

To

The Divisional Forest Officer Theog
Forest Division, H.P.

Subject: Diversion of 0.4867 ha of forest land in favor of Sh. Baldev Singh Thakur, Director, Kufri FunCampus, Shimla for the construction of Gravity Zip Ropeway, within the jurisdiction of Theog (Shimla) Forest Division, District Shimla, H.P.

Sir,

Kindly refer to the letter dated 2nd February 2022 from the Regional Officer,

Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Govt. of India, Shimla on the subject cited above.

2. In this context, it is submitted that the only one end of the proposed ropeway is connected by road and this road leads as ambulance road and covers a long distance which causes heavy traffic jams in the area and ultimately increases pollution besides the problems being faced by the locals as well as tourists/pilgrims. Other end of the proposed ropeway is not connected by any road and the road being observed in the KML file is in fact a mule path.

3. The proposed zip-ropeway is a green mode of transportation and carbon neutral project which will provide an eco-friendly alternative mode of transportation to the people of the area. Further, it is well known that this area receives heavy snowfall almost throughout the year. During snowfall or after snowfall, due to existing steep slope, road cannot be used and during such situations also, the zip-ropeway can be provide an effective mode of transportation.

4. It is important to mention here that in consideration of the proposal of the State of Himachal Pradesh, it has been conveyed vide MoEF&CC letter dated 5th July 2019 (copy enclosed), after recommendations of the FAC, that the zip-ropeway projects are eco-friendly mode of connectivity and contribute to conservation if they are constructed at least 5 meters above the tree line and without felling of trees along the alignment of the cableway. The construction of zip-ropeways is an alternative mode of connectivity with minimum destruction and without fragmentation of habitats.

5. As per the conditions of the Ministry, the lowest point of the proposed zip-ropeway is 5 meters from the tree line. Moreover, we have already increased the height of the proposed structure so that more trees can be saved which will certainly reduce the number of trees proposed for felling from 33 to 16 trees only.

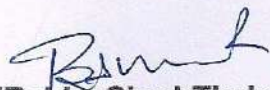
6. Further, the Ministry has also conveyed vide the aforesaid letter that the forest area under the terminal stations and intermediate line towers shall be considered for diversion under the provisions of FCA, 1980. As far as the proposed project is considered only one tower i.e. the starting point at Mahasu Peak is proposed to be constructed on forestland and the remaining proposed tower to be constructed over private land i.e. KFC helipad.

7. — The alignment proposed for this zip-ropeway project is the most feasible as per the study report by OXO Consultants Pvt. Ltd. Copy of the same is enclosed for your ready references. Further according to the FCA Handbook Guide line, the proposed project comes under linear project category, therefore proposed project may not be considered under non-site specific project category, hence the change in the alignment of the zip-ropeway is neither feasible nor possible moreover, it is a Gravity Zip Ropeway that can work with suitable slope and alignment. The forest land involved in the project is the barest minimum and there is no alternate suitable private/non-forest land available that can be used in place of forest land. All the land surrounding the starting tower is forest land (RF) which is unavoidable. This tower cannot be located elsewhere. Therefore, keeping in view the aforesaid submissions, the proposed project is essentially a site-specific project keeping in view the aforesaid submissions as well its technical aspects.

8. It is, therefore, requested that the aforesaid project may kindly be considered for the diversion of forest land under FCA, 1980.

Thankingyou,
Yoursfaithfully,

Dated: 15-10-2023
Place: New kufri, Shimla


(BaldevSinghThakur)
Director, Kufri Fun Campus, Shimla,
Himachal Pradesh