

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 500/2022

IN THE MATTER OF:

Bhagwant Rai ... Applicant

Versus

State of Punjab & Ors. ... Respondents

I N D E X

NDOH- 16.03.2023

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Place: New Delhi
Dated: 15.03.2023

THROUGH



**GIGI C. GOERGE, ADVOCATE
FOR RESPONDENT No. 8
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Serial No of Register
Dated 15/08/2022

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**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL BENCH,
NEW DELHI**

O.A. NO.500/2022

BHAGWANT RAI

--- APPLICANT

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB & ORS.

--- RESPONDENTS

**AFFIDAVIT FILED ON BEHALF OF CENTRAL GROUND WATER AUTHORITY,
RESPONDENT NO.3**

I Anurag Khanna S/o. Late Sh. S. K. Khanna Aged about 59 years presently working as Regional Director in Central Ground Water Board, office at Bhujal Bhawan, Plot No. 3B, Sector 27-A, Chandigarh do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:-

1. I state that I am authorized in my official capacity to swear and depose to the present affidavit on behalf of answering Respondent and as such, I am fully conversant with the facts and the circumstances arising in O.A.No.500/22 based on the records of the case.
2. That the present O.A.No.500/22 has been filed alleging the extraction of ground water illegally and sewerage dirty water is flown into the green area which the applicant is alleging causing severe environmental issues. It is also stated that due to not providing of water supply by the Municipal Council, Barnala and PWSSB, about 50 submersible pumps have been illegally installed in the colony by the residents.
3. That this Hon'ble Tribunal vide order dt.29.08.2022 constituted a Joint Committee which submitted a detailed report including the relevant provisions of Guidelines for ground water extraction issued by Punjab Water Regulation & Development Authority (PWRDA).



[Handwritten signature]
ANURAG KHANNA
REGIONAL DIRECTOR
CENTRAL GROUND WATER BOARD
BHUJAL BHAWAN, PLOT NO. 3B, SECTOR 27-A, CHANDIGARH

4. That the answering respondent has been arrayed merely as a proforma party with no relief whatsoever claimed/or sought against the answering respondent. Petitioner does not make any reference/ allegation against the answering respondent of any kind.
5. That the answering respondent/CGWA has been constituted under Section 3 (3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to regulate and control, management and development of ground water in the country and to issue necessary regulatory directions for the purpose, vide notification Number S.O. 38(E), dated 14th January, 1997, of the Government of India in the Ministry of Environment & Forests.
6. That regulation of Ground Water and issuance of NOCs to the Project Proponents in the State of Punjab is no longer within the purview of CGWA. Punjab Water Regulation & Development Authority (PWRDA) has been constituted by the State Government of Punjab and has been entrusted for the regulation and management of ground water resources and issuing of NOCs for ground water abstraction in the State of Punjab under the Punjab Water Resources Regulation and Management Act, 2020 and Punjab Groundwater Extraction and Conservation Directions, 2023, which provide exemption to user ground water for drinking and domestic usage.
7. That CGWA Guidelines notified by the Ministry of Jal Shakti vide SO No.3289(E) dt.24.09.2020 exempt the individual domestic consumers in both Rural and Urban areas for drinking water and domestic uses from seeking NO Objection Certificate for ground water abstraction. The CGWA guidelines have pan-India applicability and the State Ground Water Authorities are advised to frame their guidelines in coherence with CGWA Guidelines.



[Signature]
 Notary Public
 Chandigarh

8. That in view of the above averments, it is humbly submitted that the answering respondent has no role to play in the current issue, and is only a proforma party.

[Signature]
Deponent

Regional Director
Central Ground Water Board
North Western Region, Plot No. 3B
Shujal Bhawan, Sector-27A, Chandigarh

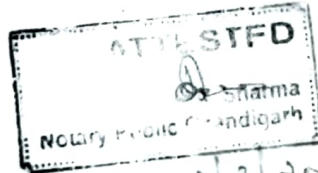
Verification

Verified at Chandigarh on this 14th day of March 2023 that the contents of the above Affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge, and no part of it is false. Likewise, nothing material has been concealed therefrom.



[Signature]
Deponent

Regional Director
Central Ground Water Board
North Western Region, Plot No. 3B
Shujal Bhawan, Sector-27A, Chandigarh



14/3/2023
14 MAR 2023

Certified that the Affidavit/SPJ/CPA/MN has been read over to the Deponent and searched Directly to understand the contents at the time of making & signing the document.