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**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE RIDGE MANAGEMENT BOARD
HELD UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SHRI R. NARAYANASWAMI, CHIEF
SECRETARY, GNCT OF DELHI, ON 27.11.2007 AT 1100 HOURS IN THE
CONFERENCE HALL OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY.**


The following attended the meeting:-

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| 1. Shri. Dinesh Rai, Vice Chairman, DDA | - Member |
| 2. Shri J.K. Dadoo, Secretary (Environment & Forests) | - Member |
| 3. Shri. O.P.Singh, Chief Project Manager, DMRC | - Spl Invitee |
| 4. Shri Rajendra Kalra, Superintending Engg., CPWD | - Spl Invitee |
| 5. Shri Manu Mittal, Executive Engg., CPWD | - Spl Invitee |
| 6. Shri. A.K.Arora, Asst. Engg., CPWD | - Spl Invitee |
| 7. Smti. Sujata Chatterjee, Consultant of CPWD | - Spl Invitee |
| 8. Shri. S.Chatterjee, Consultant of CPWD | - Spl Invitee |
| 9. Shri Rajesh Shobhanakumar, DCF (West) | - Spl Invitee |
| 10. Shri R.S. Sinha, DCF (Central) | - Spl Invitee |
| 11. Smt. Kamal Preet, DCF (HQ) | - Spl Invitee |
| 12. Shri S.K.Roy, Forest Officer, DMRC | - Spl Invitee |
| 13. Shri D.M. Shukla, Conservator of Forests | -Member Secretary |

2. The Pr. Secretary (Finance), Government of GNCT of Delhi, Sh. Ravi Aggarwal and Sh. Ajay Mahajan, Members, Ridge Management Board did not attend the meeting due to prior commitments.

3. The Chief Secretary and Chairman, Ridge Management Board (RMB), welcoming the Members and the Special Invitees, explained the purpose of convening the Special meeting of the Board at short notice, and requested Secretary (E&F), Govt. of NCT of Delhi to brief the Members about the agenda of the meeting.

4. Secretary (E&F) informed the Members and Special Invitees that DMRC and CPWD had submitted their proposals seeking diversion of forest land falling under the Central Ridge included in the Preliminary Notification issued under Section 4 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 vide No.F.10 (42)-I/PA/DCF/93/2012-17(I) dated 24th May, 1994 for constitution of the ridge as Reserve Forest. Secretary (E&F), thereafter, explained the details of the proposals agenda-wise as under:


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5. **Agenda Item No. 1: Proposal seeking diversion of 2.8395 Ha of forest land falling in Central Ridge for construction of Express Metro Link to Airport from Mother Teresa Crescent Marg to S.P. Marg :**

He informed that the proposal of DMRC seeking diversion of 2.8395 Ha. of forest land falling in Central Ridge for construction of Express Metro Link to Airport from Mother Teresa Crescent Marg to S.P. Marg in IA No. 1020 had been initially examined by Central Empowered Committee and recommended for consideration by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide F. No. 1-19/CEC/SC/2007/Pt.XV dated 24.10.2007 with the following terms and conditions:-

- (i) For the use of the forest land, the approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 will be obtained.
- (ii) For the use of the forest land/ non-forest land falling within the Delhi Ridge Area clearance from the Delhi Ridge Management Board will be obtained.
- (iii) The NPV of the forest land required for the project will be deposited in the Compensatory Afforestation Fund along with an undertaking to pay additional amount payable as per the directions of this Hon'ble Court.
- (iv) 5% of the project cost for the ridge portion of the metro line i.e. Rs.18.8 crores will be deposited by the project authorities for the conservation and development of Delhi Ridge area. For this purpose, a detailed scheme including for gap planting of suitable indigenous, species ensuring species diversity and protection shall be drawn up and implemented under the close supervision and guidance of the Delhi Ridge Management Board. The money should be kept in a separate designated account by the Forest Department and expenditure therefrom should be incurred with the approval of the Delhi Ridge Management Board. The Board should create a special cell with independent experts to provide the expertise and to monitor the works;

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- (v) The area falling within the Delhi Ridge should not be used for any commercial purposes by the DMRC or any other party;
- (vi) As far as feasible, the compensatory afforestation should be carried out near the impact area itself; and
- (vii) Instead of felling of trees, the translocation of the trees, as may be feasible should be resorted to by the Delhi Forest Department.

He further informed that pending disposal of IA by the Hon'ble Court, DMRC had simultaneously approached the Ridge Management Board for its clearance to seek permission of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to use the forest land for the project. To the query made by the Chairman about the no. of trees being affected and whether there was any scope for their saving, the Chief Project Manager, DMRC, informed that of 4.89 Km. stretch of the proposed alignment falling in Central Ridge, over ground and underground portions were 2.07 Km. and 2.82 Km respectively affecting 714 nos. of trees of which around 22 could be transplanted. He further added that since the site inspection had been done by the Members of the Central Empowered Committee and the Officials of the Forest Department, there was little scope for any further saving as the trees being affected were mostly of Kikar whose survival after transplantation would be difficult to ensure.

The Ridge Management Board, after detailed deliberations, cleared the proposal of DMRC with the following conditions in addition to the ones stipulated by the CEC:

- a) DMRC would ensure saving of maximum nos. of trees falling within the proposed alignment by way of their transplantation in the nearby area within the ridge and maintain them till their establishment.
- b) Equivalent area of land free from all encumbrances with boundary wall around in lieu of 2.8395 of forest land proposed to be diverted would be made available by DMRC to the Forest Department for undertaking 100% Compensatory Afforestation for notifying it

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as Reserve Forests for processing their proposal for obtaining clearance of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

6. **Agenda Item No. 2 : Proposal seeking diversion of 1.49 Ha of forest land falling in Central Ridge for upgradation and renovation of Dr. S.P. Mukherjee Swimming Pool Complex :**

Secretary (E&F) informed that CPWD had submitted the proposal seeking diversion of 1.49 Ha of forest land falling under the Central Ridge under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for upgradation and renovation of Dr. S.P. Mukherjee Swimming Pool Complex (main building renovation, including parking) at Mother Teresa Crescent Road, New Delhi for the Commonwealth Games, 2010 vide letter No.54(3)/CWG-VI/CPWD/2007-08 dated 15.10.2007. He further informed that total number of trees being affected was 93 of which 28 belonging to the family Ficaceae, had been recommended by the Forest Department for transplantation as per its inspection report.

The Chairman impressed upon CPWD to make all efforts to transplant 28 trees being affected within the premises based on sound scientific principles and available proven expertise. Considering the portion of land ad-measuring 0.1 Ha approximately required by DMRC, for laying the tunnel abutting the Swimming Pool Complex situated in the South-West corner adjoining Mother Teresa Crescent Road, it was decided that both the agencies should work out the modalities for use of the piece of land in a synchronized manner without affecting their works. For this 1000 sq. m. of land out of a total of 49088.41 sq. m. with CPWD, required by DMRC, CPWD should extend full cooperation.

The Members of the RMB, after careful consideration, decided that they have no objection to CPWD's submitting its proposal for diversion of 1.49 Ha of ridge land, notified as forest under Section 4 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, for upgradation and renovation of Dr. S.P. Mukherjee Swimming Pool Complex (main building renovation, including parking) at Mother Teresa Crescent Road for seeking kind consideration of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, through the Central Empowered Committee. If the

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Hon'ble Supreme Court approves, the Ministry of Environment & Forests under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, will be approached by CPWD for their clearance, under the said Act.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

**OFFICE OF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & MEMBER SECRETARY
RIDGE MANAGEMENT BOARD
A-BLOCK, 2ND FLOOR, VIKAS BHAWAN, I.P.ESTATE, NEW DELHI-10.**

No.F.11 (26)/PA/DCF/95/Vol.VII/§E 32-49.

Dated: November, 2007

Distribution :-

08/12/07

All Members of Ridge Management Board.

Copy for information to:-

1. The Chief Engineer, CPWD, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi-1.
2. The Chief Project Manager, DMRC, NBCC Building, Bhism Pitamah Marg, New Delhi..
3. The Dy. Conservator of Forests (Central), Govt. of NCT of Delhi.
4. The Dy. Conservator of Forests (West), Govt. of NCT of Delhi.
5. The Dy. Conservator of Forests (HQ), Govt. of NCT of Delhi.
6. Spare copies

(D.M.Shukla)
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o/c Conservator of Forests and
Member Secretary, RMB.