

To
The Chief Minister
Government of Delhi
India

Date : March 26,2015

Copy to:

- 1.Shri Manish Sisodia,Deputy Chief Minister and Chairperson of Delhi Jal Board
- 2.Shri Ashish Khaitan,Deputy Chairman of Delhi Dialogue Commission

SUBJECT: Assess sound options for Delhi's Water supply & review need for destructive projects like Renuka Dam

Dear Shri Arvind Kejriwal

It is with deep concern as well as hope that we approach you in the matter of the Renuka Dam Project proposed to be constructed on Giri River, a tributary of Yamuna, in Sirmour district of Himachal Pradesh. The project is being proposed exclusively for water supply to Delhi. The project envisages building a 148 m high dam to impound the Giri River at Dadahu, Renuka tehsil of District Sirmour. This massive dam will have huge displacement, deforestation, and many impacts. Most importantly, the dam has no justification as far Delhi is concerned and in fact Mr Jairam Ramesh as the then environment minister had refused to accord forest clearance to the project. There is also a stay in NGT against the project following shoddy EIA, public hearing violations and protests. After the Uttarakhand disaster of June 2013 in which the Yamuna Valley too was affected, such projects need to be avoided as far as possible.

We feel it is unacceptable that the Himachal Pradesh and the Delhi Governments are allowing the river Giri to be dammed at this massive a social and environmental cost. More importantly, the proposal to build this dam is being blindly pushed without looking at other options to meet the capital's demand for water.

We urge you to look at the memorandum that was submitted to Shrimati Shiela Dixit on 30th June 2010 (Annexure 1) which highlights the serious issue of demand side management and the problems with the Upper Yamuna Basin agreement. We are most concerned that the issue of Delhi's water supply problem which is essentially due to inequitable distribution of water and poor management by the Delhi Jal Board is leading to reliance on destructive, unjustifiable and costly option like massive Dams in areas like Himachal and Uttarakhand.

For the Renuka Dam Project, as per the agreement between Delhi Jal Board and Himachal government - Himachal was to bear only 10% of the total project cost. The cost of the project is now more than 3 times (over Rs 4000 crores) of what it was when the conditional techno-economic clearance was granted by the Central Water Commission a decade ago. The Environment clearance for the Renuka Dam project is challenged at the National Green Tribunal and there is a stay on the construction. The Forest Clearance for the 775 hectares of Forest Land which involves the clearing of close to 13 lakh trees is likely to be granted soon, though the reasons why the Forest Clearance was rejected by the then Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh remains valid today. The Forest Clearance for the project was rejected twice before by the Ministry of Environment considering the extent of deforestation involved. More than 1200 hectares of prime agriculture land is going to be submerged and at least 1000 families in 37 villages going to be affected as a result of this project. Downstream impacts have not even been properly assessed.

All the issues raised in the memorandum have also been raised with the Delhi Jal Board, Central Water Commission, Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Environment and Forests vide memorandum dated 6th May 2009 (annexure 2), followed by many other representations. Subsequently in July 2009, we had a meeting with Shrimati Shiela Dixit to appraise her of our concerns regarding the Renuka Project. Again, we followed up with the 30th June 2010 memorandum. However, we have received no response in the matter so far from the Delhi Government. In fact, the current government at the centre, especially the PMO, has promised to fast track this project. We are now once again writing to you to discuss the following issues with Delhi State government:

1. Assess the options that Delhi has in terms of reducing losses, efficient water management, rainwater harvesting, treatment and reuse of the sewage water, equitable distribution and demand side management, thorough revamping of water governance in Delhi to making more democratic, accountable and sustainable. The way out for Delhi govt is to institute a credible independent review if Delhi needs any more water (than what Delhi currently gets) from external sources.ⁱ To begin with such a review can focus if Delhi needs water from Renuka dam.

2. Consider the social and environmental costs involved in constructing the project which proposes to provide Delhi with 23 cumecs of water annually. We would like your office to peruse the serious objections regarding this project which are adequately documented in the enclosed report titled "Dispossessing Mountain Communities: Who will Pay for Delhi's water?" (Annexure 3)

3. Review the Upper Yamuna Basin Agreement which involves the construction of 3 dams – including Renuka, Kishau and Lakhwar Vyasi –each of them will be disastrous for the ecology and communities residing in the Yamuna river basin, the cumulative impacts have not even been assessed. Consider that the project has been mired in controversy and conflict over the last two decades and is to be a likely source of conflict between the states that have signed the Upper Yamuna Basin MoU in 1995 – which is anyway outdated and needs a thorough revision. The projects will completely and permanently destroy the Yamuna River and the river basin.

We appeal to your government to undertake a detailed review of this project and the agreement with Himachal Government with regards to Renuka Dam. We also appeal that the Delhi government as a signatory of the Upper Yamuna Basin Agreement 1994, would review the terms of the agreement in the current context.

We hope and believe that your government has the vision and the capability to explore other, more reasonable alternatives to meet Delhi's justifiable water supply needs.

ⁱ Else Delhi could go down the Sao Paolo way. Sao Paolo is Brazil's largest and wealthiest city. Sao Paolo, in Amazon basin in Brazil is today in such a bad situation that people are not even getting on daily basis and there is fear that in coming days and months the situation would get much worse (http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/17/world/americas/drought-pushes-sao-paulo-brazil-toward-water-crisis.html?_r=0).

LIST OF SIGNATORIES

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3	Sarandha Jgfxtd	New Delhi		110048	India
4	Manshi Asher			176061	India
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6	pooja kotoky	guwahati	Assam	781009	India
7	Prakash Bhandari	Palampur (HP)		176061	India
8	arati Pinto			400026	India
9	Yagyashree Kumar			110065	India
10	manisha bhalla			110092	India
11	Ravi Chopra			248006	India
12	s.p. Ravi			680721	India
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13	Valli Bindana	Milpitas	California	95035	States
14	Saurabh Singh			221007	India
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16	Chappalwala	Chandigarh		400003	India
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19	Swayamprakash	Southfield	Michigan	48033	States United
20	Costanza Rampini	Santa Cruz	California	95060	States
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22	Sarma EAS			530002	India
23	Suraj Kumar			560037	India
24	Rohit Prajapati	Vadodara, Gujarat		390020	India
25	Bhim Rawat			110040	India
26	hemraj mehta			110096	India
27	Parineeta Dandekar	Pune		411 038	India
28	surender solanki			110059	India
29	Sandy Ford	Ankara		11021	India

30	Vinay Tandon			173201	India
31	Kesang Thakur			176061	India
32	Harry Shin	Windsor		4030	Australia
33	Rishit Neogi			110067	India
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34	Varun Chitnis	Harpers Ferry	West Virginia	25425	States
35	Anil Varghese			110017	India
36	Shweta Narayan	Chennai		600090	India
37	rajnish awasthi			492001	India
38	Persis Ginwalla			380001	India
39	Prabhat Agarwal	Gurgaon		122002	India
40	Aditya Nair			400072	India
41	VIKRANT GULERIA	Sunder Nagar		175019	India
42	Vikram Soni			110057	India
43	ankur kashyap	Shenzhen		201301	India
44	Bilal Khan			244901	India
45	DIWAN Singh			110077	India
46	Avay Shukla			110092	India
47	ROHAN THAKUR			400072	India
48	Pratibha agarwal	new delhi		110058	India
		Thiruvananthapura			
49	usha Soolapani	m		695003	India
50	Nikkita Patro	Mumbai		400007	India
51	Nesar Ahmad	Jaipur		302 005	India
52	Alisha Shar	Sunder Nagar		175019	India
53	Amber Fatmi			110025	India
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56	Matt Birkinshaw			110017	India
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58	prafulla samantara			751022	India
59	Preeti Rao			560001	India
60	Praveen Singh			110009	India
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62	Ashish Acharya	Copenhagen			Denmark
63	Priya VK Singh	Gurgaon		122018	India
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67	Urvashi Jain			110048	India
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71	Ramanathan NAND KISHORE			641041	India
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73	Jiten Nandi			700018	India
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75	Preeti Sampat swarup			1100014	India
76	bhattacharyya			700003	India
77	Samir Mehta			400026	India
78	Ramesh Agrawal			496001	India
79	Subrat Kumar Sahu Bipin Chandr			110077	India
80	Chaturvedi			832103	India
81	Achyuth M			641008	India
82	Shannkar Sharma			570022	India
83	Sandeep Minhas			176041	India
84	Fawaz Abdul Salam	Istanbul			Turkey
85	sophea chrek	Bangkok			Thailand
86	abhishek singh			274505	India
87	Carlo Ghidini			25065	Italy
88	Clarence Srambical			452001	India
89	pervin jehangir	mumbai	Massachusetts	400 005	United States
90	manasi pinto			400093	India
91	Aseem Shrivastava	Gurgaon		122002	India
92	Tulika Aasma			390008	India
93	Samdani Shaik	Chennai		600036	India
94	Parul Thapa			110049	India
95	Srihari Muralidhar Reddy Pawan			573201	India
96	Kumar			342001	India

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97	udayashankar		560068	India
98	sarita Bhagat		411008	India
99	Ashish Kothari		411004	India
100	Kopal Agarwal		110009	India
101	navneet gupta		176057	India
102	Nikhil Sheth	Pune	411009	India
103	Shankar Ravikumar	Pune	400028	India
104	Snehal Shah	Delhi	110095	India
105	Vishnu G P		600028	India
106	Shahzeb Yamin		560032	India
107	Rajesh Ranjan		560032	India
108	Aman Tamta		110016	India
109	Vinish Gupta	Sirsi	581336	India
110	Soumalya Saha		700098	India
111	Ankita Anand		110017	India
112	kavitha M		560032	India
113	kush kalra		110014	India
114	Anubandh Kate	Bangalore	560037	India
115	Shailesh Nagar	Delhi	110095	India
116	Aman Sharma		110016	India
117	Krishna Kant		394210	India
118	Manu V Mathew	Bangalore	690503	India
119	Anuradha Pati	Bangalore	560076	India
120	Rahul Kumar		110016	India
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122	Rohit Arya	New Delhi	845438	India
123	RIMIL H		600036	India
124	Shamsul Islam	Delhi	110052	India
125	Sheetal Jain	Mumbai	400101	India
126	Isha Bhallamudi		600036	India
127	Kevin mathews		600005	India
128	Robin Kumar		110007	India
129	Anand Chandolu	Mumbai	400022	India
130	Venkatesh Kolagari	Hyderabad	509001	India
131	Saad Ahmed		110007	India
132	Vasanthi Meattle		201301	India
133	SHRUTI SHARMA		110024	India

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134	Anurag Tyagi	Vaishali		201010	India
135	Rupa Chinai	Mumbai		400 026	India
				OX2	United
136	Divyanshi Chugh	Oxford	England	6UD	Kingdom
137	seema sirohi			201005	India
	janardhana				
138	gungurumale	shivamogga		577225	India
	SURYAKANTA				
139	SAHOO			756124	India
140	Seerat Chabba			110048	India
141	Mohit Saini	Chennai		600036	India
142	Kunth jain			452003	India
143	Praveen Singh			201301	India
144	Junaid shafi			190001	India
145	Daniyal Khan			110025	India
146	KARUNESH KHOSLA			176059	India
147	Deepali Khosla			176059	India
148	Mayank Gupta			110016	India
149	Ravinder Singh			226023	India
150	Divyanshi Chugh	Gurgaon	England	122001	India
151	ikshu arora			110092	India
152	Asmita Chaudhuri	Kolkata		700084	India
153	Guman Singh			175123	India
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154	Rimil Hembrom	Chennai	Tennessee	600036	States
155	Narinder Sandhu	Patiala		147001	India
156	Tarini Manchanda			110057	India
157	Himani singh			202001	India
158	Madhu Sarin			160001	India
159	Neeraj Mahar			248001	India
160	Vasudha A	Delhi		110092	India
161	Seela M Mahapatra			110017	India
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166	Richa Kumar	New Delhi		110065	India