



Yamuna Jiye Abhiyaan

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OFFICE OF THE DIR (Plg.)  
MPR/TC, D.D.A.-N. DELHI-2  
Dy.No. H.O.68  
Dated 5/7/12

28 May 2012  
YJA/MP/ZP/5/12/64

Sri Tapan Mandal  
Director (Plg), DDA Zone E and O  
Vikas Minar,  
New Delhi

**Subject: Suggestions on mid term (?) review of MPD 2021 and zonal plans made there under.**

Sir,

Greetings from Yamuna Jiye Abhiyaan.

At the outset allow us a caveat as under:

*Since the MPD 2021 was finally notified only on 7 February 2007 and the Zonal Development Plan for Zone O and E were notified only in late 2009 and mid 2010 respectively and hence we do not think that a review now planned in the year 2012, which is just 5 years since the MPD 2021 was notified and just 3 / 2 years since the zonal plans were notified is either warranted or can by any stretch of imagination be called as a mid-term review for a 20 year perspective plan.*

Any effort at mid-course correction makes sense only once enough time has been provided to the existing plans to run through their course and if serious difficulties are encountered therein. Thus we find the current exercise underway by the DDA to be premature and thus an avoidable waste of time and energies of all those involved.

*We thus make our following submissions with the above mentioned caveat in place:*

**Zone E :**

Status of Sanjay Lake: We suggest that a special restoration plan for the Sanjay lake, which is the largest remaining water body in east Delhi and is part of a relict channel (ox bow lake) of river Yamuna is urgently required. This may be prepared by an multidisciplinary group of experts from the fields of hydrology, lake restoration, ecologists, city planners, waste water experts and representatives of local communities / settlements.

**Zone O:**

**The NCT of Delhi should consider itself fortunate to still possess, zone O in the centre of the city. This flood plain is reputedly the only remaining flood plain of this dimension (97 sq km) in any such mega-polis any where in the world and hence must be valued and preserved as the city's most valued ecological resource by the planners and decision makers.**

Review of  
MPD 2021  
2/6

Relat today  
2/6/12

Advisors Samar Singh H S Panwar Sureshwar D Sinha

Members CMS Environment / LIFE / Matu People's Organisation / Pani Morcha / PEACE Institute / Ridge Bachao Andolan / Toxics Link

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Plg

Indran  
18/5/2012

Change in land use: We suggest that no further/additional provision in the zonal plan for zone O (river Yamuna) be permitted that in any way results in any loss of river flood plains to non compatible / non recreational use under any excuse whatsoever.

The land in zone O which is reclaimed from abandoned power plants or any other such commercial/non commercial public activity which reaches a state of dis-use (for whatever reasons) should be returned to the river and NOT planned to be converted into yet more commercial/transportation or non compatible use either in public or private possession.

**The total area of the zone O as 9700 hectares must not be permitted to be compromised under any circumstances whatsoever.**

Regularisation of unauthorised colonies:

Any regularisation of an unauthorised colony existing in zone O, should be made only under exceptional circumstances and only as an exception and not as a rule. This is also important in view of large scale expulsion of JJ colonies from the river bed during the years 2004 - 2007.

Construction of bridges on the river:

Any new bridge in zone O should be permitted only after a proper EIA study and should be raised as a true (on piers from one end to another of the river bank) and NOT as a pseudo bridge (only over the lean period river channel).

Water bodies in river bed / flood plain:

A number of natural water bodies exist in the zone O, resulting from accumulated flood waters spreading over the zone O area during the times of floods in the river. Such water bodies need to be zealously protected and maintained as centres of ground water recharge and non- invasive recreational sites in the zone O.

The Nodal Officer in charge of water bodies in the Govt of Delhi may be asked to look after these water bodies too.

We hope that our suggestions as made above are given due consideration by the planners at the DDA.

We shall remain available to expand on any of the above matters and more, as and when a need thereof arises.

With best wishes,

Manoj Misra  
Convener