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Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Maharashtra State

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Nodal Officer,
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Sub.:- Diversion of 18.1824 ha of Forest land for construction of link road between Thane-Belapur road to NH-4 including tunnel through Parsik hill in Thane District.

No. : Desk-17/NC/II/ID 12540/(61)/²⁸⁹⁸/2017-18

Nagpur – 440 001, Dated: ^{26/02/2018}

To ,

Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central),
Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,
Regional Office (WCZ), Ground Floor, East Wing,
New Secretariat Building, Civil Lines,
Nagpur 440001

Ref:- GOI letter No FC-II/MH-76/2018-NGP/3248 dated 08/02/2018.

Sir,

As desired by Government of India vide their letter dated 08/02/2018, Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Thane has submitted the information vide their letter dated 22/02/2018. Clarification on points raised by Government of India are submitted as under :-

Sr.no	Quarry	Compliance
1.	Differential GPS map of the area identified for raising compensatory afforestation has not been submitted. The same needs to be submitted along with soft copies of its KML/Shape Files	The Differential GPS map of the area identified for raising compensatory afforestation is enclosed herewith as <u>Annexure – 1</u> alongwith soft copies of its KML/Shape File
2.	Detailed site – specific CA scheme inter-alia containing protection measures for seven to ten years has not been submitted along with the proposal .The same needs to be submitted by State Government.	Divisional Forest Officer Osmanabad. submitted the detailed site-specific CA scheme containing protection measures for 7 to 10 years is enclosed herewith as <u>Annexure - 2</u>

3.	The DCF Osmanabad, has certified that the land identified for raising CA is suitable, contiguous, and is free from the encroachment and encumbrances. However, examination of the Google Satellite imagery of the area identified for raising CA revealed that is surrounded by the agricultural fields. Therefore, the State Government needs to re-confirm the legal status of the land existing in the contiguity of the proposed CA land.	The Deputy Conservator of Forests Thane has submitted that proposal for transfer of said land to Forest Department in lieu of forest land proposed for diversion has already been submitted to Collector Osmanabad. DFO Osmanabad inspected the land on site and submitted suitability certificate. Therefore, though the surrounding area is agriculture land the adjoining proposed "Gairan" land is suitable for plantation. 7/12 extract is enclosed as <u>Annexure 3</u>
4.	A Muck Disposal Plan detailing the provisions of the spaces earmarked for dumping of all excavated material generated from construction of tunnel and its utilization, outside forest area may be submitted by the state Government.	The User Agency has submitted the Muck disposal plan is enclosed as <u>Annexure - 4</u>
5.	The RoW proposed for the road ranges from 10 meters to 65 meters. It is also observed that RoW in the PF/RF has been kept at maximum up to 65 meters while in the Private forest land the same has been kept at the lower side up to 10 meters. The rationale for proposing higher RoW in the notified forest land and lesser on Row in the private/acquired forest land has not been mentioned by the State Government.	The private forest area is at the beginning and at the end of alignment. The area in small patches in village Kausa & Chichavali is of Private Forest Land. The affected width of RoW in these villages varies from 10 to 50 m, and the statement is enclosed as <u>Annexure - 5.</u>
6.	Further examination of the alignment revealed that twin tunnels (3 in nos.) have been proposed. Examination of the Google Satellite Imagery of the proposed alignment revealed a mining quarry above the tunnel proposed near to the MIDC industrial area. The State Government may therefore furnish its comments on the present status of mining vis-à-vis safety / stability of the proposed tunnel in the said area.	The Deputy Conservator of Forests Thane submitted that the said stone quarry is closed for want of Environmental Clearance. However, The User Agency has proposed permanent concrete lining for safety of Tunnel.
7.	Compliance of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 revealed that proceedings of the Sub- Divisional Level Committee has been submitted in vernacular language and also not being cross signed by the all members of the Sub-Division Level Committee. The English version of the same shall be submitted. Further, original copy of the District	The User Agency has submitted the original copy of the FRA -2006 certificate dated 12/12/2017 issued by the District Collector Thane along with connected documents in English version is enclosed as <u>Annexure - 6.</u>

	Collector certificate may also be submitted by the State Government.	
8.	As per detail furnished in the map depicting the alternative alignments a total 6 alternative alignments have been explored by the User Agency. However alignment wise complete detail of attributes examined for the selection of proposed alignment and discarding others has not been submitted by the State Government. The same needs to be submitted detailing the information on the parameters like forest area, number of trees, forest density, presence of endangered species etc.	<p>The Deputy Conservator of Thane has submitted that the advantages of selected alignment over other proposed alignments as follows :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less disturbance to built-up area • No R & R required • No disturbance to traffic during construction phase • Riding quality is better as no hair-pin bends are proposed in alignment • Less Utility shifting • No disturbance to important species like mangrove etc.
9.	Details of employment potential in terms of man days of skilled, semiskilled and unskilled persons on permanent (direct and indirect) and temporary (direct and indirect) basis have not been provided.	The User Agency has submitted the details of employment potential is enclosed as <u>Annexure 7</u>
10.	The State Government may obtain undertaking from the User Agency in accordance with the provisions as contained in the MoEF & CC' guidelines dated 07/01/2013.	The User Agency has submitted that the feasibility study of total 6 no. of alignment has been already done with respect to this project. The most technically feasible and causing minimum damage to the environment alignment has been proposed for this project. Undertaking submitted by the User Agency is enclosed as <u>Annexure 8</u>

It is therefore requested that the required information may please be taken into consideration & the proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 may be approved as early as possible.

Encls : As above

Draft Approved by
Addl.P.C.C.F.& N.O.M. S.Nagpur

OK
26/2/18 **For Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State, Nagpur**

Copy submitted to The Secretary (Forests), Revenue & Forest Department, Mantralaya
Mumbai for information along with a compliance report.

Copy to Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Thane.

Copy to Deputy Conservator of Forests Thane

Copy to Executive Engineer (Engineering Division), MMRDA, Bandra Kurla complex, Bandra
(E), Mumbai

