

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE AT CHENNAI
APPEAL NO. 88 OF 2017 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

George Issac

... Appellant

VERSUS

MoEF & CC, New Delhi & Others

... Respondents

INDEX

Sl. No.	Description	Page No
1	Copy of the Issue of a Certified Compliance Report	1-13
2	Copy of Report of the Sub Committee of the SEAC for Field Inspection of the Quarry of M/S Slab Aggregates	14-26

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सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय / MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, बंगलुरु / INTEGRATED REGIONAL OFFICE, BANGALORE

4th Floor, E & F- Wings, Kendriya Sadan, 17th Main Road,
II Block, Koramangala, Bangalore- 560 034

E-File No.12.1/SEIAA/2016-17/20/KER **L394**

09.02.2022

To

Shri. Joseph John,
Managing Partner,
M/s. Slabs & Aggregates,
Embassy Resident, Kuruppampady Rayamangalam Village,
Kunnathunadu Taluk, Ernakulam District,
Kerala-683 545

Sub: Issue of a Certified Compliance Report to M/s. Slabs & Aggregates --Reg

Ref: Your letter dated 04.01.2022 requesting for issue of a CCR from Integrated Regional Office (IRO), Bangalore

Sir,

This has reference to your office letter dated 04.01.2022 seeking Certified Compliance Report (CCR) from this office for further expansion/renewal/ revalidation of Environmental Clearance (EC) of a building stone quarry over an extent of 8.6630 Ha from Ministry/ State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) located in Aikaranadu North Village, Kunnathunadu Taluk, Ernakulam District, Kerala for which Environmental Clearance was obtained from SEIAA, Kerala vide EC No 81/ 2016 (519/SEIAA/EC3/3823/2014) dated 01.06.2016.

2. Pursuant to your request for issue of a CCR, an inspection was undertaken by this office on 05.01.2022 and during the visit, it was noted that the quarry was not in operation (due to expiry of mining lease on 28.06.2021), and you were complying with most of the EC conditions. Accordingly, based on verification of requisite documents made available during and after inspection and as noted during the physical inspection, the status of compliance of this project is rated as SATISFACTORY. Please find attached monitoring report for your reference.

3. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,

ch. Murali Krishna

Dr. Murali Krishna
Additional Director (S)

Copy for Information:

1. The Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), Pattom P.O., Thiruvananthapuram-695 004. (E-mail: ms.kspcb@gov.in)
2. The Member Secretary, SEIAA, Kerala, K.S.R.T.C Bus Terminal Complex, 4th Floor, Thampanoor, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 001 (E-Mail: seacseiaakerala@gmail.com)

ch. Murali Krishna

Dr. Murali Krishna
Additional Director (S)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
(Integrated Regional Office, Southern Zone)
Bangalore-34
MONITORING REPORT
(PART I)

E-File No. 12.1/SEIAA/2016-17/20/KER

1	Name of the project	Environmental Clearance for the Quarry project in Sy. No. 320/2, 320/3 at Aikaranadu North Village, Kunnathunadu Taluk, Ernakulam District, Kerala by Sri. Joseph John
2	Environmental Clearance Details	EC No 81/ 2016 (519/SEIAA/EC3/3823/2014) dated 01.06.2016
3	Location: District & State / UT	Aikaranadu North Village, Kunnathunadu Taluk, Ernakulam District, Kerala
4	Address for correspondence:	Sri. Joseph John, Managing Partner, M/s. Slabs & Aggregates, Embassy Resident, Kuruppampady Rayamangalam Village, Kunnathunadu Taluk, Ernakulam District, Kerala
5	Date of site visit for this report	05.01.2022

BRIEF ON THE PROJECT ALONG WITH THE PRESENT STATUS:

M/s Slabs & Aggregates have obtained Environmental Clearance (EC) from State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Kerala for quarrying of 200 TPD of building stone from an area of 8.6630 hectares of land vide EC No 81/ 2016 (519/SEIAA/EC3/3823/2014) dated 01.06.2016 in Aikaranadu North Village, Kunnathunadu Taluk, Ernakulam District, Kerala. Since the validity of the EC is expiring on 31.05.2022 (officially expired on 31.05.2021 but based on MoEF&CC Notification No 221 dated 18.01.2021 got extended for one additional year due to Covid-19), project authorities have requested for a Certified Compliance Report (CCR) for further renewal/revalidation of their EC.

REMARKS

Based on the request of the project authorities for issue of a CCR, this project site was inspected by this office on 05.01.2022 and during the visit, it was noted that the quarry was not in operation due to expiry of mining lease on 28.06.2021 even though they had a valid EC till 31.05.2022 and project authorities have obtained requisite permissions from other relevant agencies like Consent to Operate (CTO) from Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and the same is valid till 30.05.2022; Permission from Aikaranadu North Village Gram Panchayat and the same is valid till 31.03.2022, Explosives License from PESO and is valid till 31.03.2022, Mining lease from Directorate of Mining and Geology, Kerala and the permission was valid till 28.06.2021 (expired). Based on the documents produced in compliance to EC conditions and as verified during the visit, it is noted that PA has complied to most of the EC conditions applicable for this project and accordingly the status of compliance of project is rated as **SATISFACTORY**.

Ch. Murali Krishna
Dr. Murali Krishna
Additional Director (S)
09.02.2022

S. No	EC Condition	Status of Compliance
SPECIFIC CONDITIONS		
1	Protection wall is needed all along the quarry wherever deep cuttings are present	Complied During the visit, it was noted that PA has constructed protection wall wherever deep cuttings were present in the project site and have also installed barbed metal wire fencing around the mining area. Outer fencing is created to prevent the falling of animals/human being/dumping of garbage etc. into the quarry area.
2	Benches are not seen in the mining operations, and this has to be strictly adhered.	Complied During the visit, it was noted that this is a very old quarry and was operating with mining permits since long time and PA is trying to maintain benches within permitted lease area to the extent possible by creating new benches as per mining plan.
3	Over burden is to be stored in the designated place and no compromise should be made on this point.	Complied During the visit, it was noted that PA has stored the overburden materials within the site at designated place and the same is being used for plantation, haulage roads and for land filling in the mining area. On the day of visit, no earth work noted and quarry was not in operation.
4	The drainage from the quarry is currently directed to the North corner and let out. The deposited silt must also be cleaned periodically.	Complied During the visit, it was noted that PA has constructed de-siltation chamber near to the outlet point and only the clear water is being let out from the project site after clarification and the deposited silt is being cleaned periodically.
5	Considering the topography, garland drains need not be insisted upon.	Complied During the visit, it was noted that PA is taking appropriate measures for not letting out any wastewater into the public stream or drainage and the storm water from quarrying pit is directed to the pond.
6	The approach road to the quarry from the main road is not maintained at all. This road must be maintained in good condition by the proponent. Buffer distance from the road near the quarry may not be required as it ends at the quarry.	Complied On the day of the visit, it was noted that the project proponent has tarred the approach road to the extent possible for easy transportation of vehicle and to reduce air pollution during transportation of materials.
7	The blasting time must be displayed and strictly adhered to.	Complied On the day of the visit, it was noted that the project proponent has displayed the blasting time in the project site as 10.00 am and at 4.00 pm and display boards were noted in appropriate places.
8	Dust suppression mechanism must be in place.	Complied It was noted that the project proponent has deployed a vehicle to sprinkle the water on the haulage road for

Ch. Praval Krishna

suppression o dust emission. However, on the day of visit, quarry was not in operation and water sprinkling vehicle was seen in the quarry.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1	Rainwater harvesting facility should be installed as per the prevailing provisions of KMBR/KPBR, unless otherwise specified.	<p>Complied During the visit, it was noted that PA has established a rainwater harvesting pit in the quarry area for the purpose of storing rainwater. It was informed by PA that this harvested rainwater would be used for dust suppression, green belt development and for other purposes in the quarry.</p>
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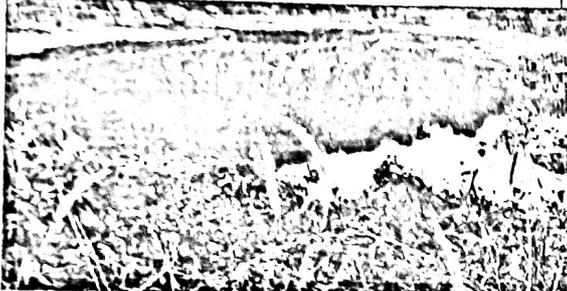


Fig 1 and 2: Rainwater Harvesting Pond

2	Environment Monitoring cell as agreed under the affidavit filed by the proponent should be formed and made functional.	<p>Complied As per the records made available, it was noted that PA has established an Environment Monitoring Cell (EMC) and have already provided an Affidavit in this regard to SEIAA, Kerala on 25.06.2016 as per EC condition.</p>
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3	Suitable avenue trees should be planted along either side of the tarred road and open parking areas, if any, including of approach road and internal roads	<p>Complied As per the records made available, it was noted that PA has planted about 3507 trees along both sides of the approach road and also in the open spaces available nearing parking area and inside the lease premises which mainly included <i>teak, rubber, mango, jack fruit, mahagani, bamboo, Vatta, Plavu, Seemakkonna</i></p>
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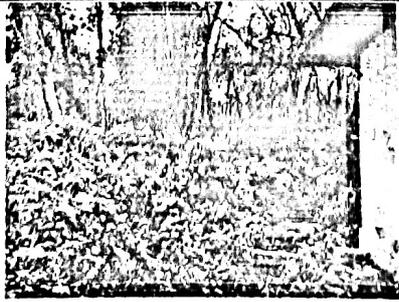
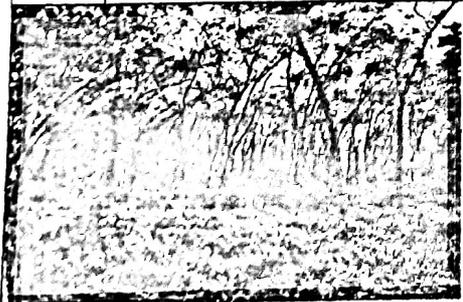


Fig 3-5: Avenue Plantations

4	Maximum possible solar energy generation and utilization shall be ensured as an essential part of the project	<p>Complied On the day of visit, it was noted that PA has installed few solar streetlights and 1 KW solar rooftop panel for generation of solar energy.</p>
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Ch. P. N. Krishna



Fig 8 and 9: Fencing around the lease boundary

10	Warning alarms indicating the time of blasting (to done at specific timings) has to be arranged as per stipulations of Explosive Department.	Complied On the day of visit, it was noted that PA has displayed the blasting timings as per Rules of Explosive Department and the display board was clearly visible and blasting time was also mentioned on the board.
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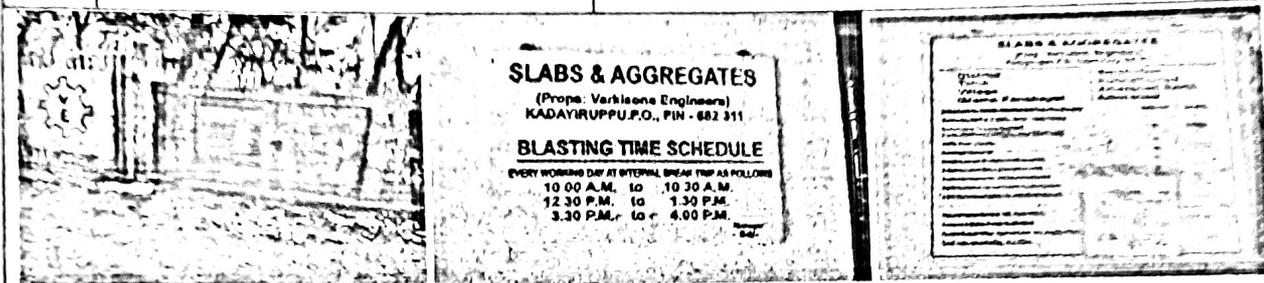


Fig 10-12: Display of Signage and Danger Display Boards

11	Control measures on noise and vibration prescribed by KSPCB should be implemented.	Complied It was noted that PA is aware of this EC condition and accordingly provided appropriate noise and vibration control measures and PA is regularly conducting the noise monitoring and verification of noise monitoring reports indicated all the values to be within stipulated norms.
12	Quarrying activities should be limited to daytime as per KSPCB guidelines/specific conditions.	Complied It was noted that PA is aware of this EC condition and accordingly conducting quarry operations during daytime only and appropriate display boards indicating quarry timings were noted during the visit.
13	Blasting should be done in a controlled manner as specified by the regulations of Explosives Department or any other concerned agency.	Complied It was noted that PA is using NONEL (Non-Electrical Detonators) for blasting under the supervision of a 2 nd Class mines manager as per regulations of explosives department.
14	A licensed person should supervise/control the blasting operations.	Complied It was noted that PA has employed a 2 nd class mines manager to oversee blasting operations.
15	Access roads to the quarry shall be tarred to contain dust emissions that may arise during transportation of materials.	Complied On the day of visit, it was noted that all access roads to the quarry were tarred and maintained in good condition.

Ch. P. Prudhvi Krishna

21	Acoustic enclosures should have been provided to reduce sound amplifications in addition to the provisions of green belt and hollow brick envelop for crushers so that the noise level is kept within prescribed standards given by CPCB/KSPCB.	Complied It was noted that PA is aware of this EC condition and accordingly provided appropriate noise and vibration control measures in crusher as well in quarry and PA is regularly conducting the noise monitoring and verification of noise monitoring reports indicated all the values to be within stipulated norms.
22	The workers on the site should be provided with the required protective equipment such as earmuffs, helmet, etc.	Complied It was noted that all the workers in the site are provided with appropriate PPE's such as earmuffs, helmets, masks, shoes and gloves etc. based on their work zone requirement. However, on the day of visit, it was noted that quarry was not in operation.
23	Garland drains with clarifiers to be provided in the lower slopes around the core area to channelize storm water.	Complied It was noted that garland drain with clarifiers are provided in the lower slopes around core area to channelize the water coming from the top of the quarry.
24	The transportation of minerals should be done in covered trucks to contain dust emissions.	Complied On the day of visit, it was noted that quarry was not in operation. However, based on records and photographs provided it was noted that transportation of minerals was done through trucks in covered conditions to avoid dust emission.
25	The proponent should plant trees at least 5 times of the loss that has been occurred while clearing the land for the project.	Complied As per the records made available, it was noted that after start of quarry operations PA has not cut any trees as the entire area was of rock and have planted about 3507 plants to enhance green cover.
26	Disposal of spent oil from diesel engines should be as specified under relevant Rules/ Regulations.	Complied On the day of visit, it was noted that spent oil from diesel engines are stored in separate closed barrel drums and is being distributed to authorized recyclers.
27	Explosives should be stored in magazines in isolated place specified and approved by the Explosives Department.	Complied On the day of visit, it was noted that explosives are stored in magazine in an isolated space specified and approved by explosive department.



Fig 18 & 19: Magazine Storage Area

Ch. P. Pravalikrishna

28	A minimum buffer distance of 100 m from the boundary of the quarry to the nearest dwelling unit or other structures, not being any facility for mining shall be provided.	Complied On the day of visit, it was noted that the nearest dwelling unit is located 150 m away from the boundary of the quarry.
29	100 m buffer distance should be maintained from forest boundaries	Complied It was noted that PA has maintained adequate buffer distance from forest boundaries and PA informed that there is no forest near to the project site
30	Consent from Kerala State Pollution Control Board under water and air act(s) should be obtained before initiating mining activity	Complied As per the records made available, it was noted that PA has obtained a valid consent to operate from KSPCB and is valid till 30.05.2022.
31	All other statutory clearances should be obtained, as applicable, by project proponents from the respective competent Authorities including that for blasting and storage of explosives.	Complied As per the records made available, it was noted that PA has obtained requisite permissions from other relevant agencies like Consent to Operate (CTO) from Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and the same is valid till 30.05.2022; Permission from Aikaranadu North Village Gram Panchayat and the same is valid till 31.03.2022, Explosives License from PESO and is valid till 31.03.2022, Mining lease from Directorate of Mining and Geology, Kerala and the permission has expired on 28.06.2021.
32	In the case of any change(s) in the scope of the project, extent quantity, process of mining technology involved or in any way affecting the environmental parameters /impacts as assessed, based on which only the E.C is issued, the project would require a fresh appraisal by this Authority, for which the proponent shall apply and get the approval of this Authority.	Complied PA is aware of this EC condition and agreed to comply with the same.
33	The Authority 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 Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to ensure effective implementation of the suggested safeguard measures in a time bound and satisfactory manner.	Complied PA is aware of this EC condition and agreed to comply with the same.

Ch. Purali Krishna

34	The stipulations by Statutory Authorities under different Acts and Notifications should be complied with, including 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, 2006.	Complied PA is aware of this EC condition and agreed to comply with the same.
35	The project proponent should advertise in at least two local newspapers widely circulated in the region, one of which (both the advertisement and the newspaper) shall be in the vernacular language informing that the project has been accorded Environmental Clearance and copies of clearance letters are available with the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) office and may also be seen on the website of the Authority at www.seiaakerala.org . The advertisement should be made within 10 days from the date of receipt of the Clearance letter and a copy of the same signed in all pages should be forwarded to the office of this Authority as confirmation.	Complied As per the records made available, it was noted that PA has advertised regarding the grant of EC in two Newspapers namely the Mathrubhoomi (Malayalam) and Times of India (English) on 03.07.2016 and 02.07.2016 respectively.
36	A copy of the clearance letter shall be sent by the proponent to concerned Grama Panchayat District Panchayat/ Municipality /Corporation /Urban Local Body and also to the Local NGO, if any, from whom suggestions representations, if any, were received while processing the proposal. The Environmental Clearance shall also be put on the website of the company by the proponent.	Complied As per the records made available, it was noted that PA has shared a copy of the clearance letter to concerned Grama Panchayath for suggestions and representations. The EC was also showed on our company website at http://slabsandaggregates.com/

ch. Pruthi Krishna

37	<p>The proponent shall submit half yearly reports on the status of compliance of the stipulated EC conditions including results of monitored data (both in hard copies as well as by e-mail) and upload the status of compliance of the stipulated EC conditions, including results of monitored data on their website and shall update the same periodically. It shall simultaneously be sent to the respective Regional Office of MoEF, Govt of India and also to the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) office.</p>	<p>Complied As per records made available, it is noted that PA is regularly submitting the half yearly compliance reports to the Regional Office of MoEFCC at Bangalore.</p>
38	<p>The details of Environmental Clearance should prominently displayed in a metallic board of 3 ft x 3 ft with green background and yellow letters of Times New Roman font of size of not less than 40. Sign board with extent of lease area and boundaries shall be depicted at the entrance of the quarry, visible to the public.</p>	<p>Complied On the day of visit, it was noted that a metallic display board of 3 ft x 3 ft with green background and yellow letters of Times New Roman which was clearly visible was found at the entrance of the quarry visible to public.</p>
<p align="center">Fig 20 and 21: Display of EC Board and Other Display Boards</p>		
39	<p>The proponent should provide notarized affidavit (indicating the number and date of Environmental Clearance proceedings) that all the conditions stipulated in the EC shall be scrupulously followed.</p>	<p>Complied As per records made available, it is noted that PA has submitted an assurance in the form of an Affidavit to SEIAA, Kerala on 25.06.2016 before grant of EC.</p>
40	<p>No change in mining technology and scope of working should be made without prior approval of the SEIAA, No further expansion or modifications in the mine shall be carried out without prior approval of the SELAA, as applicable.</p>	<p>Complied PA is aware of this EC condition and agreed to comply to the same and assured that in case of any change in mining technology and scope of working, it will be done only with the prior approval of SEIAA, Kerala.</p>

Ch. Purnali Krishna

41	The Project proponent shall ensure that no natural water course and/or water resources shall be obstructed due to any mining operations. Necessary safeguard measures to protect the first order streams, if any, originating from themine lease shall be taken.	Complied On the day of visit, it was noted that there are no stream / water resources in the nearby vicinity of the mining lease area or originating from the mining lease area.
42	Monitoring of Ambient Air Quality to be carried out based on the Notification 2009, as amended from time totime by the Central Pollution Control Board. Water sprinkling should be increased at places loading and unloading points & transfer point to reduce fugitive emissions.	Complied As per records made available, it is noted that PA is monitoring the quality of Ambient Air periodically and verification of records indicated all the values to be within stipulated norms. It was also noted that PA has installed several numbers of stationary water sprinklers to avoid fugitive dust emission and water tankers are also being used for suppression of dust.
43	The topsoil, if any, shall temporarily be stored at earmarked site(s) only for the topsoil shall be used for land reclamation plantation. The over burden (OB) generated during the mining operations shall be stacked at earmarked dump site(s) only. The maximum height of the dumps shall not exceed 8m and width 20m and overall slope of the dumps shall be maintained to 45° The OB dumps should be scientifically vegetated with suitable native species to prevent erosion and surface run off. In critical areas, use of geo textiles shall be undertaken for stabilization of the dump. The entire excavated area shall be backfilled. Monitoring and management of rehabilitated areas should continue until the vegetation becomes self-sustaining.	Complied On the day of visit, it was noted that PA is storing the generated topsoil and overburden removed from the site at an earmarked places and vegetated with native species. PA assured to use the same in future for reclamation purposes and PA has provided a retention wall around the over burden dumping site.
44	Catch drains and siltation ponds of appropriate size shall be constructed around the mine working, mineral and OB dumps to prevent run off of water and flow of sediments directly into the river and other water bodies. The water so collected should be utilized for watering the mine area, roads, green belt development etc. The drains shall be regularly desilted particularly after monsoon and maintained properly.	Complied On the day of visit, it was noted that PA has constructed garland drains and de-siltation ponds at appropriate places and PA assured maintenance of these drains on a periodical basis and to undertake de-siltation works at regular intervals. Further, catch drains are created around the mine working, mineral overburden dumps to prevent runoff of water and flow of sediments directly into the river and other water bodies. The water so collected is utilized for water in the mine area, road, green belt development etc.

Ch. P. Pratik Krishna



Fig 22-24: Catch / Garland Drains and Siltation Traps

45	Effective safeguard measures such as regular water sprinkling shall be carried out in critical areas prone to air pollution and having high levels of PM10 and PM2.5 such as haul Road, loading and unloading points and transfer points-it shall be ensured that the Ambient Air Quality parameters conform to the norms prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board in this regard.	Complied On the day of visit, it was noted that PA has taken adequate safeguard measures to reduce emission of high levels of PM10 and PM2.5 along haul road, loading and unloading points by regular water sprinkling and wetting of haul roads. Periodical monitoring of ambient air quality reports indicated all the values to be within stipulated norms.
46	Fugitive dust emissions from all the sources should be controlled regularly. Water spraying arrangement on haul roads, loading and unloading and at transfer points should be provided and properly maintained.	Complied On the day of visit, it was noted that PA was undertaking water sprinkling through tankers for reducing dust emission in the project site. However, on the day of visit even though quarry was not in operation PA was undertaking water sprinkling through tankers.
47	Measures should be taken for control of noise levels below 85 dBA in the work environment.	Complied On the day of visit, it was noted that PA has developed good green belt by selecting thick foliage and tall growing plants around the mine lease area to act as acoustic barriers in arresting noise transmission. Further, acoustic enclosures were provided for DG sets and workers were provided with ear plugs and other protective equipment. Verification of noise monitoring reports indicated all the values to be within stipulated norms.
48	A separate environmental management cell with suitable qualified personnel should be set-up under the control of a Senior Executive, who will report directly to the Head of the Organization.	Complied As per the records made available, it was noted that PA has established an Environment Monitoring Cell (EMC) and have already provided an Affidavit in this regard to SEIAA, Kerala on as per EC condition.
49	The funds earmarked for environmental protection measures and CSR activate should be kept in separate account and should not be diverted for other purpose. Year wise expenditure should be reported to the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) office.	Complied As per the records made available, it was noted that PA has spent about Rs. 44,73,603 during the period from 2019-2022 towards various welfare activities in nearby surrounding villages especially towards education, health and other social needs based on local people requirement.

ch. Pwari Krishna

50	The Regional Office of MOEF & CC located at Bangalore shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The project Authorities should extend full cooperation to the officer (S) of the Regional Office by furnishing the requisite data/ information /monitoring reports.	Complied PA is aware of this EC condition and agreed to comply with the same. On the day of visit, PA has provided all the requested documents.
51	Any appeal against this Environmental 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.	Complied No appeal has been done regarding grant of EC within a stipulated period of 30 days from the date of grant of EC by SEIAA, Kerala.
52	Concealing the factual data or submission of false fabricated data and failure to comply with any of the conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal of this clearance and attract action under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.	Complied PA is aware of this EC condition and agreed to comply with the same.
53	The SEIAA may revoke or suspend the order for non-implementation of any of the specific or the implementation of any of the above condition is not satisfactory. The SEIAA reserves the right to alter/modify the above conditions or stipulate any further condition in the interest of environment protection.	Complied PA is aware of this EC condition and agreed to comply with the same.
54	The above conditions shall prevail not with-standing anything to the contrary, in consistent, or simplified, contained in any other permit license on the consent given by any other authority for the same project	Complied PA is aware of this EC condition and agreed to comply with the same.
55	This order is valid for a period of 5 years, or the expiry date of mine lease period issued by Government of Kerala, whichever is earlier	Complied PA is aware of this EC condition and accordingly PA has stopped the quarry operations since 28.06.2021 due to expiry of mining lease even though PA had a valid EC till 31.05.2022.
56	The Environmental Clearance will be subject to the final order of the courts in any pending litigation related to the land or project, in any court of law.	Complied As per the information provided by PA, there are no pending court cases.

ch. Pwali Krishna

57	The mining operation shall be restricted to above ground water table, and it should not intersect ground water table.	Complied On the day of visit, it was noted that mining operations are done well above the ground level and PA assured that the maximum mining depth from general ground level will not exceed 10 Mtrs and the exploration to be done as per the plan submitted before SEIAA, Kerala.
58	All vehicles used for transportation and within the mines shall have 'PUC certificate from authorized pollution taking centre. Washing of all vehicles shall be inside the lease area	Complied On the day of visit, it was noted that mining operations were halted, and PA assured that all the vehicles being used in the Quarry were having PUC Certificate and wheel washing facility is being made inside the lease area.
59	Project proponent should obtain necessary prior permission of the competent authorities for drawl of requisite quantity of surface water and ground water for the project.	Complied On the day of visit, it was noted that PA has created a rainwater harvesting pit in the lease area owned by the project proponent and it was noted that this water is sufficient to meet the operations of the quarry. PA informed that no groundwater is being drawn as of now and in case of any to be drawn would obtain requisite permissions.
60	Regular monitoring of flow rates and water quality upstream and downstream of the springs and perennial nallahs flowing in and around the mine lease area shall be carried out and reported in the six-monthly reports to SEIAA	Complied On the day of visit, it was noted that there are no streams in the nearby vicinity of the mining lease area. PA is regularly monitoring the quality of the groundwater and verification of records indicated all the values to be within stipulated norms.
61	Occupational health surveillance program of the workers should be undertaken periodically to observe any contractions due to exposure to dust and corrective measures, if needed.	Complied It was noted that PA has established a First Aid Facility in the Quarry area and PA is also following an efficient and approved surveillance program for workers periodically to ensure the health and safety of the workers.

Ch. P. Pravalika

REPORT OF THE SUB COMMITTEE OF THE SEAC FOR FIELD INSPECTION OF THE QUARRY OF M/S SLAB AGGREGATES WITH AN AREA OF 8.6330 HA IN SY NO.320/2, 320/3 OF AIKARUNADU NORTH VILLAGE, KUNNATHUNADU TALUK, ERANAKULAM TO VERIFY THE VIOLATION OF EC CONDITIONS, IF ANY, AND SUGGESTING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FOLLOW UP ACTIONS, IF ANY
(File No. 519/SEIAA/EC3/3823/14)

A Granite Building Stone Quarry Project owned by Sri. Joseph John with an area of 8.6330 Ha is located in Aikaranad North Village, Kunnathunad Taluk, Eranakulam District. Sri. George Isaac filed a Petition No. 88 of 2017 (SZ) against the quarrying operations of M/s Slab Aggregates, owned by Shri. Joseph John before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal against the grant of Environmental Clearance (EC) by the 2nd respondent (SEIAA) for conducting building stone quarrying. The Hon'ble NGT in its order directed the Authority to ascertain as to whether any violation of conditions imposed or recommendations made by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) which were accepted by the SEIAA, Kerala have been complied with or not and if so they are directed to take appropriate action against the project proponent for violation (if any) committed in accordance with law and submit a report in this regard to this tribunal within a period of six months. The 113th meeting of SEIAA held on 19th & 20th April 2022 directed SEAC to conduct a field inspection to ascertain whether any violation of conditions on recommendations made by SEAC has taken place and report the follow up actions to be taken against the PP for violation, if any, of EC conditions, in order to submit a report to the Hon. NGT by the SEIAA. This is to comply with the directions contained in the Judgment in the Original Application No. 88 of 2017 (SZ) dated 26-10-2021 (received in the Authority on 01-11-2021). As entrusted by the SEAC, the Sub Committee consisting of Dr. K. N. Krishnakumar and Dr. Mahesh Mohan conducted a field inspection on 15-07-2022 and the findings are reported here under.

1. Compliance of Specific Conditions

While issuing environmental clearance to the project, eight specific conditions were stipulated the compliance of which are tabulated below.

Sl. No.	Conditions in EC	Compliance status
1	Protection wall is needed all along the quarry wherever deep cuttings are present	Complied
2	Benches are not seen in the mining operations and this has to be strictly adhered	Complied
3	Overburden is to be stored in the designated place and no compromise should be made on this point	Complied
4	Drainage from the quarry should be directed through Northern corner and	Complied

	desiltation should be done periodically	
5	Considering the topography, Garland canals are not to be insisted	Complied
6	Approach road should be maintained properly	Complied
7	The blasting time must be displayed and strictly adhered too	Complied
8	Dust suppression mechanism must be in place	Complied

2. Compliance of General Conditions

No	General Conditions	Compliance Status
1	Rain Water Harvesting facility should be installed as per the prevailing provisions of KMBR/KPBR, unless otherwise specified.	Complied. An abandoned quarry is used as a Rain Water Harvesting System
2	Environment Monitoring Cell as agreed under the affidavit filed by the proponent should be formed and made functional.	Complied
3	Suitable avenue trees should be planted along either side of tarred road and open parking areas, if any, including of approach road and internal roads	Complied
4	Maximum possible solar energy generation and utilization shall be ensured as an essential part of the project	Complied Installed solar and I kw roof top panel for solar energy generation. More can be done in this regard
5	Sprinklers shall be installed and used in the project site to contain dust emissions	Reported to have Complied Quarry is now closed. The mobile sprinklers reported to have been used for containing the dust in the quarry area is not seen functioning as the quarry is now closed
6	Eco-restoration including the mine closure plan shall be done at the own cost of the project proponent	Partially complied. Efforts are seen taken to grow trees in the land adjacent to the project site owned by the proponent. Mine closure is yet to be done
7	At least 10 percent out of the total excavated pit area should be retained as water storage areas and the remaining area should be reclaimed with stacked dumping and overburden and planted with indigenous plant species that are eco-friendly, if no other specific condition on reclamation of pit is stipulated in the E.C.	Complied As per the EC the life of mine is 65 years and only 5 years completed. Yet to complete the mining activity in the project site. The proponent is aware about the EC conditions. Presently more than 10% area is found as pit for water storage.
8	Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) agreed upon by the proponent should be implemented	Complied
9	The lease area shall be fenced off with barbed wires to a minimum height of 4 ft. around, before starting of mining. All the boundary	Complied All the boundary indicators are protected

	indicators (boards, stores, markings, etc) shall be protected at all times and shall be conspicuous	
10	Warning alarms indicating the time of blasting (to be done at specific timing) has to be arranged as per stipulations of Explosive Department	Complied The quarry is now closed. At the time of visit, it is observed that the blasting time has been displayed as per the stipulations.
11	Control measures on noise and vibration prescribed by KSPCB should be implemented	Reported to have complied The quarry is now closed
12	Quarrying activities should be limited to day time as per KSPCB guidelines/specific conditions	Reported to have Complied The quarry is now closed
13	Blasting should be done in a controlled manner as specified by the regulations of Explosives Department or any other concerned agency	Reported to have Complied The quarry is now closed
14	A licensed person should supervise/control the blasting operations	Reported to have Complied The quarry is now closed
15	Access roads to the quarry shall be tarred to contain dust emissions that may arise during transportation of materials	Complied Except within the mining area and immediate surroundings
16	Overburden materials should be managed within the site and used for reclamation of mine pit as per mine closure plan/specific conditions	Partially Complied Overburden material is stored within the site; Mine closure is yet to take place
17	Height of benches should not exceed 5 m and width should not be less than 5 m, if there is no mention is the mining plan/specific condition	Complied Benches are provided and with and height is 5mx5m.
18	Mats to reduce fly rock blast to a maximum of 10 PPV should be provided	Reported to have Complied The quarry is now closed
19	Maximum depth of mining from general ground level at site shall not exceed 10 m	Complied
20	No mining operations should be carried out at places having a slope greater than 45 ⁰	Complied
21	Acoustic enclosures should have been provided to reduce sound amplifications in addition to the provisions of green belt and hollow brick envelop for crushers so that the noise level is kept within prescribed standards given by CPCB/KSPCB	Complied
22	The workers on the site should be provided with the required protective equipment such as ear muffs, helmet etc	Reported to have Complied The quarry is now closed
23	Garland drains with clarifiers to be provided	Not applicable as per the EC specific

	in the lower slopes around the core area to channelize storm water	conditions as Garland canals are not insisted due to topographical variations and drainage from the quarry should be directed through Northern corner which is complied as reported in the table showing compliance to specific conditions
24	The transportation of minerals should be done in covered trucks to contain dust emissions	Reported to have Complied The quarry is now closed
25	The proponent should plant trees at least 5 times of the loss that has been occurred while clearing the land for the project	Complied More number of local trees especially fruit trees have been planted
26	Disposal of spent oil from diesel engines should be as specified under relevant Rules/Regulations	Complied
27	Explosives should be stored in magazines in isolated place specified and approved by the Explosives Department	Complied
28	A minimum buffer distance of 100 m from the boundary of the quarry to the nearest dwelling unit or other structures, not being any facility for mining shall be provided	Complied Nearest habitation is at a distance greater than 150m
29	100 m buffer distance should be maintained from forest boundaries	Not applicable. No forest in the vicinity
30	Consent from Kerala State Pollution Control Board under Water and Air Act(s) should be obtained before initiating mining activity	Complied The quarry is now closed
31	All other statutory clearances should be obtained, as applicable, by project proponents from the respective competent authorities including that for blasting and storage of explosives	Complied The quarry is now closed
32	In the case of any change(s) in the scope of the project, extent quantity, process of mining technology involved or in any way affecting the environmental parameters/impacts as assessed, based on which only the E.C. is issued, the project would require a fresh appraisal by this Authority, for which the proponent shall apply and get the approval of this Authority	The proponent is aware of the matter
33	The Authority 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	The proponent is aware of the matter

	Environment (Protections) Act, 1986, to ensure effective implementation of the suggested safeguard measures in a time bound and satisfactory manner	
34	The stipulations by Statutory Authorities under different Acts and Notifications should be complied with, including the provisions of Water (Preventions and Control of Pollutions) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Public Liability (Insurance) Act, 1991 and EIA Notifications, 2006	The proponent is aware of the matter
35	The project proponent should advertise in at least two local newspapers widely circulated in the region, one of which (both the advertisement and the newspaper) shall be in the vernacular language informing that the project has been accorded Environmental Clearance and copies of clearance letters are available with the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) office and may also be seen on the website of the Authority at www.seiaakerala.org . <u>The advertisement should be made within 10 days from the date of receipt of the clearance letter and a copy of the same signed in all pages should be forwarded to the office of this Authority as confirmation</u>	Complied PA has advertised in two Newspapers namely the Mathrubhoomi (Malayalam) and Times of India (English) on 03.07.2016 and 02.07.2016 respectively.
36	A copy of the clearance letter shall be sent by the proponent to concerned Grama Panchayat/District Panchayat/Municipality/Corporation/Urban Local Body and also to the Local NGO, if any from whom suggestions/representations, if any, were received while processing the proposal, <u>The Environmental Clearance shall also be put on the website of the company by the proponent</u>	Complied PA has shared a copy of the clearance letter to concerned Grama Panchayath for suggestions and representations. The EC was also showed on the company website (http://slabsandaggregates.com/)
37	The proponent shall submit half yearly reports on the status of compliance of the stipulated EC conditions including results of monitored data (both in hard copies as well as by e-mail) and upload the status of compliance of the stipulated EC conditions, including results of monitored data on their website and shall update the same periodically. It shall	Complied

	simultaneously be sent to the respective Regional Office of MoEF, Govt. of India and also to the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) office	
38	<u>The details of Environmental Clearance should be prominently displayed in a metallic board of 3 ft. x 3 ft. with green background and yellow letters of Times New Roman font of size of not less than 40.</u> Sign board with extent of lease area and boundaries shall be depicted at the entrance of the quarry, visible to the public	Complied
39	The proponent should provide notarized affidavit (indicating the number and date of Environmental Clearance proceedings) that all the conditions stipulated in the EC shall be scrupulously followed	Complied
40	No change in mining technology and scope of working should be made without prior approval of the SEIAA. No further expansion or modifications in the mine shall be carried out without prior approval of the SEIAA, as applicable	The proponent is aware of the matter
41	The Project proponent shall ensure that no natural water course and/or water resources shall be obstructed due to any mining operations. Necessary safeguard measures to protect the first order streams, if any originating from the mine lease shall be taken	Complied
42	Monitoring of Ambient Air Quality to be carried out based on the Notification 2009, as amended from time to time by the Central Pollution Control Board. Water sprinkling should be increased at places loading and unloading points & transfer point to reduce fugitive emissions	Reported to have Complied The quarry is now closed
43	The top soil, if any, shall temporarily be stored at earmarked site(s) only for the topsoil shall be used for land reclamation and plantation. The over burden (OB) generated during the mining operations shall be stacked at earmarked dump site(s) only. The maximum height of the dumps shall not exceed 8 m and width 20 m and overall slope of the dumps shall be maintained to 45 ⁰ . The OB dumps should be scientifically vegetated	Complied The OB dump is seen deposited and it is not stacked and protected properly. The same has been used for the planting of trees in the nearby area.

	with suitable native species to prevent erosion and surface run off. In critical areas, use of geo textiles shall be undertaken for stabilization of the dump. The entire excavated area shall be backfilled. Monitoring and management of rehabilitated areas should continue until the vegetation becomes self-sustaining	
44	Catch drains and siltation ponds of appropriate size shall be constructed around the mine working, mineral and OB dumps to prevent run off of water and flow of sediments directly into the river and other water bodies. The water so collected should be utilized for watering the mine area, roads, green belt development etc. The drains shall be regularly desilted particularly after monsoon and maintained properly	Complied According to the special conditions, the drainage is directed to old quarry pit and the water pumped out from the quarry after silting is clear.
45	Effective safeguard measures such as regular water sprinkling shall be carried out in critical areas prone to air pollution and having high levels of PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5} such as haul Road, loading and unloading points and transfer points – it shall be ensured that ambient Air Quality parameters conform to the norms prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board in this regard	Reported to have Complied The quarry is now closed
46	Fugitive dust emissions from all the sources should be controlled regularly. Water spraying arrangements on haul roads, loading and unloading and at transfer points should be provided and properly maintained	Reported to have Complied The quarry is now closed
47	Measures should be taken for control of noise levels below 85 dBA in the work environment	Reported to have Complied The quarry is now closed
48	A separate environmental management cell with suitable qualified personnel should be setup under the control of a Senior Executive, who will report directly to the Head of the organization	Complied The quarry is now closed
49	The funds earmarked for environmental protection measures and CSR activate should be kept in separate account and should not be diverted for other purpose. Year wise expenditure should be reported to the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) office	Complied

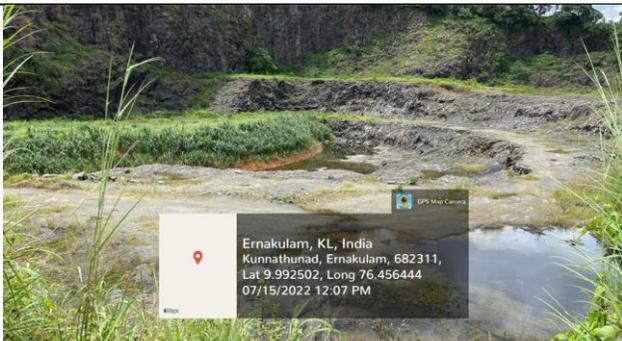
50	The Regional Office of MoEF and CC located at Bangalore shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The project authorities should extend full co-operation to the Officer(S) of the Regional Office by furnishing the requisite data/information/monitoring reports	The proponent is aware of the matter
51	Any appeal against this Environmental 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	The proponent is aware of the matter
52	Concealing the factual data or submission of false/fabricated data and failure to comply with any of the conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal of this clearance and attract action under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986	The proponent is aware of the matter
53	The SEIAA may revoke or suspend the order, for non implementation of any of the specific or this implementation of any of the above conditions is not satisfactory. The SEIAA reserves the right to alter/modify the above conditions or stipulate any further condition in the interest of environment protection	The proponent is aware of the matter
54	The above conditions shall prevail notwithstanding anything to the contrary, in consistent, or simplified, contained in any other permit, license on consent given by any other authority for the same project	The proponent is aware of the matter
55	This order is valid for a period of 5 years or the expiry date of mine lease period issued by the Govt. of Kerala, whichever is earlier	The proponent is aware of the matter
56	The Environmental Clearance will be subject to the final order of the Court(s) in any pending litigation related to the land or project, in any court of law	The proponent is aware of the matter
57	The mining operation shall be restricted to above ground water table and it should not intersect ground water table	Complied
58	All vehicles used for transportation and within the mines shall have PUC certificate from authorized pollution taking centre. Washing of all vehicles shall be inside the lease area	Reported to have Complied The quarry is now closed
59	Project proponent should obtain necessary prior permission of the competent authorities	The proponent is aware of the matter

	for drawal of requisite quantity of surface water and ground water for the project	
60	Regular monitoring of flow rates and water quality upstream and down streams of the springs and perennial nallahs flowing in and around the mine lease area shall be carried out and reported in the six monthly reports to SEIAA	The proponent is aware of the matter
61	Occupational health surveillance program of the workers should be under taken periodically to observe any contractions due to exposure to dust and take corrective measures, if needed	Complied

3. Any other observations

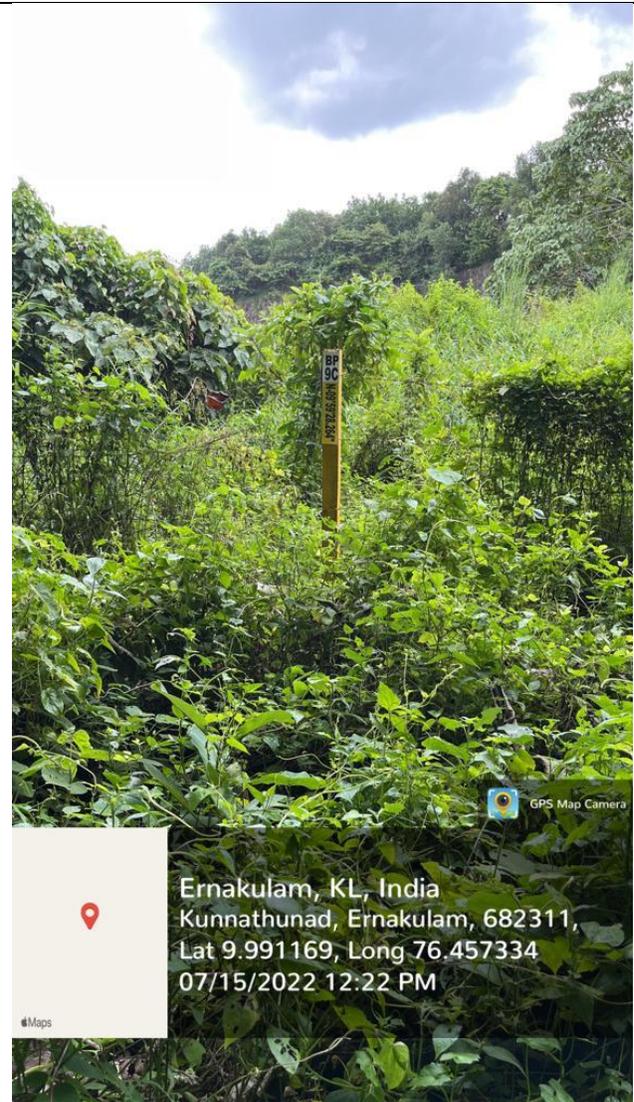
Nil

Photographs

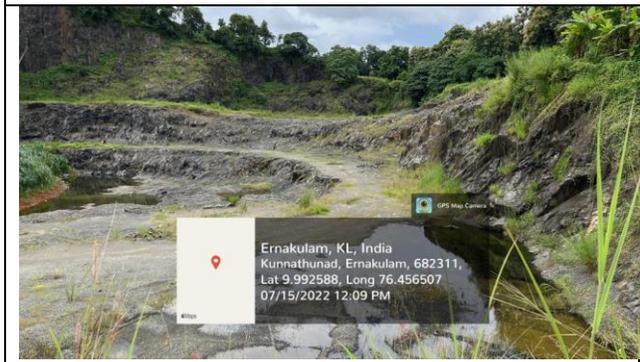
	
With RQP and Proponent	Project site



BP



BP



Benches

Green belt



Planted Fruit trees

Planted fruit trees



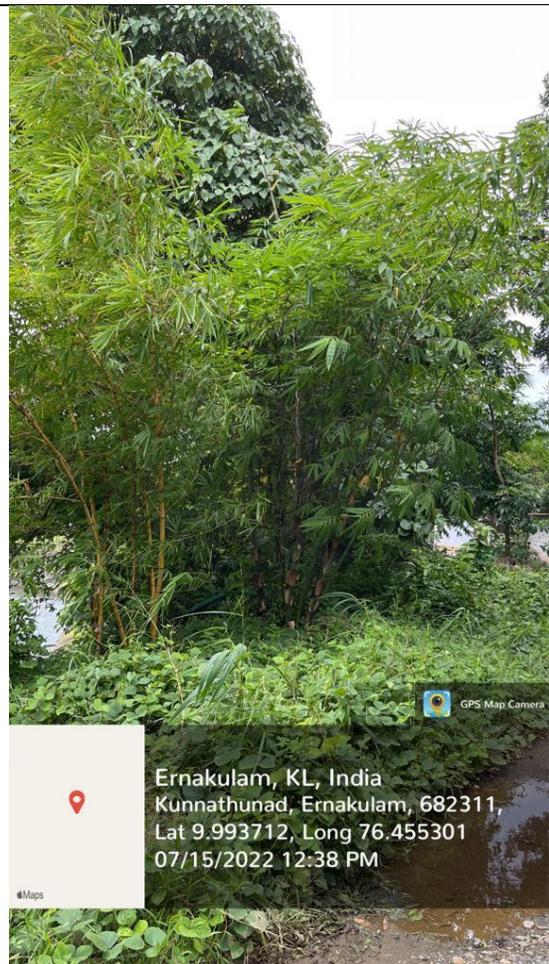
Green belt



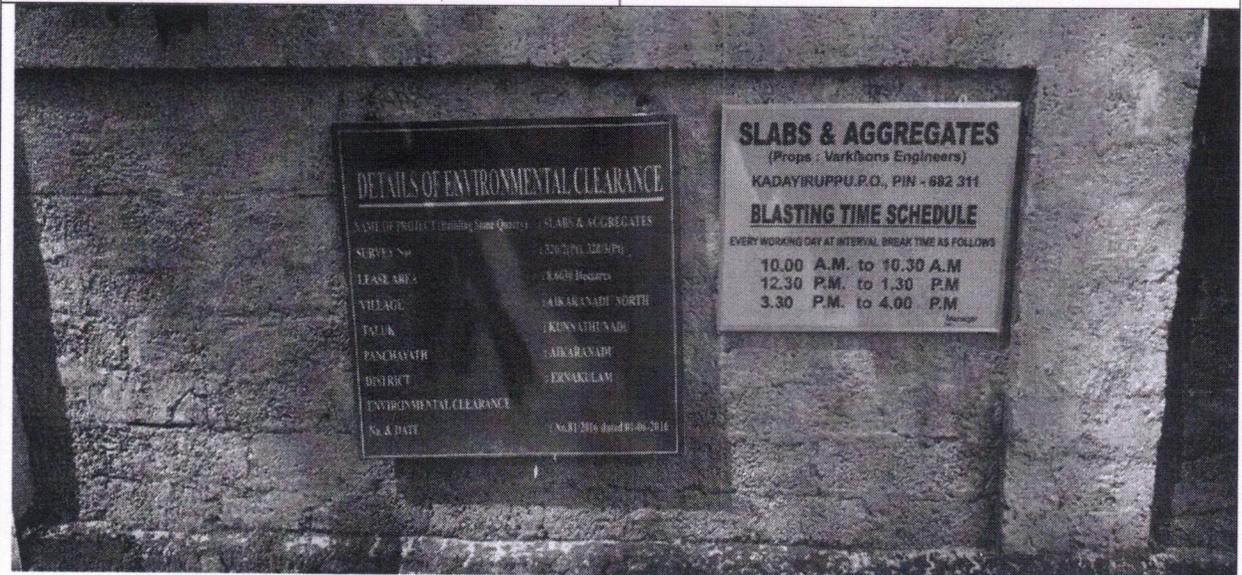
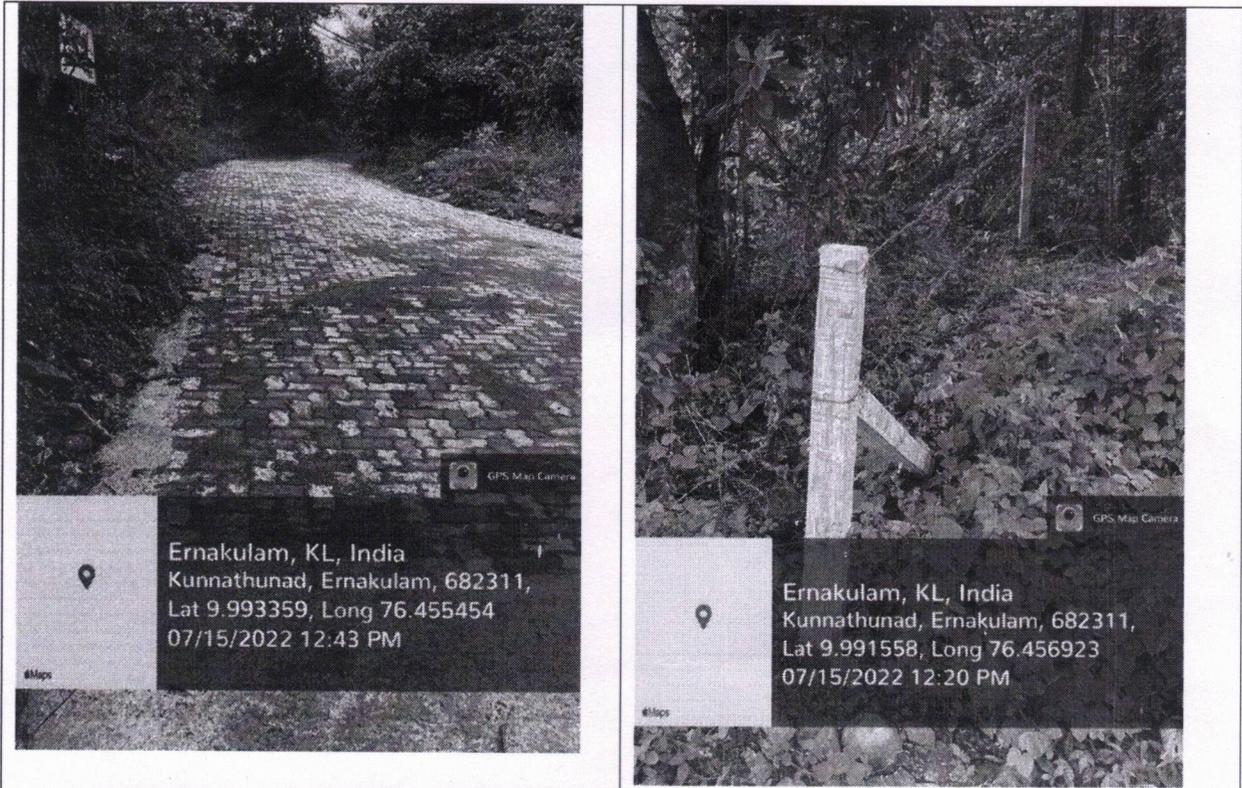
Silt trap



Developed Road



Green belt



Displaying EC and blasting time

Date of Appraisal: 15.07.2022

Team Members: Dr. Mahesh Mohan and Dr. K.N. Krishnakumar

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