

**GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS & WILDLIFE
2ND FLOOR, A-BLOCK, VIKAS BHAVAN
I.P ESTATE, NEW DELHI-02**

F. No. 11(26)/PA/DCF/95/Vol. X/Part-4/3044-46

Date: 05 July 2018

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RIDGE MANAGEMENT BOARD HELD ON
18.06.2018 AT 5:00 PM UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF CHIEF
SECRETARY, DELHI**

The meeting of the Ridge Management Board was held on 18th June 2018, Monday at 5:00 PM under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary cum Chairman RMB. The list of attendees is attached.

At the outset, the Addl. PCCF cum Member Secretary, RMB welcomed the Chairman and other Board members and briefed about the agenda items for the current meeting.

Thereafter each agenda was discussed by the Board and decisions were taken as listed below:

1. Construction of Flyover and Underpass between Northern Mahipalpur Bypass Road and airport road near Hanuman Mandir adjoining NH-8, New Delhi

The APCCF and Member Secretary RMB stated that the said project is for construction of a flyover and underpass between Northern Mahipalpur Bypass Road and airport road near Hanuman Mandir adjoining NH-8. The total project area is 68900 sqm and the project involves felling of 98 trees. The project area near Vasant Kunj is falling within Southern Ridge (18100 sqm) and 9763 sqm of the area for underpass is falling within Morphological Ridge. The breakup of the area and trees to be felled respectively is listed below:

No. of trees to be felled	Status of land	Area (in Sqm)	Breakup of the area	
54	Southern Ridge	18100	Road with flexible pavement (bituminous carpeting) including median	12812 sqm
			Footpath with drain	2275 sqm
			Concrete pavement/paver blocks	2895 sqm
			Kachcha portion	118 sqm

02	Morphological Ridge	9763	Road with flexible pavement (bituminous carpeting) median	5784 sqm
			Footpath with drain	1446 sqm
			Kachcha portion (taken over from DDA)	2533 sqm
Besides this 42 nos of trees in Non-Forest land are also proposed to be felled				
Total no. of trees proposed to be felled = 98				

The User Agency has assured that the Compensatory Plantation of 980 trees will be carried out in the project area as well as in the open pockets over the land under the jurisdiction of CPWD at Western Bank of River Yamuna, behind Delhi Secretariat in lieu of tree felling under DPTA, 1994.

The User Agency submitted that the project is for modification of the current land use i.e. Road and within the existing Right of Way, no expansion beyond that will be done.

User Agency also assured that no such proposal in the same area or its vicinity including the proposal for "Construction of Mahilpalpur By-pass connecting Ryan International School on Mehrauli-Mahilpalpur Road to Shiv Murti on NH-48" as submitted earlier by PWD will be undertaken for modification/alteration of alignment of road through Ridge/Morphological Ridge.

Keeping in view the fact that construction of the flyover and underpass on the already existing road will lead to a decrease in traffic congestion in the area thereby aiding in the decrease of air pollution in Delhi, the Board decided to recommend the proposal to CEC subject to the following conditions:

- i. The user agency will submit an undertaking stating that the use of land during the construction and operation phase of the entire project will remain limited to the existing Right-of-Way.
- ii. The User Agency will **transfer and mutate land for Compensatory Afforestation under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980** to the Forest Department in lieu of diversion of Forest land of Southern Ridge for non-forestry purposes before the project is started.
- iii. The User Agency shall deposit 5% of the project cost proportionate to the area falling within Morphological Ridge area and Ridge area to RMB fund on the lines of conditions imposed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in WP (C) 202/1995 titled T. N. Godavarman Thirumulpad Vs Union of India & Ors. for management of ridge.
- iv. The User Agency shall also obtain necessary clearance under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the diversion of area falling under Southern Ridge

2. Construction of building for Special Unit for Women & Children and Special Unit for North Eastern Region (SPUWAC & SPUNER) at Nanakpura, New Delhi by Delhi Police

The said proposal for construction of building for Special Unit for Women & Children and Special Unit for North Eastern Region (SPUWAC & SPUNER) at Nanakpura, New Delhi by Delhi Police was discussed in the meeting. It was informed that the unit was functioning in an old building at the same location which has now been demolished due to its dilapidated condition. The total plot area is 4737.17 sqm; out of which 3918.2 sqm is falling within Morphological Ridge area. Out of total 58 trees standing in the Morphological Ridge area, 14 trees need to be felled for construction purposes.

The Chairman enquired about the compensatory plantation which is to be carried out in lieu of tree felling. In this regard, the User Agency informed that the Compensatory Afforestation of 140 saplings will be carried out in the premises of Police Training School, Jharoda Kalan, Delhi.

As the project is in larger public interest and as the construction is to be carried out at the same location which does not involve allocation of fresh land, the Board decided to recommend the proposal to CEC subject to the payment of 5% of project cost proportionate to the area falling within Morphological Ridge area in RMB fund; on the lines of stipulated conditions imposed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in WP (C) 202/1995 titled T. N. Godavarman Thirumulpad Vs Union of India & Ors. for management of ridge.

3. Digging and Laying of OFC at Delhi Earth Station, Malcha Marg , New Delhi for Ministry of Defence, by MTNL

The proposal for laying of Optical Fibre cable by digging trench from Delhi earth Station (Malcha Marg) to Sardar Patel Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi was put up before the Board.

The APCCF cum Member Secretary, RMB informed that the area of the project site is 382.5 sqm. The project does not require any felling of trees. The total length of the cable route is 850 mtrs (approx) and a trench of dimension 850 M X 0.45 M X 1.65 M will be dug for laying of one 40 mm HDPE pipe for the fiber optic cable. Moreover, the said area is part of Central Ridge area.

Since the proposal is of strategic defence importance and does not involve any tree felling, the Board decided to recommend the proposal to CEC for obtaining approval of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and clearance under FCA, 1980 subject to the following conditions:

- (i) The work will be done under close supervision of Forest Department and trees falling in the alignment will not be harmed by taking a detour, if required.

- (ii) The dug up trench will be refilled up and closed at the earliest and the entire work of laying of optical fibre including area restoration and man and material removal will be completed within 4 weeks.
- (iii) The work would be video recorded to establish that no trees were damaged during the laying of optical fibre and a copy of which would be submitted to the forest department after completion of the work for their record.
- (iv) The User Agency shall obtain necessary clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the use of notified Ridge forest land.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

(Ishwar Singh)
Addl. PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden
Member Secretary
Ridge Management Board

Distribution:

1. All RMB members.
2. All representatives of User agencies as per list of participants.
3. Member Secretary, Central Empowered Committee for kind information.

(Ishwar Singh)
Addl. PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden
Member Secretary
Ridge Management Board