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**Environment Support Group® - Trust**

1572, 36<sup>th</sup> Cross, 100 Feet Ring Road,  
Banashankari II Stage,  
Bangalore 560070. INDIA  
Tel: 91-80-26713559-3561  
Voice/Fax: 91-80-26713316

Email: [esg@esgindia.org](mailto:esg@esgindia.org)

Web: [www.esgindia.org](http://www.esgindia.org)

By Hand/Under Acknowledgment

To

The Tahsilar  
Bangalore South Taluk  
Kandaya Bhavana  
Kempe Gowda Road  
Bangalore

06 August 2013

Sir,

**Sub: Regarding rectification of anomalies in the survey sketch of Subramanyapura Lake,  
which has been attested by you**

We were happy when you decided to conduct survey of the Subramanyapura Lake in Uttarahalli village following directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka in WP No. 46523/2012, a precursor to any effort to rejuvenate and rehabilitate the said water body. However, when the survey work was carried out on July 6, 2013 the manner in which this critical task was undertaken raised many concerns about the intent of the exercise. At the outset, we want to submit that the survey the lake was not undertaken per the original village map, accessed by us under the Right to Information Act on 07/10/2008, which is enclosed as **Enclosure 1**. The survey work was instead undertaken on the basis of a fictitious map which we strongly suspect was meant to aid a variety of land grabbers. The map used in the survey is grossly different to the original village map of Uttarahalli village under which the Subramanyapura Lake falls. We would like to point out some glaring mistakes in the survey that has been undertaken by you based on a map as prepared by your surveyors, and later attested by you and another Tahsildar, a copy of which is enclosed as **Enclosure 2**.

1) The original village map, based on which your department prepared the survey sketch of the lake, shows that there was a water body inside the Gomala or pasture land in Survey Number 64 of Uttarahalli village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk. But as per your survey sketch, Gomala land is contained withing the water body.

2) The original village map shows that the road from Subramanyapura post office to Gubbalalu village passes diagonally through the pasture land (gomala) dividing the Survey Number 64 in two equal parts. It runs all along the water body. Thus, it is a tank bund road. However, your survey sketch shows that a portion of the road to Gubbalalu village touches the Survey Number 64 and does not divide the Sy. No 64 diagonally in two equal parts.

3) Your survey sketch shows Survey Numbers 120 and 63/2 of Uttarahalli village and Sy Nos. 14 and 6 of Subramanyapura village (erstwhile Marasandra village) inside the water body, which is quite in contrast to the spatial distribution of these Sy. Nos. per the original village map. The fact per the original village map is that Sy No. 120 and 63/2 of Uttarahalli are outside the lake boundary near the road that leads to Vasanthapura from Subramanyapura post office junction.

4) Your survey sketch with survey numbers that appear to be dubious, could amount to an effort to show that the road between the dubious Sy Nos 6 and Sy no 14 of Subramanyapura village (erstwhile Marasandra village), is actually the road that leads to Vasanthapura, which is not the case per the original village map. It is an indisputable fact that till date, the road leading to Vasanthapura from Subramanyapura post office junction, which people have been using for ages, is operational and its location has never been altered. Similarly, the position of road from Subramanyapura post office junction to Gubbalalu has never changed in the last 200 years.

5) The original village map also shows that Sy No. 6 (six) of Subramanyapura village (Marasandra village) never touched the water body. However, your survey sketch shows it is inside the water body. You may argue that there was heavy rain in the region in the past which led to flooding. But the reality is that hillocks which are rise anywhere between 50 to 100 feet over the base height of the area, or even the lake bed, can



never submerge, unless there is a flood of epic proportions that submerges entire south Bangalore.

6) There appears to have been a systematic attempt to shrink the area of Sy. No. 64 since 1990s. The first attempt seems to have been made in 2009 when the BBMP assigned the task of surveying to Alcon Consulting Engineers and Architects. The Survey sketch showed the extent of water body as 21 acres and 18 Guntas. It also showed non-existent layouts on a hillock, which is technically an 'A' kharab land, and a copy of this map is enclosed as **Enclosure 3**. Your surveyors did not attest it because their intention may have been to further reduce the area of the lake.

7) The next survey sketch prepared by the same Alcon Consulting Engineers and Architects on 04/06/2011, a copy of which is enclosed as **Enclosure 4**, further reduced the extent of water body from 21 acres and 18 guntas to 18 acres and 26 guntas. In addition, while the previous sketch prepared in 2009 clearly showed a number of hutments and other illegal encroachments into the spatial extent of the water body, the 2011 survey by this firm did not show any of such encroachments. This dubious survey sketch has been attested by Tahsildar and government surveyor.

8) Your current survey now reveals Sy No. 64 has a sharp end in the south direction ending in an acute angle of about 25 degrees. It also shows another an obtuse angle triangle towards the South-western direction which were missing in the two previous sketches as prepared by Alcon. This raises a variety of concerns over the manner in which surveys are undertaken by you and your consultants, and in any case all of which are in gross variance to the facts as revealed in the original village survey.

9) The Karnataka Slum Development Board had pointed out such glaring and gross anomalies in the maps being used to survey the extent of the lake and surrounding gomala lands in its letter dated 30/7/1997, which is enclosed with this complaint as **Enclosure 5**. Highlighting these illegalities, the Chairperson of the Karnataka Slum Development Board, Mr. Chandra Prasad Tyagi, had in his letter pointed out that such distortions in mapping amounted to supporting criminal and illegal attempts to grab public land. Copy of the same letter was also marked to the present Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who then was the Deputy Chief Minister.

It appears from the above the both private survey consultants, such as Alcon, and your surveyors, acting directly under your authority, have systematically, substantially and seriously violated various laws in distorting the original extent of the Subramanyapura Kere and surrounding gomala and Kharab lands, all with an intention of assisting illegal and criminal encroachment of such ecologically sensitive areas to the detriment of the interests of local communities, in the present and the future.

You had an unprecedented opportunity to set right these anomalies, initiate action against private consultant and your surveyors for distorting facts, and to settle the issue by accurately assessing the spatial extent of the Subramanya pura Kere, the abutting gomala and Kharab lands accurately per the original village map, when you undertook the survey on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2013. This particularly given the fact that the Hon'ble Court had specifically directed you to so undertake the task. However, as submitted above, you seemed to have sustained the errors that have been deliberately introduced into the survey of the lake and surrounding areas, and it is our strong suspicion that this may have been done to benefit a variety of encroachments, especially those by real estate agents and housing societies.

By way of this letter we urge you to submit the real facts on this issue before the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka when the matter is taken up for hearing on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

Yours truly,

Leo F. Saldanha  
Coordinator  
Environment Support Group

**Enclosures:**

- 1) Uttarahalli village map showing Subramanya pura Kere accessed on 7/10/2008 under the RTI Act-2005
- 2) The new survey sketch dated 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013 of Subramanyapura kere relied upon by the Surveyors, and attested by two Tahsildars, which has been used in the survey undertaken on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2013 pursuant to the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka in WP No. 46523/2013
- 3) Survey sketch of Subramanyapura Kere prepared by M/s Alcon in 2009
- 4) Survey sketch of Subramanyapura Kere prepared by M/s Alcon in 2011
- 5) Letter of the Chairman of the Karnataka Slum Development Board dated 30<sup>th</sup> July 1997 addressed to Chief Minister of Karnataka, alleging illegal survey and encroachment of Subramanyapura Kere.