



ABSTRACT

Environment, Climate Change - Manali Ennore Restoration and Rejuvenation Company (MERRC) - A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to be set up - Orders - Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOREST (EC.4) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms).No.43

Dated:15.03.2024

சோபகிருது, பங்குனி - 2

திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு -2054

Read:

From the Chairperson, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Letter No.TNPCB/T6/12753/2023, dated. 23.01.2024.

ORDER:

Manali - Ennore area spreads over in the revenue villages of Manali, Chinnasekadu, Voiyakadu Sadayankuppam, Amullavoyal, Ennore and Ernavur of Tiruvottiyur Taluk, Chennai District of Tamil Nadu. This region houses petrochemical complex in Manali thermal power plants, large scale chemical and fertilizer units in Ennore making it a complex industrial hub of Tamil Nadu. Manali - Ennore Industrial Complex is encompassed by the Buckingham Canal and Tiruvottiyur village on the East, Chennai city on the South, Kosasthalaiyar River on the North and the villages of Manjambakkam, Mathur and Madavaram of Chennai District on the West. It is well connected by Ennore High Road and National Highway 5A. The Ennore port is located at 15 km and Thiruvottiyur Railway Station is 3 km away.

2. The region has also numerous water bodies and macro drains including Buckingham canal, Kosasthalaiyar river and Amullavoyal canal. Despite having such large water bodies for effective flood drainage, the area experiences frequent flooding due to the lack of drainage master plan, encroachments and inadequate storm water drainage systems.

Ennore Creek, situated in the northern part of Chennai, is a vital water body that plays a significant role in the ecological and environmental landscape of the region. It is an estuarine creek that extends for approximately 25 kilometers, winding its way through the urban and industrialized areas of North Chennai.

3. This ecologically sensitive ecosystem comprises of extensive mangrove forests with species like Avicennia marina, Rhizophora mucronata and Sonneratia apetala. These mangroves act as breeding grounds for fish and crustaceans, protect the coastline from erosion and filter pollutants from the water. The rich ecosystem attracts a variety of bird species including migratory birds like flamingos, pelicans, and sandpipers. Over 120 bird species have been documented in the Ennore Creek area, making it a haven for birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts.

(P.T.O)

Mail forwarded to

M.S, ACEE 1, 2, JCEE-3, P&D

4. The creek has diverse aquatic life, including fish, shrimps, crabs, and molluscs. These organisms play a vital role in the food chain and contribute to the ecosystem's overall health. Ennore Creek experiences strong tidal rhythms, influencing water flow and sediment transport. This dynamic environment creates unique habitats for various species and also plays a role in coastal protection.

The Ennore region in Chennai is characterized by a unique juxtaposition of residential areas and vibrant fisherman activities along the Ennore Creek surroundings. This dynamic coexistence reflects the diverse lifestyles and economic activities that thrive in this coastal area.

5. Considering the important issues including livelihood of residents, need to control pollution and the conservation of biodiversity of the area; the Government of Tamil Nadu has decided to implement the following (Department wise) ;-

**I. Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board
(Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department)**

1. Setting up of dedicated Command Centre & Emergency Response Centre (ERC)

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board shall setup a dedicated Command Centre for Manali with a contingent of around 10 dedicated technical staff (1 District Environmental Engineer, 2 Assistant Environmental Engineers, 4 Assistant Engineers, 1 Chief Scientific Officer, 2 Environmental Scientists) and 5 administrative staff. Existing Assistant Environmental Engineer Office at Manali will be upgraded into a Command Centre. The Command Centre will undertake the following works with respect to industries;-

1. Inspection of Industries
2. Sample Collection and Air Quality Monitoring in Industries
3. Redressal of complaints
4. Green belt development
5. Verification / implementation of Monsoon Preparedness Plan
6. Ensure online connectivity of emission & effluent parameters and continuous transferring of data
7. Ensure adapting green fuels in industries

An Emergency Response Centre (ERC) at Manali shall be setup a dedicated helpline in the Command Centre by Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board. This Emergency Response Centre (ERC) shall have representatives from the Manali Industries Association, Revenue Department, Department of Industrial Safety & Health, Tamil Nadu Maritime Board, Fire & Rescue services, local Police, Fisheries Department, Health Department, Forests & Environment Department and the local community. Emergency Response Centre (ERC) will undertake the following work ;-

- Regular mock-up exercises to build capacity
- Awareness programmes with community
- Organising Health camps
- Undertaking Technical Studies

2. Establishment of dedicated Flying Squads

Two exclusive flying squads shall be created one each for Manali and Ennore. Each flying squad will have an e-vehicle with a compliment of one Environmental Engineer (Flying Squad), two Assistant Environmental Engineer / Assistant Engineer.

The functions of these squads are as follows;-

- a. To undertake surprise inspections regularly including holidays and odd hours, in order to monitor water bodies and to find out and prevent indiscriminate discharge of effluent from industries.
- b. To take all necessary steps to preserve the ecology and ecosystem of water bodies on daily basis.
- c. To identify and prevent the operation of all unauthorized units.
- d. To prevent unauthorized movement of hazardous waste and illegal transportation of sewage/process effluent, criminal action to be initiated against violators with the help of Regional Transport Office and District Collector.
- e. To report to the Command Centre on a daily basis.

3. Conducting Manali-Ennore Carrying Capacity Study & Safety Audit

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board shall undertake a carrying capacity study for a sustainable industrial development in the area. Safety Audit of all the industries shall be taken in Manali-Ennore area through an Expert Agency.

II. Department of Fisheries

(Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department)

Commissioner of Fisheries shall undertake an expert institution on board to suggest ways and means for sustainable fishing in Ennore Creek. Fisheries department can set up special centre for repairing of boats, fish nets etc., and provide special training.

III. Department of Forests

(Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department)

Department of Forests shall undertake the following ;-

- a. Restoration of Mangroves
- b. Restoration of mudflats for migratory birds
- c. Restoration of benthic flora and fauna

IV. Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO) (Energy Department)

Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO) shall immediately stop any leakage of flyash into Buckingham Canal, Kosasthalaiyar River and Ennore Creek. No hot water beyond permissible limits shall be discharged from thermal power plants. No pollutants to be discharged.

(P.T.O)

V. Department of Labour

(Labour Welfare and Skill Development Department)

Commissioner of Labour shall launch a special drive to build skills so that local youth can get employment in existing industries.

VI. Greater Chennai Corporation & Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board

(Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department)

Greater Chennai Corporation shall carryout the following:-

- a. Provide mechanized sweepers, water fountains
- b. Adopt Solid Waste Management (SWM)
- c. Laying of roads
- d. Green Belt Development

Greater Chennai Corporation / Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board shall identify all the unauthorized outfalls in the Kosasthalaiyar River, Buckingham Canal and Ennore Creek and provide underground sewerage system with household connections and Sewage Treatment Plant.

VII. Water Resources Department

Desilting of Kosasthalaiyar River, Buckingham Canal and Ennore Creek.

VIII. Department of Health and Family Welfare & Greater Chennai Corporation (Health and Family Welfare Department)

Two major Government hospitals are located at Tiruvottiyur at a distance of about 4 kilometers from Ennore creek, namely; the General Hospital with 50 beds and 100 bedded Urban Community Health Centre of Greater Chennai Corporation. The Kathivakkam Urban Primary Health Centre is the closest to the Ennore creek. In order to provide immediate and improved health care services, this hospital can be upgraded with 10 beds. Further, specialists services once a week would be arranged from specialities such as Dermatology, Pulmonology, Ear, Nose and Throat. Greater Chennai Corporation will implement mechanized sweepers, water fountains and solid waste management initiatives.

6. The Government after careful examination have decided to set up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) viz ; Manali-Ennore Restoration and Rejuvenation Company (MERRC). The company shall be a not-for-profit body registered under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013. It will be funded through Corporate Social Responsibility and Government allocations which will focus on greening initiatives, de-silting, solid waste management, pollution control, mangrove restoration and community infrastructure development. The company will be formed as a 100 % Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board owned Private Limited company with Nominee Shareholders from Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.

7. Manali Ennore Restoration and Rejuvenation Company (MERRC) will be formed with the following composition as the first Directors :-

1. Additional Chief Secretary,
Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department
2. Chairperson,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board
3. Nominee from Finance Department

Post incorporation, the Board will be reconstituted in the first Board meeting to include the following additional persons as Directors: -

1.	Principal Secretary to Government, Energy Department
2.	Principal Secretary to Government, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department
3.	Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department
4.	Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Labour Welfare and Skill Development Department
5.	Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Health and Family Welfare Department
6.	Two members from the local community nominated by the concerned District Collector

Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department shall be the Chairperson of the Board.

8. The Authorized share capital of the company will be Rs.1.00 Crore and the paid up capital will also be Rs.1.00 Crore. Post incorporation, the Board shall finalise the modus operandi for accessing funds from other stakeholders like Industries, Industries Association, other funding agencies like World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency, National Clean Air Programme etc. Depending on the agency, funds can be brought in by way of grants or equity or any other permissible form as the case may be.

9. If funds are accessed through equity route, shares will be allotted to respective agencies by way of private placement.

Memorandum of Association (MOA)/ Articles of Association (AOA);-

Memorandum of Association (MOA) of a Section 8 Company shall be in Form INC 13 specified under the pursuant to Rule 19(2) the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014.

10. The main objects of the company shall be as follows :-

1) To establish and operate a dedicated command center for the inspection of industries, with the primary aim of ensuring compliance with environmental standards, including but not limited to;-

a) Conducting regular inspections to monitor compliance with environmental regulations.

(P.T.O)

- b) Sample collection and analysis for real-time assessment of environmental quality, including air, water, and soil.
 - c) Redressal of complaints related to environmental issues, ensuring prompt resolution.
 - d) Initiating green belt development initiatives to enhance ecological balance and mitigate environmental impact.
 - e) Verification and implementation of Monsoon Preparedness Plans to prevent and mitigate disasters.
 - f) Promoting the adoption of green fuels in industries to reduce environmental pollution.
- 2) To establish an Emergency Response Centre (ERC) equipped to handle environmental disasters such as oil spills and chemical leaks, with the following objectives;-
- a) Conducting regular mock-up exercises to build emergency response capacity and ensure preparedness.
 - b) Organizing awareness programs with the community to promote environmental stewardship and encourage proactive involvement in disaster response.
 - c) Undertaking technical studies to identify potential environmental hazards and develop proactive solutions.
 - d) Establishment of dedicated flying squads for immediate response to environmental emergencies.
 - e) Conducting capacity studies and safety audits to enhance preparedness and mitigate risks.
- 3) To undertake initiatives aimed at ecological restoration and sustainable development, including;-
- a) Restoration of mangroves and mudflats to support biodiversity and migratory bird habitats.
 - b) Rehabilitation of benthic flora and fauna to restore ecological balance in affected areas.
 - c) Focus on skill development to enhance employment opportunities in industries while promoting sustainable practices.
 - d) Encouraging community involvement in environmental conservation and disaster management efforts for a healthier and more resilient future.
- 4) To collaborate with governmental agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders to leverage resources and expertise for effective environmental management and disaster response.
- 5) To conduct research, develop innovative technologies, and provide training programs aimed at enhancing environmental sustainability and resilience in industries and communities.

11. The Company will be funded through Corporate Social Responsibility and Government allocations which will focus on greening initiatives, de-silting, solid waste management, pollution control, mangrove restoration and community health and community infrastructure development and the authorized capital of Manali Ennore Restoration and Rejuvenation Company (MERRC) shall be Rs.1.00 Crore (Rupees One Crore only).

12. This order issues with the concurrence of Finance Department vide its U.O.No.565/FS/P/2024, Dated 28.02.2024.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

SUPRIYA SAHU
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

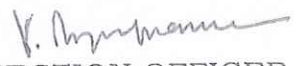
To:

The Principal Secretary to Government,
Energy Department, Secretariat, Chennai-9.
The Principal Secretary to Government,
Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-9.
The Principal Secretary to Government,
Finance Department, Secretariat, Chennai-9.
The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-9.
The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Labour Welfare and Skill Development Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-9.
The Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Health and Family Welfare Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-9.
The District Collectors Concerned
The Chairperson,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai - 32.
The Director,
Department of Environment and Climate Change, Chennai-15.
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (HoFF), Chennai - 32.

Copy to:

The Special/Senior Personal Assistant to
Hon'ble Minister (Environment, Climate Change), Chennai - 9.
The Private Secretary to the Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department, Chennai-9.
The Finance Department, Chennai - 9.
Stock File / Spare Copy.

//FORWARDED // BY ORDER//


SECTION OFFICER



