

TREES AFFECTED IN SHUNTING NECK AREA AT RAMP OF MUMBAI METRO LINE-3 PROJECT

- MMRC is geared up to roll out the first phase of Metro-3 from Aarey to BKC in December 2023. Operation of Metro-3 from depot is not possible if shunting neck is not executed. Shunting Neck area is along the ramp outside of the core of the Car Depot Area.
- In year 2019, MMRCL had submitted letter (Dated on 11/02/2019) to the Tree Authority to grant permission for felling/transplantation of 84 trees affecting the Shunting Neck Area at Sariput Nagar at Aarey Colony. The joint site inspection with officers of Tree Authority was done on 20/03/2020. This is absolutely the same area and location where the tree numbers have been revised as per survey as on date.
- It may be appreciated that period of about 3 years 10 months and 4 monsoons have passed since the submission of original proposal. In this period the tree status has changed and has become 177 numbers from original 84 numbers. The joint site inspection with officers of Tree Authority was done on 19/12/2022.
- Govt of Maharashtra vide letter dt. 21/07/2022 has already revoked previous stop work order and instructed to restart work at Aarey colony car depot.
- Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in IA No.169860 of 2022 in Suo Moto Writ (Civil) petition No.2 of 2019 vide order dt. 29/11/2022 has permitted MMRCL to move the Tree Authority on its application for felling of trees and disposed the IAs. The 84 number of trees represent the status as of the earlier application and a matter of record.
- A revised proposal has been submitted to the Tree Authority vide letter dt. 02/01/2023. Tree Authority will take its decision on transplantation/cutting of trees to ensure improved survival rate of trees while a suggestion has been given by MMRC based on its assessment of survival of transplantation depending upon their root ball conditions.