

F. No. 11-71/2013-IA.III
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
(IA-III Section)

**Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi - 110 003,**

Dated: March 12, 2014

To
The Principal Secretary/Member Secretary,
M/s Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust (CRRT),
Adyar Poonga, 6/103, Dr. D.G.S. Dinakaran Salai,
Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai - 600 028

Contact Person Details:
Ms. Anita Praveen, I.A.S.,
Ph: 044-24614523, Fax: 24614524

Subject: CRZ Clearance for Eco-restoration of Adyar Creek and Estuary in 300 acres in Chennai, Tamil Nadu by M/s Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust (CRRT) - Reg.

This has reference to your proposal forwarded by Additional Chief Secretary, Environment & Forests Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu vide letter No: 21939/EC.3/2013-1 dated 08.11.2013 and your letter dated 11.01.2014 seeking CRZ Clearance under Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2011. The proposal has been appraised as per prescribed procedure in the light of provisions under the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 on the basis of the mandatory documents enclosed with the application viz., the Questionnaire, recommendation of Coastal Zone Management Authority and the additional clarifications furnished in response to the observations of the Expert Appraisal Committee constituted by the competent authority in its 129th and 130th meeting held on 26th - 28th December, 2013 and 22nd - 24th January, 2014 respectively.

2. It is interalia, noted that the proposal involves eco-restoration of Adyar Creek and Estuary in 300 acres in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. It also involves onetime cleanup by removing debris, plastics and sludge in the creek region and accumulated sand material in the river mouth of project area has been recommended to improve the flood carrying capacity of the channel and to improve the dilution by increasing the volume of water held in the estuary and creek, specifically during the low tide. The proposed activity broadens the channel to 400 m for tidal exchange. Enhanced tidal exchange along with the control of organic pollution has been identified as an important aspect of the eco-restoration. This necessitates opening of the mouth of Adyar estuary throughout the year. Sustained opening of the mouth will also facilitate the re-colonization of the endemic aquatic fauna according to the project proponent.



3. The floral and faunal restorations are two major objectives. The improvement in water quality allows the natural process of regeneration of flora and fauna. The following activities are proposed to improve the habitat by the Project Proponent:

- Removal of *Prosopis juliflora* from the islands and edges with the gradual replacement by native species,
- Plantation of Mangroves at low level island adjacent to Adyar bridge and
- Regeneration of mudflat vegetation

Adyar River originates from surplus course from Chembarambakkam Lake in Kanchipuram District and flows in the southern parts of Chennai. The river runs about 42 kilometers west to east and meets the Bay of Bengal at Adyar. The Adyar estuary, the point at which the river meets the Bay of Bengal lies between San Thome beach in the north and Elliots Beach in the south. The estuary region from Thiru Vi Ka Bridge to the river mouth and the creek region from Santhome Causeway to river mouth is spread over an area of about 300 acres.

Investigations indicated that the mouth of the estuary remains closed due to formation of sand bar up to the onset of north-east monsoon in October. During this period, water exchange between the sea and estuary takes place only at times of peak tides. During October, the water level in the estuary rises due to fresh inflows and the mouth of the estuary was opened (small opening) to discharge the surplus water from Chembarambakkam Lake. These observations indicate that except for the monsoon and a couple of months thereafter the tidal exchange between the estuary and sea remains very low.

The objective of eco-restoration of Adyar estuary and creek is to achieve and maintain best feasible water quality in its riverine and estuarine stretches, thus providing an opportunity to bring back the natural (endemic) life forms that interact with abiotic elements and create a healthy ecosystem. Improving and maintaining water quality to a level that can support a balanced population of phytoplankton, zooplankton and nektons is the real way forward towards the stated objective.

The EAC examined the project in its meeting held on 26th - 28th December, 2013 and sought additional information viz. details regarding the sanitation etc. The details submitted and presented by the Project Proponent were examined by the EAC in its meeting held on 22nd - 24th January, 2014.

4. The Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority has recommended the project vide letter No. 21939/EC.3/2013-1 dated 08.11.2013.

5. The Expert Appraisal Committee, after due consideration of the relevant documents submitted by the project proponent and additional clarifications furnished in response to its observations, have recommended for the grant of Environmental and CRZ Clearance for the



project. Accordingly, the Ministry hereby accords necessary CRZ Clearance for the above project as per the provisions of CRZ Notification, 2011 and its subsequent amendments, subject to strict compliance of the terms and conditions as follows:

6. SPECIFIC CONDITIONS:

- (i) "Consent for Establishment" shall be obtained from State Pollution Control Board under Air and Water Act and a copy shall be submitted to the Ministry before start of any construction work at the site.
- (ii) The sand bar shall not be opened before all the sewage outfalls presently connected to the Adyar river/creek are trapped and diverted to the existing sewage network.
- (iii) Approval from the Chennai Corporation shall be obtained for accepting the excavated soil and debris from the choked Adyar Creek.
- (iv) There shall be no construction of permanent structure within the above project area. Only such activities shall be carried out which are permissible under CRZ Notification, 2011.
- (v) All the sewage outfalls presently connected to the Adyar river/creek shall be trapped and diverted to the existing sewage network which will be eventually diverted to the STP for final treatment. No sewage effluent or industrial effluent shall be allowed to enter the Adyar creek/river within the project area, as committed.
- (vi) All the recommendations/conditions stipulated by Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority (TNCZMA) vide letter no 21939/EC.3/2013-1 dated 08.11.2013, shall be complied with.
- (vii) There shall be no ground water drawal in no development zone of CRZ area. Between 200-500m from HTL, the water can be tapped with the approval of the State Ground Water Authority.
- (viii) There shall be no disposal of solid/ liquid waste into coastal area.
- (ix) Trees shall be retained.
- (x) There shall be no construction in NDZ.
- (xi) Installation and operation of DG set if any shall comply with the guidelines of CPCB. The diesel required for operating DG sets shall be stored in underground tanks and if required, clearance from Chief Controller of Explosives shall be taken.



- (xii) Under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, legal action shall be initiated against the project proponent if it was found that construction of the project has been started without obtaining clearance.

7. 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.
- (iii) Full support shall be extended to the officers of this Ministry/Regional Office at Bangaluru by the project proponent during inspection of the project for monitoring purposes by furnishing full details and action plan including action taken reports in respect of mitigation measures and other environmental protection activities.
- (iv) A six-Monthly monitoring report shall need to be submitted by the project proponents to the Regional Office of this Ministry at Bangaluru regarding the implementation of the stipulated conditions.
- (v) Ministry of Environment & Forests 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.
- (vi) The Ministry reserves the right to revoke this clearance if any of the conditions stipulated are not complied with the satisfaction of the Ministry.
- (vii) In the event of a change in project profile or change in the implementation agency, a fresh reference shall be made to the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- (viii) The project proponents 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.
- (ix) A copy of the clearance letter shall be marked to concerned Panchayat/local NGO, if any, from whom any suggestion/representation has been made received while processing the proposal.
- (x) State Pollution Control Board shall display a copy of the clearance letter at the Regional Office, District Industries Centre and Collector's Office/Tehsildar's office for 30 days.



8. These 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 and EIA Notification 1994, including the amendments and rules made thereafter.

9. 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.

10. 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 and Forests at <http://www.envfor.nic.in>. The advertisement should be made within 10 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 Bangaluru.

11. 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.

12. Any appeal against this 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.

13. 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.

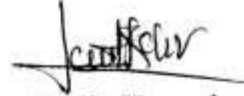
14. The proponent shall upload the status of compliance of the stipulated Clearance conditions, including results of monitored data on their website and shall update the same periodically. It shall simultaneously be sent to the Regional Office of MoEF, the respective Zonal Office of CPCB and the SPCB.

15. The project proponent shall also submit six monthly reports on the status of compliance of the stipulated Clearance conditions including results of monitored data (both in hard copies as well as by e-mail) to the respective Regional Office of MoEF, the respective Zonal Office of CPCB and the SPCB.

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 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 company along with the status of compliance of Clearance conditions and shall also be sent to the respective Regional Offices of MoEF by e-mail.



(Lalit Kapur)
Director (IA-III)

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-110 032.
3. The Chairman, Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority and Principal Secretary, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Environment and Forests (EC.3) Department, Secretariat, Chennai - 9.
4. The Chairman, Tamil Nadu State Pollution Control Board, Chennai.
5. The Director, Environment Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Chennai.
6. The CCF, Regional Office, Ministry of Environment & Forests(SZ), Kendriya Sadan, IVth floor, E&F wings, 17th Main Road, Koramangala II Block, Bangalore - 560 034.
7. Guard File.
8. Monitoring File.

(Lalit Kapur)
Director (IA-III)