

F.No.11-5/2021-IA.III
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
IA-III (CRZ) Section

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: 11th January, 2023

To

The Executive engineer
Public Works Department
Government of Tamil Nadu
Kosasthalayar Divison
Thiruvallur, Tamil Nadu – 602001

Email: pwdadyar2020@gmail.com

Subject: Widening and desilting the Adyar River from mouth to d/s of Thiru Vi Ka Bridge, Chainageom to 1963m (42,600m to 40,637m) in Thiruvallur, Chennai, Tamil Nadu by The Public Works Department, Government of Tamil Nadu - CRZ Clearance - regarding.

Sir,

This has reference to your proposal No. IA/TN/CRZ/199027/2021 dated 19th February, 2021 on the above mentioned project proposal for CRZ Clearance, in accordance with the provisions of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2011 issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

2. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has examined the proposal for CRZ Clearance to the project for Widening and desilting the Adyar River from mouth to d/s of Thiru Vi Ka Bridge, Chainageom to 1963m (42,600m to 40,637m) in Thiruvallur, Chennai, Tamil Nadu by the Public Works Department, Government of Tamil Nadu.

3. The proposal was considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for Infrastructure Development, Coastal Regulation Zone, Building/Construction and Miscellaneous projects, in its meetings held on 5th March, 2021, 8th December 2021 and 29th November, 2022. The project proponent and their consultant made detailed presentation and informed as under:

- (i) Adyar River starts from Adanur lake in Manimangalam village, Sriperumbudur Taluk at about 15 kilometers (9 m) from west of Tambaram near Chennai, flows through Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur and Chennai District for about 42.5 kilometers (26.4 mi) before joining the Bay of Bengal in Adyar, Chennai.
- (ii) The total area is 231.07 acres. Desilting will be carried over on 176.35 acres in Adyar River. The island in the river covering an area of 54.72 acres is exempted from desilting.
- (iii) The project site falls in CRZ-IA (50m Buffer from Mangroves) (27077.92 sq.m.), CRZ-IB (2054.87 sq.m) and CRZ-IVB (684542.98 sq.m) area, as per the approved CZMP of Tamil Nadu. Total desalting area is 713675.77 sq.m.
- (iv) Project activity is a permissible activity as per CRZ notification, 2011, *vide* Para 3 (iv) (c), however, project requires CRZ clearance as per CRZ Notification 2011.



- (v) The proposed desilting activity project will be carried out in Adyar estuary water body and will not be executed in the mangroves area.
- (vi) The CRZ map of 1:4000 has been prepared by Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Anna University, Chennai.
- (vii) Desilted material will be sent to corporation of Chennai approved dumping yards namely Kodungaiyur and OSR areas of GCC.
- (viii) The need of the project is to improve the water carrying and holding capacity of the Adyar River.
- (ix) Widening will be carried out using earth moving machineries for excavating the earth and will be conveyed by means of tippers for forming embankment wherever required for both sides of river for entire reach.
- (x) The desilted material will be stored inside the river banks for a short period, without disturbing the mangroves.
- (xi) A temporary road will be formed and will be used for transporting the desilted material from Adyar River.
- (xii) The desilting of the river bed will remove silt and sand from the mouth to Thiru.Vi. Ka Bridge a total of 486100 m³ of silt that will be diverted to the Corporation dumpsites.
- (xiii) Permission letter for disposing the desilted materials (1,90,458 m³) from Adyar River in the vacant OSR lands of GCC is obtained from GCC vide Ir.No.P.D.C.NO. P2/1099/2020 and Ir.No.S.W.M.C.No. A8/1889/2020 for dumping of 2,43,050 m³ silt at Kodangaiyur Dumping ground.
- (xiv) The remaining silt of 52592 m³ will be used for bund strengthening along the river stretch.
- (xv) The proposed activities will restore the silted watercourse that would improve the channel flow capacity of the river. Overall, the desiltation of Adyar River would improve the water storage capacity, soil texture and water holding capacity which would mark a greater significance to the people of Chennai.
- (xvi) The employment potential of the project is 35 persons.
- (xvii) The total cost of the project is ₹21.63 crores.
- (xviii) Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority (TNCZMA) has recommended the project *vide* its letter No.1216/EC.3/2021-1,dated 10/02/2021.

4. The EAC made detailed deliberated on the proposal. The proposal was earlier considered by the EAC in its meetings held on 5th March, 2021 and 8th December 2021. The Committee in its earlier meeting noted that Adyar estuary is highly polluted due to sewage and domestic effluents while the baseline report mentioned DO levels very high, which is not correct. Other parameters such as COD, Coliform, PAC, metals, etc. are also reported below the detectable level based on the data collected in January 2020. The authenticity of data has to be ascertained by an independent and nationally credible institute with compliance from TNPCB and submit. Further, the NIOT / NCCR study is also going on and it will take 6 months to be completed. The Committee also desired to seek a factual report from the Regional Office of the Ministry at Chennai regarding whether the PWD initiated any work of widening / desilting of the Adyar River mouth without requisite CRZ clearance. The project proponent has now submitted documents as desired by EAC and placed before the Committee.

The Committee noted that the TNCZMA recommended the project and intimated that the activity is a permissible activity *vide* Para 3 (iv) (c), however, project requires CRZ clearance as per CRZ Notification 2011. The Committee also noted that no work

initiated by PP as report forwarded by Regional Office of the Ministry at Chennai vide letter dated 07/04/2022. The Committee noted that the PP intimated that project will improve the water carrying and holding capacity of the Adyar River and enhancing the tidal exchange into the estuarine region where the Adyar River and Bay of Bengal Sea meets and to restore the marine habitat. The Committee also noted that the Adyar estuary is ecologically very important i.e physiochemical water quality parameters, heavy metals, sediment quality, benthic and Plankton assessment, Petroleum hydrocarbons, chlorophyll etc. and also noted / few recommendations suggested by NIOT in its report.

5. Based on the recommendation of the Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority and considering the submissions made by the project proponent, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, in acceptance of the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee (CRZ), hereby accords CRZ Clearance to the project for **Widening and desilting the Adyar River from mouth to d/s of Thiru Vi Ka Bridge, Chainageom to 1963m (42,600m to 40,637m) in Thiruvallur, Chennai, Tamil Nadu by the Public Works Department, Government of Tamil Nadu**, under the provisions of the CRZ Notification, 2011 and amendments thereto, subject to the compliance of terms and conditions as under:-

PART A – SPECIFIC CONDITIONS:

- (i). All construction shall be strictly in accordance with the provisions of the CRZ Notification, 2011, as amended from time to time.
- (ii). The PP should undertake six month monitoring through National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) or any reputed institute on all physico-chemical water quality parameters, petroleum hydrocarbons, chlorophyll, heavy metals, sediment quality, benthic and plankton assessment 5 km inside the Adyar estuary and 5 km in coastal area with 2.5 km on either side of the river mouth.
- (iii). As recommended by NIOT in its report following should be complied and submit the plan along with year wise physical target and financial budget and same should be submitted to IRO:
 - 1) The sand removal from the beach should not be carried out during the active sea turtle nesting season (January to May).
 - 2) The dredged sand should not be used directly for beach nourishment and its suitability must be examined thoroughly. The sediment grain sizes of the dredging site and the turtle nesting beach must be studied in detailed by Zoological Survey of India in case if this sand is to be used for beach nourishment. ZSI will provide necessary recommendation in this matter.
 - 3) A comprehensive marine environmental monitoring should be undertaken through a nationally reputed institute having expertise in the subject to determine impact of the discharge against the baseline water and sediment quality parameters as stated in the EMP in the estuarine areas of the Adyar River confluence with the Bay of Bengal to upstream of about five kilometres. Remedial measures if required to be undertaken and provision for the costs for the same to be provided by the PP.
 - 4) Monitoring of shore erosion/accretion should be undertaken along the coastal stretch in open coastal waters over a distance covering 3 km on each side to the north of the confluence.
 - 5) PP will submit within six months to the regional office of Ministry the time bound implementation plan for waste water treatment including the state of art STPs to prevent discharge of polluted water in to the Adyar River. Water quality monitoring to be undertaken through two independent Governments recognized institutions of the water quality during the entire implementation

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stage of this work. The reports of the same will be submitted to the Regional Office of Ministry on six monthly basis.

- (iv). Permanent labour camp, machinery and material storage shall not be set up in the CRZ area.
- (v). No groundwater shall be extracted within CRZ area to meet water requirements during the construction and / or operational phase of the project.
- (vi). All the conditions stipulated by the Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority has recommended the proposal for CRZ clearance *vide* its Letter No.1216/EC.3/2021-1, dated 10/02/2021 and commitments made by the PP before the CZMA and EAC shall be followed in letter and spirit.
- (vii). All necessary clearance from the concerned authority, as may be applicable should be obtained prior to commencement of project or activity.

PART B - GENERAL CONDITIONS:

- (i). Management of solid waste in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 shall be strictly implemented.
- (ii). 'Consent to Establish' and / or 'Consent to Operate' shall be obtained from State Pollution Control Board under the provisions of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and / or the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, as may be applicable.
- (iii). Disposal of muck during construction phase should not create any adverse effect on the neighbouring communities and be disposed taking the necessary precautions for general safety and health aspects of people, only in approved sites with the approval of Competent Authority.
- (iv). All liquid waste arising from the proposed development will be disposed of as per the norms prescribed by Central / State Pollution Control Board. There shall not be any disposal of untreated effluent into the sea / coastal water bodies. It shall be ensured that the wastewater generated is treated in the STP as committed by the project proponent. The treated waste water shall be reused for landscaping, flushing and / or HVAC cooling purposes etc. within the development. The project proponent should also make alternate arrangement for situation arising due to malfunctioning of STP. There shall be regular monitoring of standard parameters of the effluent discharge from STP under intimation to the SPCB.
- (v). Any hazardous waste generated during construction phase, shall be disposed off as per applicable rules and norms with necessary approvals of the State Pollution Control Board.
- (vi). A copy of the clearance letter shall be uploaded on the website of the concerned State Coastal Zone Management Authority / State Pollution Control Board. The Clearance letter shall also be displayed at the Regional Office, District Industries Centre and Collector's Office / Tehsildar's office for 30 days.
- (vii). A six-monthly monitoring report shall need to be submitted by the project proponent to the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry regarding the implementation of the stipulated conditions.
- (viii). The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change or any other Competent Authority may stipulate any additional conditions or modify the existing ones, if necessary in the interest of environment and the same shall be complied with.
- (ix). Full co-operation shall be extended to the officials from the Regional Office of MoEF&CC, during monitoring of implementation of environmental safeguards stipulated. It shall be ensured that documents/data sought pertinent is made



available to the monitoring team. A complete set of all the documents submitted to MoEF&CC shall be forwarded to the concerned Regional Office of MoEF&CC.

- (x). In the case of any change(s) in the scope of the project, the project would require a fresh appraisal by this Ministry.
- (xi). The Ministry reserves the right to add additional safeguard measures subsequently, if considered necessary, and to take action to ensure effective implementation of the suggested safeguard measures in a time bound and satisfactory manner, including revoking of the environment clearance under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, for non-compliance.
- (xii). All other statutory clearances such as the approvals for storage of diesel from Chief Controller of Explosives, Fire Department, Civil Aviation Department, Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 etc. shall be obtained, as applicable by project proponent from the respective Competent Authorities.
- (xiii). The project proponent should advertise in at least two local Newspapers widely circulated in the region, one of which shall be in the vernacular language informing that the project has been accorded CRZ Clearance and copies of clearance letters are available with the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) and may also be seen on the website of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at <https://parivesh.nic.in/>. The advertisement should be made within Seven days from the date of receipt of the Clearance letter and a copy of the same should be forwarded to the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry.
- (xiv). A copy of the clearance letter shall be sent by the proponent to concerned Panchayat, Zilla Parishad / Municipal Corporation, Urban Local Body and the Local NGO, if any, from whom suggestions/ representations, if any, were received while processing the proposal.
- (xv). The proponent shall upload the status of compliance of the stipulated conditions, including results of monitored data on their website and shall update the same periodically. It shall simultaneously be sent to the Regional Office of MoEF&CC, the respective Zonal Office of CPCB and the SPCB.
- (xvi). The environmental statement for each financial year ending 31st March in Form-V as is mandated to be submitted by the project proponent to the concerned State Pollution Control Board as prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, as amended subsequently, shall also be put on the website of the project proponent along with the status of compliance of clearance conditions and shall also be sent to the respective Regional Office of the Ministry by e-mail.

6. This Clearance is subject to final order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the matter of Goa Foundation Vs Union of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No.460 of 2004 as may be applicable to this project.

7. The Ministry reserves the right to stipulate additional conditions, if found necessary at subsequent stages and the project proponent shall implement all the said conditions in a time bound manner. The Ministry may revoke or suspend the CRZ clearance, if implementation of any of the above conditions is not found satisfactory.

8. Concealing factual data or submission of false / fabricated data and failure to comply with any of the conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal of this clearance and attract action under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

9. Any appeal against this CRZ clearance shall lie with the National Green Tribunal, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under Section 16 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.



10. The above conditions shall be enforced, *inter-alia* under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and Rules and any other orders passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India / High Courts and any other Court of Law relating to the subject matter.

11. This issues with approval of the Competent Authority.



(Dr. H. Kharkwal)
Scientist 'E' (CRZ)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Secretary, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Tamil Nadu, No.1, Jeenis Road, Panagal Building, Ground Floor, Saidapet, Chennai-600015, Tamil Nadu.
2. The Deputy DGF (C), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, 1st and 11nd Floor, Handloom Export Promotion Council, 34, Cathedral Garden Road, Nungambakkam Chennai – 600034, Tamil Nadu.
3. The Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority, Department of Environment, Government of Tamil Nadu, Ground Floor, Panagal Building, Saidapet, Chennai-600015, Tamil Nadu.
4. The Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi - 110032
5. The Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, 76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai – 600032, Tamil Nadu.
6. Guard File / Monitoring File / Website / Record File



(Dr. H. Kharkwal)
Scientist 'E' (CRZ)