



اندر تحفظ ماحول حکومت پنجاب  
An ISO Certified Agency



**GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**Dated the 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2026**

EPA/SEC/O/260707/0072

**ORDER**

**No. 513/PA/DG/EPA/2026**

**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOPs) FOR OPERATION OF PLASTIC SKIMMING  
BOATS UNDER THE PLASTIC FREE RIVERS/CANALS CAMPAIGN**

**WHEREAS**, plastic waste entering rivers, canals, drains and other water bodies has emerged as a significant source of environmental degradation, adversely affecting aquatic ecosystems, obstructing the natural flow of water, impairing irrigation infrastructure, increasing flood risks through blockage of waterways, and posing serious threats to biodiversity, public health and the sustainable management of water resources;

2. **AND WHEREAS**, the Environmental Protection Agency has issued Advisory No. 481/PA/DG/EPA/2026 dated 12.05.2026 prescribing measures for plastic waste reduction, including the implementation of the "**Plastic Free Rivers/Canals Campaign**" under Pillar/Strategy 5, Target No. 20 of the Plastic Management Strategy, 2023, with the objective of preventing plastic pollution in rivers, canals and other water bodies through environmentally sound plastic waste management practices;

3. **AND WHEREAS**, in furtherance of the aforesaid campaign, it has become necessary to undertake the systematic collection and removal of floating plastic waste from rivers, canals and other water bodies through dedicated operational interventions in order to prevent its accumulation, downstream dispersal and adverse impacts on aquatic ecosystems, irrigation infrastructure and the overall environmental quality;

4. **AND WHEREAS**, the Environmental Protection Agency, Punjab has initiated the deployment of Plastic Skimming Boats for the collection and removal of floating plastic waste from rivers and canals, and it is necessary to prescribe standardized operational and safety procedures to ensure safe, efficient and coordinated field operations;

5. **AND WHEREAS**, the Environmental Protection Agency, Punjab is mandated under Section 6(1)(i) of the Punjab Environmental Protection Act, 1997 to establish systems and procedures for surveys, surveillance, monitoring, measurement, examination, investigation, research, inspection and audit to prevent and control pollution;

6. **NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Dr. Imran Hamid Sheikh (PAS), Director General, Environmental Protection Agency, Punjab, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 6(1)(i) of the Punjab Environmental Protection Act, 1997, do hereby notify the following Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the operation of Plastic Skimming Boat:

- i. The Operations of Plastic Skimming Boat shall be supervised by the Director (EDH), EPA Punjab.
- ii. The concerned Deputy Director/Assistant Director, EPA Punjab shall supervise all Plastic Skimming Boat operations, ensure compliance with these SOPs, maintain coordination with the concerned departments and agencies, and make all necessary arrangements for the safe and effective conduct of the operations.
- iii. Plastic Skimming Boats shall be deployed only at locations identified in consultation with the District Administration, Rescue 1122 and Irrigation Department, based on the extent of plastic waste accumulation.
- iv. Plastic skimming operations shall be carried out only during broad day light. No operation shall be carried out after sunset.
- v. No operation shall be undertaken during adverse weather conditions or any situation likely to endanger personnel or equipment.
- vi. No person shall board or operate a Plastic Skimming Boat without wearing life-saving jacket.
- vii. Each Plastic Skimming Boat shall carry at least five (05) life-saving tubes and life saving jackets, and all safety equipment shall be inspected before the commencement of every operation.
- viii. A trained swimmer of Rescue 1122 shall remain on board throughout the operation.
- ix. All recovered plastic waste shall be handed over to the Suthra Punjab Authority (SPA) or any other authorized agency for segregation, recycling and environmentally sound disposal.
- x. Any accident, emergency, mechanical failure or other significant incident occurring during the operation shall be reported immediately to the Director General, Environmental Protection Agency, Punjab, through the proper channel, and appropriate remedial measures shall be taken without delay.



**(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  
Irrigation Department
- 3) ***The Secretary, Emergency Services Department, Punjab***
- 4) ***The Director General, Suthra Punjab Authority, Punjab***
- 5) Additional Director General , (Operations)  
Environmental Protection Agency
- 6) ***All Directors, EPA Punjab***
- 7) ***All Deputy/ Assistant (Field), EPA Punjab***
- 8) Deputy Director , (SAW)  
Environmental Protection Agency
- 9) Coordinator , (CKENPD)  
Environmental Protection Agency
- 10) Incharge IT Support , (Unit)  
Environmental Protection Agency
- 11) Assistant Director (Public Relation Officer) , (Public Relation Officer)  
Environmental Protection Agency
- 12) librarian , (EPA)  
Environmental Protection Agency
- 13) Personal Assistant , (PA To DG)  
Environmental Protection Agency



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