

Government of Himachal Pradesh
Department of Environment, Science, Technology & Climate Change

No. STE-E (3)-7/2021

Shimla-2, Dated: 25 May, 2025

NOTIFICATION

WHEREAS, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi, vide order dated 21.10.2022 passed in M.A. No. 74/2022 in Original Application No. 976/2019 titled *Gurinder Singh & Others vs. Union of India & Others*, has directed that Environmental Compensation (EC) funds recovered by State Pollution Control Boards and other regulatory authorities be duly and effectively utilised for environmental restoration in accordance with structured and transparent mechanisms;

2. **WHEREAS**, the said order mandates that the process of planning and execution for utilisation of such funds be entrusted to a High Powered Committee under the supervision of the Chief Secretary, comprising senior functionaries of the State Government, and that the action plans so prepared be consistent with the State and District Environment Plans, and progress be reviewed and made public periodically;

3. **WHEREAS**, the effective deployment of Environmental Compensation funds is also aligned with the mandate of the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**, particularly Section 3(3), which empowers the State to take appropriate measures for the protection and improvement of the environment, as well as with the advisories and guidelines issued by the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)**, including those on the utilisation of EC funds based on the "polluter pays" principle;

4. **NOW, THEREFORE**, in compliance with the above directions and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 23 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 read with Rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 and all other enabling provisions, the Governor, Himachal Pradesh is pleased to constitute a **High Powered Committee** to oversee and guide the efficient and judicious utilisation of Environmental Compensation funds available with the Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board, The State Environment Impact Assessment

Authority (SEIAA) and Department of Environment, Science Technologies & Climate Change. The composition of the Committee shall be as follows:

Sr. No.	Name & Designation	
1.	Chief Secretary	Chairperson
2.	ACS/Pr. Secy./Secretary (Forests)	Member
3.	ACS/Pr. Secy./Secretary (Jal Shakti Vibhag)	Member
4.	ACS/Pr. Secy./Secretary (Environment)	Member
5.	ACS/Pr. Secy./Secretary (Rural Development)	Member
6.	ACS/Pr. Secy./Secretary (Urban Development)	Member
7.	Member Secretary, H.P. State Pollution Control Board	Member
8.	Director, Department of Environment, Science, Technology & Climate Change	Member-Secretary / Convener

5. The Committee shall ensure that the EC funds are utilised strictly for environmental protection and restoration works in line with the guidelines issued by the Hon'ble NGT and CPCB. The indicative areas for utilisation include but are not limited to the following:

- a) Development and up-gradation of real-time and satellite-based infrastructure for air, water, and noise quality surveillance and monitoring across the State.
- b) Preparing clear guidelines for different industries to reduce pollution by using cleaner and more environment-friendly technologies.
- c) Remediation of contaminated sites and legacy waste sites, including restoration, plantation and hiring of domain experts.
- d) Scientific studies and investigations related to environmental damage, carrying capacity assessments, and DPR preparation.
- e) Research and development of clean, sustainable technologies and processes.
- f) Restoration of areas damaged by mining activities, including cleaning up polluted sites, replanting trees, and repairing the surrounding environment.
- g) Capacity building and skill enhancement of the scientific and technical personnel of the HP State Pollution Control Board.

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- h) Compliance-related services, including honorarium and support to institutions or personnel involved in execution of judicial orders.
- i) Specialized studies on accidental spill sites, persistent pollutants, and emerging environmental challenges.
- j) Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns for environmental awareness.
- k) Support to Rural and Urban Local Bodies (RLBs/ULBs) for strengthening waste management systems, improving sanitation, and augmenting environment-related infrastructure and public services.
- l) Any other scientific or technical intervention in the interest of environmental protection and ecological sustainability.

6. The Committee shall meet at regular intervals to assess progress, approve proposals, and ensure accountability. The status of utilisation of funds and implementation of approved projects shall be submitted to this Department for further uploading the same on the State Government's portal every six months for public disclosure.

By Order

(Prabodh Saxena), IAS

Chief Secretary to the

Government of Himachal Pradesh

Endst. No. As above

Dated: Shimla-171002,

 May, 2025

Copy for information and necessary action to:

1. All the Pr. Advisors to the Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-2.
2. All the Additional Chief Secretaries/Pr. Secretaries/Secretaries to the Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-2.
3. All the Member(s) (By Designation)
4. The Secretary to Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-2.
5. The Pr. Private Secretary to Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-171002.
6. The Sr. Private Secretary to Chief Secretary to the Govt. of HP, Shimla-2.
7. The Director, Environment, Science & Technology Department, H.P., Shimla-171001.
8. The Member Secretary, H.P. State Pollution Control Board, Shimla-171009.
9. Guard file.

 (Satpal Dhiman)

30-05-2025

Addl. Secretary (EST. & CC) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

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