

F.No.11-15/2016-IA-III
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(IA.III Section)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi - 3

Dated: 28 June, 2017

To

The Member Secretary,
M/s Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust,
6/103, Adyar Poonga,
Dr. D.G.S. Dinakaran Salai, R.A. Puram,
Chennai - 28 (Tamil Nadu)

Sub: 'Integrated Cooum River Eco-restoration' from Cooum River mouth to Chetpet Railway Bridge in Chennai (Tamil Nadu) by M/s Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust - CRZ Clearance - reg.

Sir,

This has reference to your proposal forwarded by the Principal Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu, Environment & Forests (EC-3) Department, vide their letter No. 4957/EC.3/2016-1 dated 10th March, 2016 and subsequent letter dated 28th December, 2016, and your letters dated 27th May, 2016 and 23rd November, 2016 to this Ministry for grant of CRZ Clearance in term of the provisions of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2011 under the Environment (Protection), Act, 1986.

2. The proposal for **'Integrated Cooum River Eco-restoration'** from Cooum River mouth to Chetpet Railway Bridge in Chennai (Tamil Nadu) promoted by M/s Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust, was considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) in the Ministry for Infrastructure Development, Coastal Regulation Zone, Building/ Construction and Miscellaneous projects, in its meetings held on 27-28 April, 2016, 28 - 29 June, 2016, 26th July, 2016 and 1st December, 2016.

3. The details of the project, as per the documents submitted by the project proponent, and also as informed during the above said EAC meetings, are reported to be as under:-

- (i) The State Government of Tamil Nadu has created the Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust (CRRT) under the Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department to take necessary action to improve ecological conditions of rivers and water bodies in Chennai.
- (ii) The interventions for Cooum River basin, under the proposed Integrated Cooum River Eco-restoration Project, are proposed from Paruthipattu to the Cooum river mouth for a total distance of 32 km.
- (iii) Under the eco-restoration project, CRRT proposes implementation of 60 sub-projects, of which 20 sub-projects including development of parks, maintenance of walkways, de-silting, laying of interceptors, & modular

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Sewage Treatment Plants and flora & Mangrove plantation, thus fall in CRZ areas on either side of the tidal estuary.

(iv) The main objective of the proposed Integrated Cooum River Eco-restoration Project is as follows:

- (a) To ensure effective abatement of pollution and protection of the river by adopting a sustainable approach, promoting inter-sectoral co-ordination through comprehensive integrated planning and management.
- (b) To improve and maintain flood carrying capacity of the river,
- (c) Riverfront development plan

(v) The various works/activities that the line departments are involved under the Project are detailed below:-

S.No	Department	Works
1.	Public Works Department	Desilting, Demarcation & Fixing boundary stones and Bio-metric survey
2.	Greater Chennai Corporation	Solid waste removal, Fencing, Boom deployment, Developing parks, cycle tracks and walkways
3.	Commissionerate of Municipal Administration	Solid Waste removal, Fencing and providing children parks.
4.	Directorate of Rural Development	Solid waste removal, Fencing and vegetation
5.	Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board	Laying interceptors, Installing modular sewage treatment plants & UGSS
6.	Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board	Resettlement & Rehabilitation plan
7.	Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust	Mangrove development, Flora Plantation, Community education programme and Monitoring of project implementation.

(vi) The project proposals have a set of 69 activities to be performed in total over three phases. Phase-I (0 to 3 years) consist of 60 activities, Phase-II (4-8 years) of 7 activities and thereafter Phase-III comprises of maintenance activities after the restoration process is completed.

(vii) The total cost of the project is Rs. 105.00 crores and the time frame for completion of the project is 36 months from date of clearance.

(viii) Ecological restoration and its sustainability are the key objectives of the Integrated Cooum River Eco-Restoration project. Each aspect of the Cooum river restoration demonstrates a strong commitment to the environment. The benefits of the proposed project are as follows:

- Protection, conservation, rehabilitation and enhancement of biodiversity of Cooum riverine system ecologically.
- Improving and maintaining water quality that sustains wide varieties of aquatic biota and shelter native and migratory avifauna.

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- It will allow deep knowledge and understanding of the natural riverine ecosystem, and will create an environment to facilitate a relationship of mutual exchange between Cooum River Eco-Restoration and public, students, researchers, environmentalists and NGOs through the provision of environment education programs.
- (ix) As per the detailed Cooum eco-restoration plan, tidal influence is observed in the river from the river mouth upto Chetpet Railway Bridge (9.6 Kms). About 20 subprojects fall under this tidal interaction zone. In this stretch, various pollution abatement measures are proposed such as Interceptors and diversion of sewage to improve the water quality, river channel improvement to enhance ecological flow of the river, development of parks and maintenance pathways. River bank vegetation and mangrove plantations are planned to enhance the diversity of flora and fauna in the Cooum riverine system.
- (x) The Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority has recommended the project vide their letter No. 4957/EC.3/2016-1 dated 10th March, 2016.

4. The EAC, in its 164th meeting held on 1st December, 2016, has recommended the project for grant of CRZ Clearance. In acceptance of the recommendations of the EAC, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change hereby accords CRZ Clearance to the project **Integrated Cooum River Eco-restoration** from Cooum River mouth to Chetpet Railway Bridge in Chennai (Tamil Nadu) promoted by M/s Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust, under the provisions of the CRZ Notification, 2011 and amendments thereto and circulars issued thereon, and subject to the compliance of the specific and general conditions as under:-

A. Specific Conditions:

- (i) 'Consent to Establish' as may be applicable shall be obtained from State Pollution Control Board under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
- (ii) All the recommendations/conditions stipulated by Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority (TNCZMA) vide letter No. 4957/EC.3/2016-1 dated 10th March, 2016, shall be complied with.
- (iii) The construction in CRZ areas shall strictly be in accordance with the provisions of CRZ Notification, 2011.
- (iv) There shall be no dressing or alteration of the sand dunes, natural features including landscape changes for beautification, recreation and other such purpose.
- (v) Discharge parameters of BOD <30 mg/l, TSS <20 mg/l and COD <250 mg/l, in addition to standards for fecal coliform, NH₄ - N & N- total, shall be maintained.

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- (vi) The project proponent shall obtain necessary permission/clearances from the concerned authorities, as applicable.
- (vii) There shall no ground water drawl within CRZ area without approval of the competent Ground Water Authority.
- (viii) There shall be no disposal of solid/ liquid waste into coastal area. The Solid waste shall be collected, treated disposed in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. Sewage Treatment facility shall be provided in accordance with the CRZ Notification, 2011. Treated sewage shall be reused for flushing of toilets and horticulture purposes.

B. GENERAL CONDITIONS:

- (i) Adequate provision for infrastructure facilities including water supply, fuel and sanitation must be ensured for construction workers during the construction phase of the project to avoid any damage to the environment.
- (ii) Appropriate measures must be taken while undertaking digging activities to avoid any likely degradation of water quality.
- (iii) Adequate precautions shall be taken during transportation of the construction material and pipes so that it does not affect the environment adversely.
- (iv) The project proponent will set up separate environmental management cell for effective implementation of the stipulated environmental safeguards under the supervision of a Senior Executive.
- (v) A copy of the clearance letter shall also be displayed on the website of the concerned 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.
- (vi) The funds earmarked for environmental protection measures shall be kept in separate account and shall not be diverted for other purpose. Year-wise expenditure shall be reported to this Ministry and its concerned Regional Office.
- (vii) The project proponent shall inform the Regional Office as well as the Ministry, the date of financial closure and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of start of land development work.

5. The above stipulations would be enforced among others under the provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and control of Pollution) act 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Public Liability (Insurance) Act, 1991, the EIA Notification, 2006 and the CRZ Notification, 2011.

6. Officials from the Regional Office of MoEF&CC, Chennai who would be monitoring the implementation of environmental safeguards shall be given

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full cooperation, facilities and documents/data by the project proponents during their inspection. A complete set of all the documents submitted to MoEF&CC shall be forwarded to the APCCF, Regional Office of MoEF&CC, Chennai.

7. In the case of any change(s) in the scope of the project, the project would require a fresh appraisal by this Ministry.

8. The Ministry reserves the right to add additional safeguard measures subsequently, if found necessary, and to take action including revoking of the environment clearance under the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, to ensure effective implementation of the suggested safeguard measures in a time bound and satisfactory manner.

9. The Ministry reserves the right to revoke this clearance if any of the conditions stipulated are not complied with the satisfaction of the Ministry.

10. 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 proponents from the respective competent authorities.

11. The project proponent shall 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 and may also be seen on the website of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at <http://www.envfor.nic.in>. The advertisement shall 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 Regional Office of this Ministry at Chennai.

12. 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.

13. Any appeal against this clearance lies 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.

14. A copy of the clearance letter shall be sent by the proponent to concerned Panchayat, Zilla Parisad/Municipal Corporation, Urban Local Body and the Local NGO, if any, from whom suggestions/ representations, if any, were received while processing the proposal. The clearance letter shall also be put on the website of the company by the proponent.

15. The proponent shall upload the status of compliance of the stipulated Clearance 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. The criteria pollutant levels namely; SPM, RSPM, SO₂, NO_x (ambient levels as well as stack emissions) or critical sectoral parameters, indicated for

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the project shall be monitored and displayed at a convenient location near the main gate of the company in the public domain.

16. 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 State Pollution Control Board as prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, as amended subsequently, shall also be put on the website of the company along with the status of compliance of Clearance conditions and shall also be sent to the respective Regional Office of MoEF&CC by e-mail.

(Arvind Nautiyal)
Director

Copy to:

- 1) The Secretary, Environment & Forests Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Saint Geroge Port, Chennai
- 2) The Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhavan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-32
- 3) The Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, No. 76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai - 32
- 4) The Additional Principal CCF (C), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office, 1st Floor, Handloom Export Promotion Council, 34, Cathedral Garden Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 34
- 5) Guard File.
- 6) Monitoring File.

Arvind
(Arvind Nautiyal)
Director