



EPA/SEC/O/260416/0039

ORDER

471/PA/DG/EPA/2026

**ORDER UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE PUNJAB ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT,
1997 FOR MANDATORY ESTABLISHMENT OF ECOLOGICAL BUFFER ZONES AROUND
INDUSTRIAL ESTATES, INDUSTRIAL ZONES, AND INDUSTRIAL CLUSTERS ACROSS
PUNJAB**

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Punjab, under the Punjab Environmental Protection Act, 1997 (PEPA), is entrusted with the mandate to protect, conserve, rehabilitate, and improve the environment, and to prevent, control, and abate pollution in all its forms, including emissions originating from industrial activities;

2. **AND WHEREAS**, industrial estates, due to the concentration of industrial activities, generate emissions including particulate matter and various gaseous pollutants, which contribute to the deterioration of ambient air quality and may pose risks to public health, surrounding communities, and the environment;

3. **AND WHEREAS**, prevailing meteorological conditions and unregulated dispersion of pollutants often result in the direct exposure of adjoining residential and peri-urban populations, thereby necessitating structural mitigation measures to act as physical and biological barriers;

4. **AND WHEREAS**, scientific evidence and international best practices establish that green buffer zones with dense, multi-tier vegetation serve as effective bio-filters by intercepting airborne pollutants, reducing noise pollution, stabilizing soil, enhancing microclimatic conditions, and functioning as localized carbon sinks for sequestration of greenhouse gases;

5. **AND WHEREAS**, Pakistan's commitments under international environmental frameworks, including the Paris Agreement and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), read together with Action Area Measure (AAM) 1.7 of the Climate Resilient Vision and Action Plan of Punjab require expansion of green cover and development of ecological buffers as nature-based solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation, necessitate enhancement of carbon sequestration capacity through afforestation and ecosystem-based interventions;

6. **AND WHEREAS**, it is necessary to institutionalize such ecological safeguards within the Environmental Approval regime (IEE/EIA) to ensure enforceability, traceability, and long-term compliance by industrial estate developers, management companies, and project proponents;

7. **AND WHEREAS**, under Section 12 of the Punjab Environmental Protection Act, 1997, no proponent of a project shall commence construction or operation unless an initial environmental examination or, where the project is likely to cause an adverse environmental effect, an environmental impact assessment has been filed with the Provincial Agency and approval has been obtained in respect thereof, and such approval may be accorded subject to such conditions as the Agency may deem fit to impose;

8. **AND WHEREAS**, under regulation 12 of the Punjab Environmental Protection (Review of Initial Environmental Examination and Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2022. every approval is subject to conditions imposed by the Agency, and the project shall be implemented in accordance with the approved IEE or EIA, with compliance to be duly acknowledged and confirmed prior to construction and operation.

9. **NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Dr. Imran Hamid Sheikh (PAS), Director General, Environmental Protection Agency, Punjab, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 12 of the Punjab Environmental Protection Act, 1997 read with regulation 12 of the Punjab Environmental Protection (Review of Initial Environmental Examination and Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2022, do hereby order that the following shall constitute mandatory conditions of Environmental Approval, applicable to all industrial estates, zones, and clusters in Punjab, and shall be deemed to form an integral part of all Environmental Approvals already granted as well as those to be granted hereafter

- i. A minimum 100 meter wide ecological buffer zone of native, pollution-tolerant, multi-layered vegetation shall be mandatorily established and maintained along the entire external boundary of all industrial estates, zones, and clusters across Punjab
- ii. All plantation activities shall mandatorily be registered and monitored through PPMS in accordance with EPA Punjab Order No. 449/PA to DG/EPA/2026 dated 28.01.2026
- iii. Buffer zone establishment shall also be a mandatory condition for grant, renewal, or modification of all Environmental Approvals under Section 12 of Punjab Environmental Protection Act 1997, with adequate provision in site layout plans and EMPs.
- iv. Existing industrial estates, where implementation of clause 9 (i) of this order is not possible, shall establish the said buffer zones with maximum available width.
- v. Clause 9(i) of this order shall be part of layout plans, land use plans, master plan, as the case may be, prepared by the proponents of Industrial Estates, Industrial Zones & Industrial Clusters.

This order shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force until modified or withdrawn.

Issued under my hand and seal of this office on this _____ day of April, 2026.

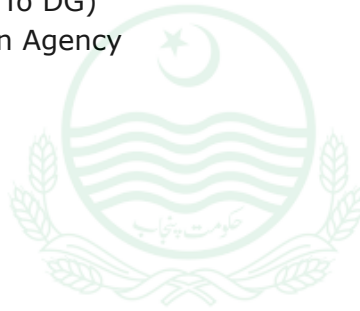
(DR. IMRAN HAMID SHEIKH)
DIRECTOR GENERAL
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

C.C.

A copy is forwarded for information and necessary action to the:-

- 1) Secretary
Environment Protection and Climate Change Department
- 2) Secretary
Industries, Commerce & Investment Department
- 3) Secretary
Forestry and Wildlife Department
- 4) ***The Additional Secretary (Coordination), Chief Minister Office, Lahore.***
- 5) ***The Additional Secretary (Staff), Chief Secretary's Office, Lahore.***
- 6) Senior Chief , (Environment and Climate Change)
P&D Board
- 7) Managing Director
Punjab Small Industries Corporation
- 8) Chief Executive Officer
Punjab Industrial Estates Development & Management Company
- 9) Chief Executive Officer
Faisalabad Industrial Estates Development & Management Company
- 10) ***PSO to Minister for Environment, Forest and P&D Board, Punjab***
- 11) Additional Director General , (Implementation)
Environmental Protection Agency
- 12) Additional Director General , (Operations)
Environmental Protection Agency
- 13) Director , (Monitoring Laboratory and Implementation)
Environmental Protection Agency
- 14) Director , (Administration and Monitoring)
Environmental Protection Agency
- 15) Director , (Planning and Coordination)
Environmental Protection Agency
- 16) Director EIA , (Environmental Impact Assesment)
Environmental Protection Agency
- 17) Director , (Legal)
Environmental Protection Agency

- 18) Director , (Environmental Health, Dengue, Hospital and Hazardous Waste (EDH)) (shall be the focal person for said activity)
Environmental Protection Agency
- 19) **All Deputy/Assistant Director (Field), EPA Punjab (with the direction to serve this order on all the concerned managements concerned)**
- 20) Deputy Director , (SAW)
Environmental Protection Agency
- 21) Assistant Director , (GIS) (to prepare the map of existing industrial estate, Industrial Zone and Industrial Clusters.)
Environmental Protection Agency
- 22) Assistant Director (Public Relation Officer) , (Public Relation Officer)
Environmental Protection Agency
- 23) Incharge IT Support , (Unit)
Environmental Protection Agency
- 24) Social Media Handler , (Social Media)
Environmental Protection Agency
- 25) librarian , (EPA)
Environmental Protection Agency
- 26) Personal Assistant , (PA To DG)
Environmental Protection Agency



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