

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,  
SZ, AT CHENNAI

O.ANo. 211 OF 2025

**In the matter of:**

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU  
based on the News Item appearing in  
The Hindu dated 28.08.2025 titled  
"Uthandi residents raise concerns over  
sewage pollution through new flood  
escape channel"

And

Greater Chennai Corporation,  
Through its Mayor, Chennai and Others.  
.....Respondents.

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Advocate for Respondent: TNPCB  
Thiru.S. Sai Sathya Jith,  
Advocate, Chennai.



**Report submitted to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, SZ by the Second Respondent - TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (TNPCB) in Original Application No. 211 of 2025 (SZ) [Earlier O.A. No. 480 of 2025 (PB)] taken as a Suo Moto by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, PB, New Delhi, based on a news item published in 'The Hindu' dated 17.09.2025, titled "Uthandi residents raise concerns over sewage pollution through new flood escape Chennai" against Greater Chennai Corporation and Others.**

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, PB, New Delhi, has registered a Suo-Motuin Original Application No.480 of 2025 (PB), based on a news item published in 'The Hindu' dated 17.09.2025, titled "Uthandi residents raise concerns over sewage pollution through new flood escape Channel". The Hon'ble Tribunal has implead the following respondents: (i) Greater Chennai Corporation through its Mayor, Greater Chennai Corporation, Ripon Building, Chennai- 600003. (ii) Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board through its Member Secretary, 76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai- 600032. (iii) District Collector, Kancheepuram District, Collectorate, Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu- 631501. (iv) Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board through its Managing Director, No.1, Pumping Station Road, Chintadripet, Chennai- 600002 and thereafter, it has been transferred to Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, SZ, Chennai. The OA No.480 of 2025 (PB), was renumbered as Original Application No. 211 of 2025 (SZ) by Hon'ble NGT, SZ and directed the respondents to file their reports.

The news item relates to the residents concerns over sewage pollution through new flood escape channel in Uthandi, Tamil Nadu. As per the article residents raised doubts that the channel may end up conveying sewage-mixed water from the Buckingham canal to the sea instead of only flood water. The article mentions that the Water Resources Department has begun work on a 1.2 Km

long flood escape channel from south Buckingham Canal near Okkiyam Maduvu to the sea through VGP layout. The article mentions that the project is intended to drain excess water from the canal and provide flood relief to areas around Pallikaranai swamp. The article further states that the Greater Chennai Corporation has initiated steps to upgrade Uthandi Beach into Blue Flag Beach but the new channel would pollute the beach and affect marine life. As per the article digging for the flood water canal is likely to damage the other pipelines.

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) has directed the respondents to file their respective replies/reports vide order dated 17.09.2025 and to comply the Hon'ble Order, the Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai submits the report on behalf of the 2<sup>nd</sup> respondent herein.

- A. The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board enforces the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended in 1988 as per Section 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended in 1988, no person shall without the previous consent of the state Board shall establish any industry, operation or process, or any treatment and disposal system or an extension or addition there to, which is likely to discharge sewage or trade effluent into a stream or well or sewer or on land or bring into use any new or altered outlets for the discharge of sewage or bring into make any new discharge of sewage.
- B. The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board enforces the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended in 1987, as per Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended in 1988, no person shall, without the previous consent of the state Board, establish or operate an industrial plant in air pollution control area. The entire area within the state of

Tamil Nadu has been declared as air pollution control area with effect on and from the 1st day of October 1983.

- C. The complaints were received regarding establishment of the proposed project - construction of straight-cut flood escape channel from South Buckingham Canal near Okkiyam Maduvu to Sea in Chennai district for flood relief to fringe areas around Pallikaranai Swamp Village, at Uthandi Village, Sholinganallur Taluk, Chennai District on various dates such as (Dt:23.09.2025, 27.09.2025, 01.10.2025, 03.10.2025). In this regard the project site was inspected on 30.09.2025 along with the complainant, it was noticed that earlier the Water Resource Department (WRD) has started the construction of shutter gate basement/ Head Regulator works in the CRZ-II Area abutting Buckingham canal next to Indian Maritime University gate and during inspection it was noticed that the said work was stopped.
- D. Based on the above observation, a letter was addressed to the Chief Engineer, Chennai Region, PWD, to immediately stop the said project and to continue the said project after obtaining CRZ clearance from the competent Authority as per provisions of CRZ Notification, 2011 and the same was reported to the District Collector/ Chairman (DCZMA), Member Secretary (TNSCZMA) & District Environmental Engineer, Convenor - DCZMA vide this office Lr.No. TNPCB/CHS/F.CRZ- Complaint/Uthandi - surplus canal-2/2025, Dt:03.10.2025.
- E. The Executive Engineer Water Resource Department, Araniyar Basin Division in the letter vide Lr.No.EE/AE/F-Okkiyum Maduvu/2025 Dt:07.11.2025 addressed to Superintending Engineer, WRD, Palar Basin, Chepauk, Chennai - 05 has reported that work commenced portion of for Head Regulator falls in the CRZ-II boundary, the entire work was immediately stopped in the site and no further work will be taken up until the CRZ clearance is obtained.

- F. The again public complaints were received regarding establishment of the said project on 06.10.2025, 16.10.2025, 23.10.2025, 19.01.2026 & 23.01.2026. In this regard, the project site was inspected again on 08.01.2026 & 03.02.2026 and it was confirmed that the project work remains stopped. In this connection, surface water samples were collected from the Buckingham canal and sent to the AEL, TNPCB laboratory for Total coliform and Fecal Coliform parameters analysis.
- G. The Executive Engineer, Water Resource Department, Araniyar Basin Division has submitted application seeking CRZ Clearance under CRZ Notification, 2011 as amended on 10.12.2025 for the proposed construction of straight-cut flood escape channel from South Buckingham Canal near Okkiyam Maduvu to Sea in Chennai district for flood relief to fringe areas around Pallikaranai Swamp Village, at Uthandi Village, Sholinganallur Taluk, Chennai District.
- H. The proposed project comprises of the followings;

Proposed Structure	Structures	CRZ Classification	Length in Meters
Straight-cut flood escape channel, Uthandi.	A double Vent Head Regulator of each vent of size 3.00 x 2.50m from Buckingham Canal off-taking at 15500m south of Okkiyam Maduvu confluence.	CRZ -II	Starting
	From the Buckingham Canal near Indian Maritime University Bridge, double vent Cut & Cover macro drain of each size 3.00m x 2.00m along VGP 2nd main Road for 1110m	CRZ - II	1110m

The proposed construction of straight-cut flood escape channel project site falls in the CRZ – II area as per CRZ Notification 2011 as amended vide Para 3 (iv) (d), which states that:

*Para 3 (iv) (d)- measures to prevent sand bars, installation of tidal regulators, laying of storm water drains or for structures for prevention of salinity ingress and freshwater recharge based on carried out by any agency to be specified by MoEF.*

I. The proposed project site was again inspected on 08.01.2026 & 03.02.2026 and the following observations are made:

Proposed Structure	Structures	CRZ Classification	Survey no.	Status of construction
Straight-cut flood escape channel, Uthandi	A double Vent Head Regulator of each vent of size 3.00 x 2.50m from Buckingham Canal off-taking at 15500m south of Okkiyam Maduvu confluence.	CRZ -II	68 Part of Uthandi Village	Commenced the establishment of Head Regulator works earlier and presently stopped.
	From the Buckingham Canal near Indian Maritime University Bridge, double vent Cut & Cover macro drain of each size 3.00m x 2.00m along VGP 2nd main Road for 1110m	Partly CRZ – II & partly outside CRZ area	69-part, 3 part, & 2 part of Uthandi Village	Yet to be commenced

This report is submitted to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone) in compliance of the directions passed by the Hon'ble Tribunal. The TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (TNPCB) will abide by all such directions, as the Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and appropriate.

Dated at Chennai, on this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026.

S. Vaer 18.3.26  
JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY,  
CHENNAI - 600 032.

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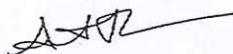
Greater Chennai Corporation,  
Through its Mayor, Chennai and Others.

....Respondents.

**REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE SECOND  
RESPONDENT-TAMIL NADU POLLUTION  
CONTROL BOARD.**

Date of filing :18.03.2026

Date of hearing :24.03.2026



Thiru.S.Sai Sathya Jith,  
Advocate for 2<sup>nd</sup> Respondent: TNPCB.

