. The Committee also noted inconsistencies in the CA cost, tree enumeration, and segment area data, which must be reconciled and corrected. It was decided that since the proposal was submitted prior to 2023 but is being considered after the enforcement of the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2023, the recommendation of the PSC is mandatory before issuance of Stage-I approval.

Recommendation of REC:

Upon deliberation, the Committee **recommended** the proposal for approval, subject to compliance with standard conditions under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and guidelines issued thereunde. However, the Stage-I approval may be issued by the Regional Office only after the revised details as stated during hte meeting by the Nodal Officer are furnished abd also the PSC recommendation from the State Government.

(Concurred through e-mail)
Shri Shripal
Member


Shri Balaji Kari
AIG (Central) cum
Member Secretary
(REC)

(Concurred through e-mail)
Shri Soumitra Dasgupta
Member

(Absent)
Joint Secretary
(Revenue)
Govt. of Gujarat,
Gandhinagar


Dr. G. Trinadh Kumar
Chairman (REC) RO Gandhinagar

(Absent)
Shri Rajendra Lunker
Member

(Absent)
Principal Secretary
(Revenue)
Govt. of Rajasthan,
Jaipur

**Re: DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 31st MEETING OF THE REGIONAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE (REC)
HELD ON 07.11.2025 AT REGIONAL OFFICE, GANDHINAGAR**

4 emails

shripal singh <shripalifs@yahoo.com >

Thu, 13 Nov 2025 12:10:12 PM +0530

To "K MEENA"<kr.meena@nic.in>

I concur with draft MoM.

Shripal

On Tuesday, November 11, 2025 at 02:34:25 PM GMT+5:30, K MEENA <kr.meena@nic.in> wrote:

Respected Sir/Madam,

Please find attached a scanned copy of draft minutes of the 31st REC held on 07.11.2025 for perusal and approval please.

सादर/With regards

(के.आर. मीना/K.R Meena)

तकनीकी अधिकारी (वानिकी) ग्रेड-I/ Technical Officer (Forestry) Grade-I

& Drawing and Disbursing Officer/आहरण एवं संवितरण अधिकारी

पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय/Ministry of Environment, Forest and
Climate Change

भारत सरकार/ Government of India

एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय/Integrated Regional Office,

जयपुर (राजस्थान)/ Jaipur (Rajasthan)

Telephone No. 0141-2713858



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आवश्यक ना हो इस ई-मेल का प्रिंट ना ले, कागज बचाएं, पेड़ बचाएं। Please think twice before printing this email, don't print this e-mail unless it's really necessary, save paper, save trees.

shripal singh <shripalifs@yahoo.com >

Wed, 12 Nov 2025 10:15:44 PM +0530

To "K MEENA"<kr.meena@nic.in>

On Tuesday, November 11, 2025 at 02:34:25 PM GMT+5:30, K MEENA <kr.meena@nic.in> wrote:

Respected Sir/Madam,

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सादर/With regards

(के.आर. मीना/K.R Meena)

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& Drawing and Disbursing Officer/आहरण एवं संवितरण अधिकारी

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भारत सरकार/ Government of India

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जयपुर (राजस्थान)/ Jaipur (Rajasthan)

Telephone No. 0141-2713858



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soumitra dasgupta < soumitra444@rediffmail.com >

Wed, 12 Nov 2025 11:21:11 AM +0530

To "K MEENA "<kr.meena@nic.in>

Dear KRM

I agree with the MOM.
Thanks

From: kr.meena@nic.in

Sent: Tue, 11 Nov 2025 14:34:27

To: "shripalifs" <shripalifs@yahoo.com>, "soumitra444" <soumitra444@rediffmail.com>

Cc: "agmu174.ifs" <agmu174.ifs@nic.in>

Subject: DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 31st MEETING OF THE REGIONAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE (REC) HELD ON 07.11.2025 AT REGIONAL OFFICE, GANDHINAGAR

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सादर/With regards

(के.आर. मीना/K.R Meena)

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& Drawing and Disbursing Officer/आहरण एवं संवितरण अधिकारी

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K MEENA < kr.meena@nic.in >

Tue, 11 Nov 2025 2:34:19 PM +0530

To "shripalifs"<shripalifs@yahoo.com>,"soumitra444"<soumitra444@rediffmail.com>

Cc "agmu174.ifs"<agmu174.ifs@nic.in>

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सादर/With regards

(के.आर. मीना/K.R Meena)

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& Drawing and Disbursing Officer/आहरण एवं संवितरण अधिकारी

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जयपुर (राजस्थान)/ Jaipur (Rajasthan)

Telephone No. 0141-2713858



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1 Attachment(s)

Draft MoM for 31st REC Meeti...

118.4 KB