

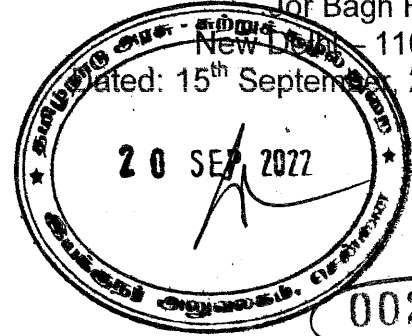
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F.No.11-25/2022-IA.III
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
IA-III Section (CRZ)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
for Bagh Road
New Delhi - 110003
Dated: 15th September 2022

To

The Water Resources Department
Government of Tamil Nadu
Executive Engineer WRD
Araniyar Basin Division, Chepauk
Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 005
Email: eearaniyarpwd@yahoo.co.in



Subject: Construction of Curved Training Walls (Groynes) In the Northern and Southern sides of Cooum River Mouth (Eastern side of Regulator) and allied works for the sustainable opening of Cooum River Mouth in Chennai District, Tamil Nadu by the Water Resources Department, Government of Tamil Nadu - CRZ Clearance - regarding.

Sir,

This has reference to your proposal No. IA/TN/CRZ/281380/2022 dated 02nd July, 2022 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 Construction of Curved Training Walls (Groynes) in the Northern and Southern sides of Cooum River Mouth (Eastern side of Regulator) and allied works for the sustainable opening of Cooum River Mouth in Chennai District, Tamil Nadu by the Water Resources 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 meeting held on 20/07/2022 through video conferencing. The project proponent and their consultant made detailed presentation and informed as under:

- (i). The Cooum River is one such water body which originates in Cooum village in Thiruvallur District, about 72 Km away towards West, from Chennai.
- (ii). The State of Tamil Nadu in order to improve the ecological conditions of rivers and water bodies created CRRT (Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust) and gave way to inception of project involving the Eco-restoration of Cooum River called as Integrated Cooum River Eco-restoration project (ICRERP).
- (iii). M/s Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust (CRRT) had obtained CRZ Clearance for Integrated Cooum River Eco-restoration Project from Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, vide, F. No. 11-15/2016-IA-III Dt: 28/06/2017.
- (iv). During restoration work, Water Resources Department (WRD), had observed that, the bed levels of Cooum River have already been below the mean sea level and expressed that further desilting in the CRZ stretch may not be required as without

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having the sustainable river mouth opening, desilting in that stretch would not be useful because of the continuous formation of sand bar at the River Mouth.

- (v). As per WRD suggestion, CRRT had accepted to provide a sustainable solution for the Cooum River mouth opening through an expert institute in the field of Ocean Technology.
- (vi). Subsequently, NIOT has been approached for conducting scientific studies in the above regard. After conducting detailed scientific studies, NIOT had recommended for 'Construction of Curved Training Walls (Groynes) in the Northern and Southern sides of Cooum River mouth (Eastern side of Regulator) and allied works for the Sustainable opening of Cooum River Mouth in Chennai District'.
- (vii). Institute of Remote Sensing, Anna University, Chennai, had prepared CRZ maps and described that the Training Walls Groynes falls partly inside CRZ-II, CRZ-IA, CRZ-IB and CRZ-IVA as per approved CZMP map prepared by NCSCM, Chennai, vide, CRZ Notification, 2011
- (viii). The proposed Northern Training wall has a total length of 265m, in which 155m extends into sea from 0.00m CD to (-)3.50m CD. The proposed Southern Training wall has a total length of 310m, in which 165m extends into sea from 0.00m CD to (-)3.50m CD.
- (ix). The Northern and Southern Training Wall layouts were made such that they intersect each other at 140° and clear Toe-Toe spacing of 63m at the bottom and 122m at the top to facilitate flushing and high discharge during floods.
- (x). The activity proposed for dredging and disposal: The Cooum River Mouth, North side and South side of Curved Training Walls are to be dredged to (-)2.00m with respect to CD.
- (xi). The Capital dredging is estimated to be 305000m³ based on field surveys conducted. The dredged material of about 305000m³ will be disposed off in following locations:
- Near Cooum River Mouth, Triplicane Village in Mylapore Taluk of Chennai District
 - Srinivasapuram area in Triplicane Village of Mylapore Taluk in Chennai District
 - Northern side of Royapuram Fishing Harbour area in Thiruvottiyur Taluk of Chennai District
 - Akkarai Village in Sholinganallur Taluk of Chennai District
- (xii). The Proposed Northern Training Wall falls under CRZ-IB, CRZ-II & CRZ-IVA and Southern Training wall falls under CRZ -IA, CRZ-IB & CRZ-IVA as per CRZ notification, 2011. The extent of project area falling in CRZ Zone as:

Description	Total length(m)	Length of Groynes falling in CRZ zones (m)			
		CRZ-IA	CRZ-IB	CRZ-II	CRZ-IVA
Curved Training wall in Northern side of Cooum River mouth	265	-	88.3	22.9	153.8
Curved Training wall in Southern side of Cooum River mouth	310	100.7	3.7	-	205.6
Total	575	100.7	92.0	22.9	359.4

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- (xiii). The impacts due to project implementation: Sand deposition at the Cooum River Mouth would be reduced from 1,75,00m³ to 8,000m³ annually (i.e., will be only about 4.57%).
- (xiv). Improved tidal exchange / flushing would enhance the aquatic eco-system inside the Cooum River which traverses through 'Heart of Chennai City'.
- (xv). It would help in establishment of Flora and Fauna by way of natural cycle.
- (xvi). This would help in effective discharge of Flood waters into sea during peak floods without inundating the inhabited areas of Chennai City adjacent to Cooum River.
- (xvii). About 4.73 Ha has been identified by the WRD for development of greenbelt where 4730 saplings will be planted. Provision has been made for Rs.35.00 Lakh and the plantation of trees shall be contributed to the Tamil Nadu Green Climate Mission.
- (xviii). The total cost of the project is ₹70.00 Crores. The EMP Budget for the project is about 30.60 lakhs.
- (xix). An amount of ₹50.00 Lakhs has been provided especially for the 'Provision for Corporate Social Responsibilities' under which Social Developmental activities that benefit the local and surrounding Fishermen Community would be accomplished.
- (xx). ~~The Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority has recommended the proposal for CRZ clearance vide its Letter No. 8509/EC.3/2022-1, dated 20/08/2022.~~

4. The Committee made detailed deliberation on the proposal. The Committee noted that due to location of Major Port in the area and prevailing currents in the Bay of Bengal, sedimentation on the coast and river mouth occurs. The Committee observed that the bed levels of Cooum River have already been below the mean sea level and further desilting in the coastal stretch may not solve the purpose without having the sustainable river mouth opening, due to continuous formation of sand bar at the River Mouth. M/s NIOT has recommended for construction of curved training walls (Groynes) in the Northern and Southern sides of Cooum River mouth. The Committee also observed that the project is important for flood mitigation around the river shore, enabling the fishermen vessels to enter the sea and vice versa without any hindrances for making their daily bread and for lifting and improving the fishermen life style in that locality and enhance the water quality.

As per the CRZ Notification 2011, para 3 (iv)(d) "Measures to prevent sand bars, installation of tidal regulators, laying of storm water drains or for structures for prevention of salinity ingress and freshwater recharge" is a permissible and regulated activity.

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 **Construction of Curved Training Walls (Groynes) in the Northern and Southern sides of Cooum River Mouth (Eastern side of Regulator) and allied works for the sustainable opening of Cooum River Mouth in Chennai District, Tamil Nadu by the Water Resources 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.

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- (ii). No groundwater shall be extracted within the CRZ area to meet the water requirements during the construction and / or operation phase of the project.
- (iii). Salinity, Water Quality and Marine Ecology in creek to be monitored before and after opening of mouth for period not less than 3 years through reputed national institute.
- (iv). A comprehensive study on fisheries should be conducted through reputed national institute in the creek upto place of tidal ingress and reported. Changes in the fishery pattern also need to be studied for a period not less than 3 years.
- (v). The utilization of dredged material/sand shall be in accordance with the prevailing rules and regulations. Shoreline changes to be monitored on either side of training jetties and mitigation measures to be taken up, if significant impacts are noticed.
- (vi). Permanent labour camp, machinery and material storage shall not be set up in the CRZ area.
- (vii). The Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority has recommended the proposal for CRZ clearance *vide* its Letter No. 8509/EC.3/2022-1, dated 20/06/2022, and commitments made by the PP before the CZMA and EAC shall be followed in letter and spirit.
- (viii). 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.

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- (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 Environmental (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

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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 Deputy DGF (C), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, 1st and 2nd Floor, Handloom Export Promotion Council, 34, Cathedral Garden Road, Nungambakkam Chennai – 600034, Tamil Nadu
2. 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
3. The Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi - 110032
4. The Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, 76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Tamil Nadu
5. Guard File/Monitoring File / Website / Record File



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