



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Water Resources Department- Bulk/Tanker water supply- Inclusion of new provisions for the issuance of No Objection Certificate - Orders issued.

WATER RESOURCES (GW) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Rt)No.97/2026/WRD Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 27-01-2026

Read 1 G.O.(Rt) No.465/2023/WRD dated 18.05.2023

2 Letter No.DGWD/364/2025-T4 dated 13.11.2025
from the from the Director, Ground Water
Department.

ORDER

Government have issued order as per 1st read above, designating District Collectors as the Nodal Officers for issuance of No Objection Certificate to bulk/tanker supplies based on the Non Objection Certificate issued by the District Officer, Ground Water Department, for the extraction of Ground Water.

2. Director Ground Water Department, as per letter read as 2nd above, has furnished a proposal with the request to include certain provisions which were not included in the Government order vide reference 1st cited, considering the issues faced by the Department while implementing the said order.

3. Government examined the matter in detail and are pleased to include the following provisions for the proper implementation for exercising the powers as per section 15(k) of Kerala Ground Water (control and regulation) Act 2002.

1. If any person/Agency who desires to abstract groundwater for bulk water supply by transporting through private tanker lorry, then, he shall make an application to the Groundwater Authority for the grant of a NOC.

2. The abstraction of ground water for bulk water supply shall not be allowed for Industrial purposes and construction activities.

3. An amount of Rupees Ten Thousand is to be collected from the applicant towards the fee for NOC for bulk ground water extraction and the renewal fee is Rupees Five Thousand.

4. The NOC for the abstraction of Groundwater for bulk water supply shall be issued by the District Officers of Groundwater Department if the quantity of extraction from a single well is up to 10m³ per day. If the extraction of Groundwater is more than 10m³ per day from a single well, it shall be placed as a proposal in the DLEC for approval. In such cases, the District Officers shall issue the NOC based on the recommendation of DLEC.

5. The permissible abstraction quantity recommended from a ground water abstraction structure shall be evaluated based on the local hydrogeological regime and the yield test study of the structure.

6. No Objection Certificate shall be issued with a validity

term of 3 years for all the assessment units.

*7.The holder of NOC shall pay groundwater abstraction charges to the District Officer, Groundwater Department as per **table 1**. The groundwater abstraction charges shall be remitted on or **before 10th** of every succeeding month based on the actual quantity of extraction during the previous month.*

Table 1.

<i>Groundwater abstraction charges for Bulk water supply</i>	
Category of Block	Rate per m3 (in Rs)
<i>Safe</i>	10
<i>Semi Critical</i>	20
<i>Critical</i>	30

8. Extraction of ground water for commercial use without a valid No Objection Certificate from appropriate authority shall be considered illegal and such entities shall be liable to pay Environmental Compensation for the quantum of ground water so extracted, as per Section 15 of consolidated MoJS guidelines to regulate and control ground water extraction in India by Central Groundwater Authority vide Notification number S.O. 3289 (E) and its Amendment Notification dated 29.03.2023 published in the Gazette of India vide Notification number S.O. 1509 (E).

In the event of malfunction or failure of the flow meter, groundwater abstraction charges for the period of such malfunction shall be assessed based on the average daily consumption recorded during the immediately preceding three months. Where data for the preceding three months

are not available, the charges shall be calculated on the basis of the Maximum Permitted Daily Quantity as stipulated in the NOC granted.

9. In the event of a flow meter becoming defective, the NOC holder should communicate to the concerned District Officer, Ground water Department immediately. The same shall be replaced / repaired and reported to District Officer by the NOC holder within 10 days. Failure to effect such repair or replacement within the stipulated time, ground water extraction shall be permitted only after repairing/replacing the faulty flow meter.

10. Penalty shall be imposed on the proponents for non-compliance of NOC issued by the respective District officer as follows.

i. Rs.200000/- (Two Lakh) for Non installation / faulty digital water flow meter with telemetry system

ii. Rs.100000/- (One Lakh) for Change of extracted water quantum mentioned in the NOC.

iii. Rs 200000/- (Two Lakh) for Non construction of water recharge/ water conservation structures / inadequate capacity of water recharge or water conservation structures.

iv. Rs 100000/- (One lakh) for Non maintenance of recharge structures

v. Rs 200000/- (Two Lakh) for Construction of additional abstraction structures

vi. Rs 100000/- (One Lakh) for Non maintenance of groundwater abstraction structures

vii. Rs 500000/- (Five Lakh) for Non registration of water supply tankers

viii. Rs. 50000/- (Fifty Thousand) for Non-maintenance of log

book of daily withdrawal

ix.Rs.200000/- (Two Lakh) for Transportation as well as distribution of contaminated water.

11. The District Officer, Groundwater Department is authorized to impose penalty or fine in the initial level and the Director, Groundwater Department is authorized as Appellate Authority.

12. The fee structure and the ground water abstraction charges shall be reviewed periodically by the State Groundwater Authority/State Groundwater Department from time to time.

5. Procedure and Guidelines for the issual of NOC for extraction of Ground water for Bulk Water Supply (Annexure 1), Environmental Compensation (Annexure 2), Application for NOC to extract Ground water for Bulk Water Supply (Form No.16), Acknowledgement to grant NOC for abstraction of Ground water for Bulk water supply (Form No.17), No Objection Certificate (Form 18), Undertaking to be submitted by individuals for bulk water supply (Annexure A), Daily Log Book for Ground Water extraction (Annexure B), Consolidated monthly Ground water extraction statement (Annexure C) are attached along with this Government Order.

(By order of the Governor)
BISHWANATH SINHA
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY

To:

1. Director, Ground Water Department.
2. Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board, Thiruvananthapuram.
3. All District Collectors.
4. Principal Accountant General (A&E/Audit) Kerala
5. Information & Public Relations Department.
6. Stock File/Office Copy.

Forwarded /By order

Signed by

Julie K S

Section Officer

Date: 28-01-2026 09:46:15

**PROCEDURE AND GUIDELINE FOR THE ISSUAL OF NOC FOR
EXTRACTION OF GROUNDWATER FOR BULK WATER SUPPLY.**

1. ISSUAL OF NOC FOR EXTRACTION OF GROUNDWATER

a. If any person/Agency who desires to abstract groundwater for bulk water suppliers by transporting through private tanker lorry, then, he shall make an application to the Groundwater Authority for the grant of a NOC.

b. Documents to be submitted with the application:-

- i. Proof of ownership or lease agreement of land of size 200 sq m or more on which abstraction structure is installed
- ii. Location Sketch of the Land
- iii. Permit obtained from Local self-government for the well.
- iv. Groundwater quality report obtained not less than 3 months from an NABL accredited lab.

c. Application fee shall be the prescribed fee for groundwater investigation for industrial purposes.

d. After collecting the prescribed fees (groundwater investigation), the District Officer shall depute a groundwater scientist to conduct field investigation and scientific assessment through pumping test studies. He shall also make sure that the said abstraction structure is not within 30m from any other pumping water supply source.

e. The groundwater scientist shall consider the following aspects during the field investigation

- i. Purpose or purposes for which groundwater is to be used;
- ii. The existing other competitive uses;
- iii. The availability of groundwater;
- iv. The effect on other sources of water supply;
- v. The compatibility with the existing water supply system;
- vi. The availability of factors controlling or preventing pollution
- vii. The quality of groundwater required for the purpose
- viii. Classification of the area as per latest Groundwater Resource Estimation

ix. Coastal Regulation Zone Act, Disaster Management Plan, Kerala Groundwater (Control & Regulation) Act 2002, or any other relevant guidelines in force.

f. The reason for refusal of NOC should be indicated clearly. However, no application shall be refused without giving the applicant an opportunity of being heard. The decision regarding the grant or refusal of NOC shall be communicated to the applicant by the Authority in writing.

g. No Objection Certificate for abstraction of groundwater shall be issued with a validity term of 3 years.

h. The NOC for the abstraction of Groundwater for bulk water supply shall be issued by the District Officers of Groundwater Department if the quantity of extraction from a single well is up to 10m³ per day. If the extraction of Groundwater is more than 10m³ per day from a single well it shall be placed as a proposal in the DLEC for approval. In such cases, the District Officers shall issue the NOC based on the recommendation of DLEC.

i. The permissible abstraction quantity recommended from a ground water abstraction structure shall be evaluated based on the local hydrogeological regime and the yield test study of the structure.

j. The applicant should file an affidavit in the non-judicial stamp paper attested by a notary as per the stamp value in vogue agreeing to the terms and conditions in the format specified as per Annexure-A. The applicant should affix a tamper proof digital flow meter with telemetry at the delivery line of the pump and keep record of the daily pumping hours and quantity of groundwater extraction in a separate log book format included in the Annexure-B. The flow meter should be placed outside the building but within the project premises without concealing the pumping line up to the flow meter in the delivery line. The applicant should submit a consolidated monthly groundwater consumption statement in Annexure-C to the District Level Officers concerned before 10th working day of every succeeding month.

k. The owner of the well engaged in the business of bulk water supply from any well should pay groundwater abstraction charges to Groundwater Authority as per table 1. The holder of NOC shall maintain a log book and it should contain the quantity of extraction and details of the number of vehicles filled etc. The log book shall be handed over to groundwater officials and other government officials for inspection. The groundwater abstraction charges shall be remitted on or before 10th of every succeeding month based on the actual quantity of extraction during the previous month. The amount to be collected as abstraction charges shall be calculated by the Authority based on the groundwater extraction

statement after verifying the readings recorded in the log book/digital flow meter record. A self-attested copy of the log book and statement of groundwater extraction in Annexure-C shall be submitted by the user of groundwater engaged in bulk water supply before 10th of every month.

l. The owner of the well engaged in business of Bulk water supply shall install a filtration system for treating the groundwater so extracted to satisfy the requirement of drinking/ domestic purpose if required.

m. The fee structure and the ground water abstraction charges shall be reviewed by the State Groundwater Authority/State Groundwater Department from time to time.

n. Extraction of ground water for bulk water supply without a valid No Objection Certificate from authority shall be considered illegal and such entities shall be liable to pay Environmental Compensation for the quantum of ground water so extracted, as per item 15 of consolidated MoJS guidelines to regulate and control ground water extraction in India by Central Groundwater Authority vide Notification number S.O. 3289 (E) and its Amendment Notification dated 29.03.2023 published in the Gazette of India vide Notification number S.O. 1509 (E). The rates shall be reviewed periodically by the State Groundwater Authority/Department.

o. Penalty shall be imposed on the proponents for non-compliance of NOC issued by the respective District officer as follows.

- i. Rs 200000 for Non installation / faulty digital water flow meter with telemetry system
- ii. Rs 100000 for Change of extracted rather quantum mentioned in the NOC.
- iii. Rs 200000 for Non construction / inadequate capacity of recharge / water conservation structures.
- iv. Rs 100000 for Non maintenance of recharge structures
- v. Rs 200000 for Construction of additional abstraction structures
- vi. Rs 100000 for Non maintenance of groundwater abstraction structures
- vii. Rs 500000 for Non registration of water supply tankers
- viii. Rs 50000 for Non-maintenance of log book of daily withdrawal
- ix. Rs 200000 for Transportation as well as distribution of contaminated water.

p. The District Officer, Groundwater Department is authorized to impose penalty or fine in the initial level and the Director, Groundwater Department is authorized as Appellate Authority.

II. Renewal of NOC

- i. No objection certificate shall be renewed periodically, subject to the compliance of the conditions mentioned therein:
- ii. The applicant shall apply for renewal of No Objection Certificate at least ninety days prior to expiry of its validity.
- iii. Application for renewal of No Objection Certificate shall be accompanied by the Compliance Report.
- iv. Before granting renewal, the district officers shall satisfy itself that the conditions of No Objection Certificate have been duly complied with.
- v. If the application for renewal is submitted in time and the the respective Authority is unable to process the application in time, No Objection Certificate shall be deemed to be extended till the date of renewal of No Objection Certificate.
- vi. If the applicant fails to apply within the validity period of NOC, the proponent shall be liable to pay Environmental Compensation for the period starting from the date of expiry of No Objection Certificate till No Objection Certificate is renewed by the competent authority.

III. General conditions

1. If the applicant owns a well but did not have a permit from the local body, he should apply for a fresh investigation from groundwater department and obtain a clearance certificate and follow the procedure for regularization from the Local Body.
2. The safe extraction limit will be fixed as per the yield testing of the well.
3. In case of excess withdrawal, the user of groundwater shall also pay the abstraction charges of the excess groundwater withdrawn above the permissible limit along with the prescribed fine for the purpose.
4. Filling and emptying of tanker shall be done only within the premises.
5. The quantity of extraction should be limited to 50% of the total sanctioned volume, if DDMA impose any restriction due to occurrence of drought.

6. The Quality of Groundwater shall be tested by the holder of NOC for renewal of NOC.

7. If necessary, a one-time random field check shall be carried out in a year by groundwater authority to ensure the groundwater quality of the abstraction structure. The required fee for water quality testing shall be collected from the owner of the well.

8. Proponents shall adopt proper artificial groundwater recharging measures to rejuvenate the source as per the recommendation/instruction of Hydrogeologist of Groundwater Department. If the proponent area is not suitable for recharge, the proponent has to recharge other recharge worthy areas in the panchayath as per the intimation of authorities as part of CSR/CER activities.

9. The spacing of two abstraction structures tapping same aquifer /abstraction structures sharing same watershed in the sedimentary area is 50m and Crystalline area should be more than 100m.

10. The exemption to the spacing norms shall be given for abstraction of groundwater from the flood plains/ river beds on case-to-case basis but should avoid mutual interaction of wells and also to prevent the saline intrusion. The NOC for Groundwater Extraction shall be renewed once in 3 years. While renewing the NOC the original expired NOC should be surrendered in order to obtain a new one.

11. The amount shall be remitted by the holder of NOC in any of the State Government treasuries to the credit of Groundwater Department under relevant receipt head of account of the Department and the Treasury receipted Chalan shall be produced.

Environmental compensation

1. Extraction of ground water for commercial use without a valid NOC/ PERMIT from appropriate authority shall be considered illegal and such entities shall be liable to pay Environmental Compensation for the quantum of ground water so extracted, as per Section 15 of consolidated MoJS guidelines to regulate and control ground water extraction in India by Central Groundwater Authority vide Notification number S.O.3289 (E) and its Amendment Notification dated 29.03.2023 published in the Gazette of India vide Notification number S.O. 1509 (E). The rates shall be reviewed periodically by the State Groundwater Authority/State Groundwater Department.

Environmental Compensation shall be fixed as follows.

The norms prescribed for calculating the Environmental compensation as mentioned below:
$\text{ECR GW} = \text{Ground water consumption per day} \times \text{Environmental Compensation rate} \\ (\text{ECR GW}) \times \text{No. of days} \times \text{Deterrence factor}$
where ground water consumption is in m ³ /day and ECR GW in Rs./ cum

Table 2: ECR_{GW}

Sl.No	Area/category	Water consumption (cum/day)			
		<200	200 to <1000	1000 to <5000	5000 & above
1.	Safe	20	30	40	50
2.	Semi Critical	40	40	80	100
3.	Critical	60	60	110	150
4.	Over Exploited	80	120	160	200
Note: Minimum EC Gw shall not be less than Rs.1,00,000/-					

Deterrent Factors to compensate losses and environmental damage (for packaged drinking water units, mining, industries and infrastructural dewatering projects)

Table 3: Deterrent factor based on quantum of ground water withdrawal and number of years of illegal withdrawal

Sl.No.	Water Consumption	Deterrence Factor		
		<2 years	2-5 years	>5 years
1.	<1000 KLD	1	1	1.25
2.	1000-5000 KLD	1	1	1.5
3.	>5000 KLD	1	1.25	2

FORM No.16
KERALA
GROUNDWATER
AUTHORITY

**APPLICATION FOR NOC TO ABSTRACT
GROUNDWATER FOR BULK WATER SUPPLY**

1. General Information

- (i) Name of the Applicant:
- (ii) Location details (Lat, Long)
(Enclose copy of approved plan/ location sketch)

Village:	Panchayath;	Block:
Taluk	District :	State :

- (iii) Communication address:
 - a. Postal Address

- b. Phone / Mobile No.
- c. E-mail address :
- d. Fax No/WhatsApp :

2. Land use details of the existing / proposed Groundwater abstraction structure

- (i) Total land area : sq m
- (ii) Rooftop area of buildings / sheds : sq m
- (iii) Road / paved area : sq m
- (iv) Green belt area : sq m
- (v) Open land : sq m
- 3. Average Annual rainfall in the area : mm

4. Townships / villages within 2 km radius :

5. Whether groundwater utilization for :

- (a) Domestic
- (b) Drinking

6. Status of Groundwater Condition in the respective Block area as per the latest GEC

- (i) Category of Block :
- (ii) Stage of Development :
- (iii) Total Groundwater availability : m³/day
- (iv) Total abstraction Requested : m³/day

7. Details of existing and / or proposed groundwater abstraction structure:

Particulars	Existing Structure
Permit from the Local Body	
Registration of the well as user of groundwater	
Type of structure (dug well, open well, tube well, bore well, filter point well, dug cum bore well, other please specify)	
Year of construction	
Depth (meter)	
Diameter(mm)	
Depth to water level (meters below ground level)	
Discharge (m ³ /hour as per the yield certificate)	
Operational hours / day	
Operational days / year	
Mode of lift and Horse Power of pump (as recommended)	
Consumer Number from KSEB	
Whether fitted with digital tamper free water flow meter or not	

- 8. Details of Rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge measures for groundwater recharge in the area. If the applicant has proposed to take up Rainwater harvesting and recharge outside the premises, then provide NOC from the concern authority / agency where the harvesting measures are proposed, if already implemented, details may be furnished (attach report on comprehensive & feasible Rainwater harvesting / recharge proposal).
- 9. Have you applied earlier for groundwater clearance from SGWA / State Government Agency, if so, give details thereof with status:

UNDERTAKING

This is to certify that the details and information furnished above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I am aware that if any part of the data / information submitted is found to be false or misleading at any stage the application will be rejected out rightly.

Name & Signature of the applicant

Date:
Place:

FORM No.17

KERALA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF APPLICATION TO GRANT NOC FOR
ABSTARCTION OF GROUNDWATER FOR BULK WATER SUPPLY**

No.....

1. Name of applicant :
2. Address :

3. Date of receipt of application :

This is to inform that the Authority is in receipt of your application datedf or granting
NOC for abstraction of ground water for Bulk Water Supply through tanker lorries

Place:

Yours faithfully

Date

(office seal)

Signature

FORM No.18
KERALA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
NO OBJECTION CERTIFICATE
GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION FOR BULK WATER SUPPLY

File No

Name of the Well Owner

Address

Location of the Well

Lat

Long

Type of Well

OW/DW/FP/BW/TW

Depth of Well (m)

meters

Diameter/Dimension(inch/mts)

:

Purpose of Well Use

:

Order No and Date of Approval of DLEC

:

Approved Quantity of Groundwater Extraction

litres per day

Date of Pumping Test

Date of Issue of NOC

DD/MM/YYYY

Period of Validity

DD/MM/YYYY to DD/MM/YYY
Y

Amount of Fee Paid

DD/Chelan/Others (Specify)

Applicable only for Renewal

Whether Monthly Groundwater Extraction Statement Filed in Annexure B

Yes/No

Whether Artificial Groundwater Recharging arrangement satisfactory

Yes/No

Whether Monthly Groundwater Extraction Charges Paid

Yes/No

Average daily Quantity of Groundwater Extraction

LPD

If quantity of extraction revised, specify new quantity

LPD

Closing Water Meter Reading

as on

Closing Energy Meter Reading

as on

Date of site inspection by the Authorized Officer

DD/MM/YYYY

Date of Renewal of NOC

DD/MM/YYYY

Remarks

The NOC is issued/renewed for a single well based on the scientific assessment and statutory approval obtained for groundwater withdrawal. The Groundwater Authority has the right to change/ modify the conditions specified in the NOC and also may also cancel the NOC if found necessary. The holder of NOC shall fix tamper proof digital water flow meters before extracting/allowed to extract groundwater from the well. The faulty flow meter shall be intimated by the owner of the well to the concerned District Officer, Groundwater Department immediately and the same shall be replaced and reported by the owner of the well within 10 days. The groundwater extraction charges during that period will be calculated based on the daily average calculated from the previous three month. The applicant shall apply for the renewal of NOC at least 30 days before the date of renewal and shall not exceed more than 10 days from the date of expiry. The NOC shall be produced before the local bodies or concerned authorities to obtain/renew statutory license or permits as required by the law

UNDERTAKING TO BE SUBMITTED BY INDIVIDUALS FOR GROUNDWATER ABSTRACTION FOR BULK WATER SUPPLY IN NON-JUDICIAL STAMP PAPER AS PER THE STAMP VALUE IN VOGUE.

I, We..... resident of
.....

do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:

1. That I, We am the owner/lease of premises of
.....
- 2.....That in the above said premises there is a well.....(specify the type of the well) proposed for bulk water supply through tanker lorries.
3. That I, We intend to use the said Well for abstraction of groundwater for bulk water supply only.
- 4.Than I, We am willing to pay the groundwater abstraction charges as fixed by the authority from time to time for such purposes.
4. That I, We undertake that in the event of any instructions/directions from the State Groundwater Authority/Deputy Commissioner/District Collector or any other authorized officer(s) of the Govt., I/ We shall discontinue the usage of the said well if so required.
5. That I/ We further undertake that I shall be held liable for any such civil/criminal action that may be initiated against me /us for violation of any of the terms and conditions of this Undertaking.

(DEPONENT)

VERIFICATION:

Verified at on this day of.....that the contents of the above Undertaking are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been suppressed.

(DEPONENT)

DAILY LOG BOOK FOR GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION

(To be kept by the owner of the well engaged in bulk water supply)

Name of the Well Owner:

NOC ORDER NO:

No and Date of NOC:

Sl.No	Date	Tanker Lorry No	Flow Meter Reading (Start)	Flow Meter Reading (End)	Total Extraction	Signature of the Driver/ Owner of the Vehicle
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

*(add additional sheets if necessary)***DECLARATION:**

I/we declare on this day of
 that the readings of the water flow meter and energy
 meter noted above are correct to the best of my/our knowledge and belief and
 nothing has been suppressed.

(DEPONENT)

CONSOLIDATED MONTHLY GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION STATEMENT

Name of the NOC holder :

Flow meter No :

NOC ORDER NO:

Energy meter No:

Category of Block

Sl.No	Installed metering device	Reading on the 1 st day of the month	Reading on the last day of the month	Groundwater consumption during the month (m ³ /month)/ Energy consumption (units/month)	Remarks
1	Flow Meter:				
2	Energy meter:				

DECLARATION:

I/we declare on this day of
 that the readings of the water flow meter and energy meter noted above are correct to the best of my/our knowledge and belief and nothing has been suppressed.

Date:**(DEPONENT)****Groundwater Abstraction Charges**

Total Monthly Extraction in M ³	Rate per M ³ (in Rs)	Total Abstraction Charges

Amount in
 words.....

Date:**District Officer**