

GRADUATES WELFARE ASSOCIATION, FAZILKA (GWAF) ®

For the cause of Education, Employment, Energy and Environment

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Dr. Bhupinder Singh

Patron

Advocate Umesh Kukkar

President

July 18, 2011

To,

1. **Mr K.S Pannu, IAS**
Chairman,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road,
Patiala, 147001 –Punjab
2. **The Central Empowered Committee,**
Room No. 106,
Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110 003
3. **Mr L.S. Panta,**
National Green Tribunal,
Ministry of Forests and Environment,
Van Vigyan Bhawan,
Sector-5, R.K.Puram,
New Delhi-110022
4. **Chief Conservator of Soils, Punjab**
Department of Soil and Water Conservation, Punjab
SCO.92-94, Sector -17-D, Chandigarh
5. **Chief Wildlife Warden, Punjab,**
SCO 26-27, Second Floor,
Sector 34-A, Chandigarh (UT)
6. **Dr. Neelima Jerath**
Executive Director,
Punjab State Council for Science & Technology (PSCST),
MGSIPA Complex, Adjacent Sacred Heart School,
Sector-26, Chandigarh (UT)
7. **Mr Kamal Kishor Yadav, IAS**
Deputy Commissioner Ferozpur
Ferozpur Cantt (Punjab)

Subject: Upcoming PUDA colony in the vicinity of eco sensitive Zone of Badha Lake wetland at Fazilka

Dear Sir,

This is letter we would like to draw your kind attention towards recent advertisement appeared **(Annex A)** in various news papers by Punjab Urban Development Authority (PUDA) for the new colony being planned for sale in the vicinity of Badha Lake Wetland Fazilka. This entire colony falls under the eco-sensitive Zone of Fazilka Badha Wetland.

Half of the colony planned after Alamsha distributor falls under the flood plain of and discharge basin of river Satluj (earlier this used to get its water feed from river Satluj) at the time of flooding. In September, 1988 floods this entire area behind the irrigation minor was submerged under water irrigation minor presently define municipal boundary limit of Fazilka and acting as a safety bund to protect Fazilka against flood. Planning residential colony in this flood plan where the plinth level of proposed houses is 1-2m below the existing High flood level (HFL) of this area is not only a violation of building bylaws but also a violation of special recommendations by Disaster Management Group, Government of India.

Construction of residential block at this location required cutting of hundreds of grownup trees; which is providing natural shelter to Fazilka wildlife also and a home of national bird peacocks. **(Annex B)** Inquiry on the killing of peacocks is already underway by the Ministry of Forest and Environment, Government of India at Fazilka. **(Annex C)**. Furthermost in the month of June 2011, Punjab government initiated the peacock breeding project for the Malwa belt and selected this Fazilka region for that **(Annex D)**. It seems PUDA is least concerned over the Wildlife Protection and preservation norms of India.

Information revealed that no Environmental Impact Assessment has been done for this colony as per Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 by Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India from Punjab State Pollution Control Board, Patiala. Interestingly PUDA had sent notice and registered FIR to the three other private builders who planned illegal colony in the vicinity of Badha Lake and now they are all set to perform this criminal act at their own. **(Annex E)**

This is the most critical issue for every citizen living in Fazilka and further loss of Badha Lake wetland at Fazilka would bring disaster in by disturbing the fragile ecosystem of Fazilka. Fazilka was established by British Mr Patric Van Agnew in 1844 on the banks of this horse shoe lake. Till late 80 Fazilka's eco-system was perfectly balanced by three wetlands namely — Badha, Jhangar, and Ganj Bakhsh. As per the report of Punjab Science and Technology Council, these three were among the 32 old natural wetlands in the Punjab state **(Annex F)**, which are now almost on the verge of disappearance mainly due to the unplanned development process that has transformed these sites into dry farmlands. Also the vote bank politics allows contractors to sell sand under the riverbed of Badha Lake.

Out of three, at present Badha wetland is the worst hit, because of diverting Satluj river water to the adjacent state by the Central Water Commission, Government of India. This has been done to undoubtedly win over vote bank; the diversion has made the lake fluoride-ridden, with an

increase in the total dissolved solids in groundwater. In an article by V K Joshi, former Director, Geological Survey of India (GSI) named Fazilka on fluoride red alert list. Recent studies have shown that the fluoride content in tube-well water in Fazilka is 6 to 12 mg per litre. Almost 70 per cent of Fazilka's population suffers from dental decay. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for fluoride content is 1-1.5 mg /l.

In the year 2000, Punjab State Council for Science and Technology (PSCST) warned in their report to state environment department that the conservation of these wetlands is essential. However, at that time Deputy Commissioner of Ferozepur, Mr. Kulbir Singh Sidhu, assured of all efforts to retrieve these sites as the natural habitats of migratory bird but no action has been taken as yet.

Other than a colony, Lake Bed is a favorite spot for sand miners. Initially land has been illegally used for sand mining. Later, this has been regularized without considering its impact on the environment. Sand mining on river bed always leads to drying up of riverbeds soon after monsoon lowers the ground water table and increase salinity in ground water. Fauna of this area has already been damaged due to depletion of water body, which was providing natural habitat to birds like sparrows, peacocks, parrot etc. Peacock and many other rare species from this area have already been entered into endangered species list of Punjab wildlife department. So far, no strategy by the wildlife department has been formulated to protect the fauna of this area.

Till late 60s Badha lake wetland and its vicinity was popular due to arrival of migratory birds there. Birds from Siberia used to come to this lake earlier. Badha Lake wetland area was popular as a small bird Sanctuary. Palla's Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*) was one of the famous migratory birds at Badha Lake wetland. This lake was one of the breeding ground for Palla's fish eagle after Harike-Pattan in Punjab. Due to drying up of Badha Lake and other wetland this bird has entered into International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.

Natural systems of ground water recharging through wetlands of the region has almost lost due to criminal negligence and greedy deeds of mankind and further this criminal act of PUDA by planning a colony in this wetland region simply reflect the insensitivity of concerned authorities towards the environment of the city and state. Entire Fazilka biodiversity is going to affect. Wetlands are rich in biological diversity and are recognized amongst the most productive ecosystems and instead of recharging back and making that area as biodiversity Park for Fazilka PUDA is planning for residential unit without making any provision in Master Plan. Unfortunately, instead of preserving this lake and wetland area, an illegal colony against all environmental norms is planned by PUDA there.

Thorough this letter, we hereby request you to kindly take necessary action in this regard to save the future of the citizen of this small beautiful border town. Necessary news paper cuttings and documents showing location of Badha Lake on survey of India (**Annex G**) is enclosed with this letter. God fearing and hopeful citizen of Fazilka would be delighted if the prompt and necessary action shall be taken up in this regards.

Looking forward your strong and prompt action in this regards,

Thanking You,

With Kindest Regards,


On the behalf of Citizen of Fazilka

Navdeep Asija
Secretary (Admin)
M: +91.9464413323

Cc.:

Chief Administrator,
Punjab Urban Planning & Development Authority,
PUDA Bhawan Sector- 62,
SAS Nagar Mohali, Punjab

Mr. Anoop Singh Poonia
Indian Youth for Climate Network
N - 204, Greater Kailash 1,
New Delhi - 110048
Email: anoop@iycn.in



फाजिल्का तीव्रता से प्रगति के मार्ग पर चल रहा है
आबंटन के लिए फ्री होल्ड प्लॉट्स तैयार हैं

पुडा फाजिल्का में 56 फ्री होल्ड रिहायशी प्लॉटों के आबंटन के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है

**आवेदन/आवेदनों को
जमा करवाना**

खुलेगा

सोमवार,
18 जुलाई, 2011

बंद होगा

बुधवार,
17 अगस्त, 2011

आबंटन हेतु पेश प्लॉटों के विवरण

स्थिति	प्लॉट का साइज (वर्ग गज/वर्ग मी. में)	कुल प्लॉट्स	दर	अस्थायी मूल्य (रु. में)	धरोहर राशि (रु. में)
पुडा एन्क्लेव निकट एसडीएम निवास फाजिल्का	325 / 271.7	03	5000/- रु. प्रति वर्गगज अथवा 5981 रु. प्रति वर्ग मीटर	16,25,000/-	1,62,500/-
	300 / 250.8	06		15,00,000/-	1,50,000/-
	250 / 209	03		12,50,000/-	1,25,000/-
	249.33 / 208.43	06		12,46,650/-	1,24,665/-
	234.66 / 196.18	06		11,73,300/-	1,17,330/-
	226.66 / 189.48	04		11,33,300/-	1,13,330/-
	206 / 172.76	05		10,33,300/-	1,03,330/-
	220 / 183.92	06		11,00,000/-	1,10,000/-
	250 / 209	10		12,50,000/-	1,25,000/-
	250 / 209	07		12,50,000/-	1,25,000/-

220 तथा 250 वर्ग गज माप के प्लॉटों का क्षेत्रफल प्रति साइट के अनुसार होगा।

पात्रता : आबंटन के पात्र बनने के लिए आवेदक को भारत का नागरिक होना चाहिए तथा आवेदन ने जमा करवाने की तिथि को 18 वर्ष की आयु पूरी की होनी चाहिए।

आवेदन कैसे करें : विस्तृत शर्तों तथा नियमों तथा आवेदन प्रपत्र युक्त ब्रोशर 100/- रुपए नकद के भुगतान पर नीचे पदानामिक बैंकों में से किसी बैंक से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। ब्रोशर के साथ संलग्न आवेदन प्रपत्र स्वयं अनुप्रमाणित पासपोर्ट साइज की फोटोग्राफ के साथ नीचे उल्लेखित बैंकों में से किसी में खुद अथवा डाक द्वारा बंद होने की तिथि को अथवा पूर्व जमा करवाए जाने चाहिए। आवेदन के साथ सम्पदा अधिकारी पुडा भटिंडा के पक्ष में तथा उस स्टेशन पर देय जहां पर आवेदन जमा करवाया गया है। बैंकर्स चेक/पे-ऑर्डर/डीमांड ड्राफ्ट के रूप में धरोहर राशि संलग्न होनी चाहिए।

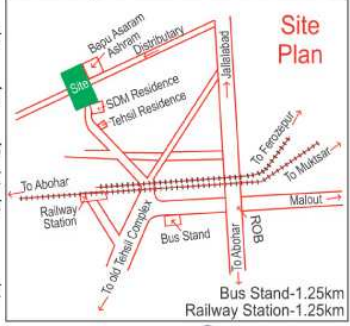
भुगतान की विधि : • प्लॉट की कुल कीमत का 10% आवेदन करवाते समय देय होगा। कुल कीमत का 15% इनटेंट पत्र जारी होने की तिथि से 30 दिनों के अंदर अदा करना अपेक्षित है तथा शेष 75% राशि आबंटन पत्र जारी होने के 60 दिनों के अंदर एकमुश्त बिना ब्याज के अदा की जा सकती है। विकल्पतः बकाया राशि @12% प्रतिवर्ष के ब्याज के साथ 6 अर्द्ध वार्षिक किस्तों में अदा की जा सकती है। प्रथम किस्त आबंटन की तिथि से 1 वर्ष के पश्चात देय होगी। एकमुश्त अदायगी पर 5% की छूट दी जाएगी।

शर्तें तथा नियम : • 25% भुगतान पर कब्जा • प्लॉट का क्षेत्रफल अस्थायी है • कोने वाले/पार्क की तरफ मुख वाले प्लॉट के लिए आरक्षित मूल्य 10%/5% अतिरिक्त होगा।


विस्तृत नियम तथा शर्तें ब्रोशर में देखी जा सकती हैं अथवा www.puda.gov.in पर लॉग ऑन करें।

आवेदन पत्रों की बिक्री तथा खरीद के लिए अधिकृत बैंकों की सूची : • ओरिएंटल बैंक ऑफ कॉमर्स : नोडल शाखा, सिविल लाइन्स भटिंडा : 0164-5002491-92 • बगदादी गेट फिरोजपुर की मुख्य शाखा : 01632-503140 • रेलवे क्रॉसिंग मुकसर : 01633-500614 • सकुलर रोड फरीदकोट : 01639-502881 • गऊशाला रोड मानसा : 01652-510625 • फाजिल्का : 01638-500275 • सैक्टर 8 चंडीगढ़ : 0172-2541099

एचडीएफसी बैंक • भटिंडा नोडल शाखा • फाजिल्का • अबोहर • मलोट • कोटकपूरा • फिरोजपुर • चंडीगढ़ • लुधियाना • पटियाला • संगरूर • मानसा • बरनाला • जलालाबाद • मुकसर • जीरा.

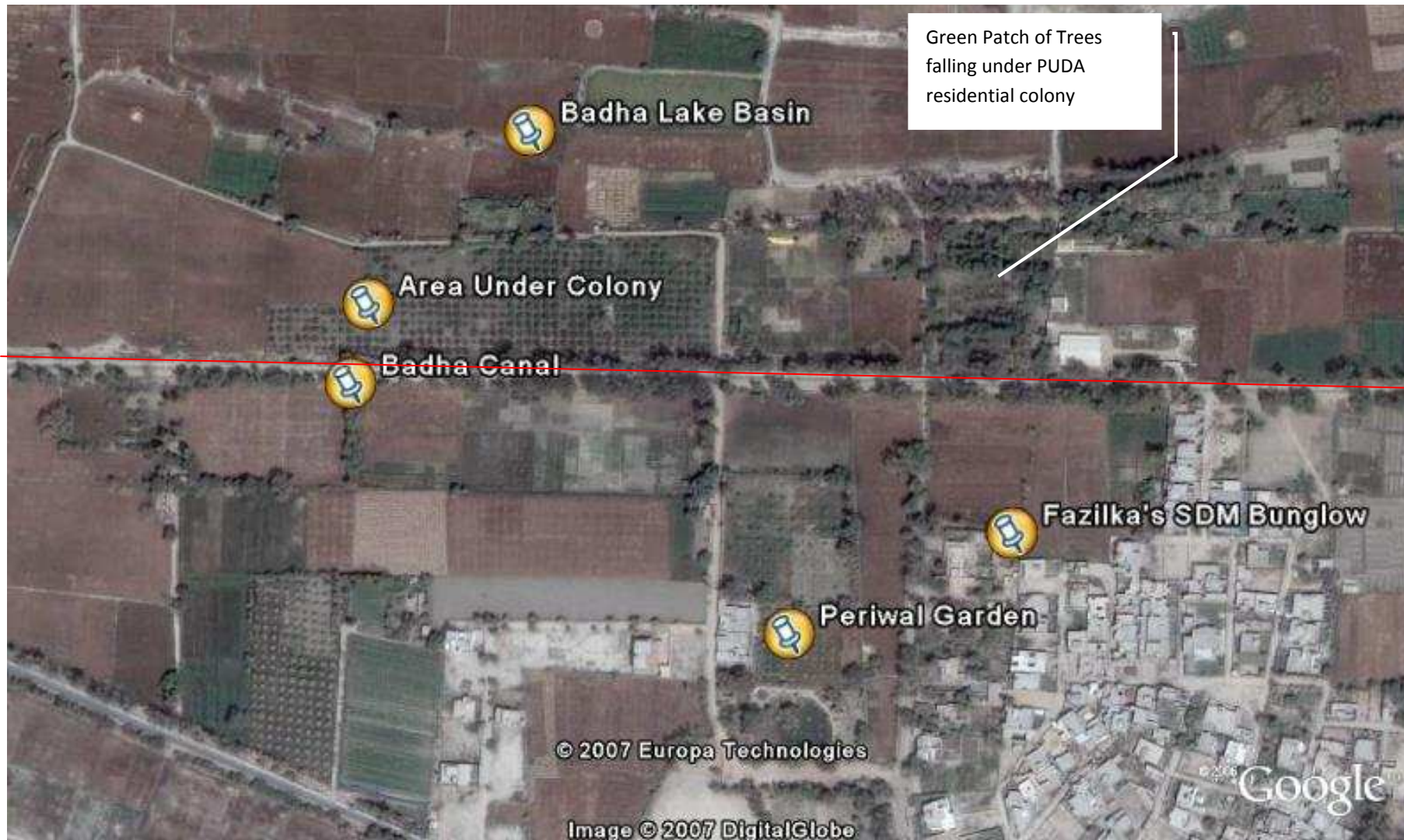


Site Plan



पंजाब शहरी योजना एवं विकास प्राधिकरण
पुडा/बीडीए परिसर, भागू रोड, भटिंडा. फोन 0164-2212532, 2212618
पुडा—जीने का एक बेहतर ढंग www.puda.gov.in पर हमें मिलें

Figure 1 : PUDA Advertisement for Fazilka Colony



Seven peacocks die in Fazilka **Tribune News Service**

FAZILKA, Feb 21 — Even as the residents of this town are yet to forget the killing of 21 cows by poisoning allegedly by some anti-social elements in the recent past, the matter of death of at least seven peacocks under mysterious circumstances has come to light.

Mr Kanwaljit Singh Randhawa, Tehsildar, told TNS that these peacocks, including two males and five females, had died about 10 days ago under mysterious circumstances.

The real reason of the death could not be ascertained as the matter came to the notice after the peacocks were buried by the people in the fields in which these were found dead.

Mr Ajay Maluja, DSP, said peacocks were, however, not killed by any hunter.

He said the postmortem of the peacocks could not be done as they were buried by the people.

Mr Randhawa said as per his information the peacocks had died after consuming some eatable sprayed with the insecticides.



National bird loses habitat to humans **Chander Parkash** **Tribune News Service**

Fazilka, May 9

Peacocks, which used to be a major attraction for residents and outsiders a few years ago, have said "goodbye" to this town bordering Pakistan. The reason: large-scale cutting of trees to make the way for residential colonies. Moreover, the local Badha lake, where they used to breed and grow, has turned dry due to the apathetic attitude of the authorities concerned.

Fazilka, once headquarters of one of the biggest subdivisions of undivided India and Punjab, was famous for having a respectable population of peacocks. But nearly seven peahens and peacocks died in one go in 2000 here after consuming eatables sprayed with pesticides and the death toll kept on increasing.

A section of residents while talking to the Tribune alleged that though peacocks started disappearing from this town for various reasons, the wildlife authorities did nothing to protect them against environmental degradation.

SP (CID), Bathinda, Ajay Maluja, who remained the DSP of this subdivision for four years - from 1997 to 2001-said dozens of peacocks were permanent residents of official residences of the DSP, SDM and others during that period and people used to roam in the civil lines area to have their glimpse.

On the other hand, Karamjit Singh, present DSP of the town who has been living in one of the same houses, said since he joined here on June 19, 2009, he had not seen any peacock so far.

Ferozepur district wildlife officer Harbans Singh Dhillon said the wildlife department was not aware of the fact that Fazilka town was having a good population of peacocks and hence no census was ever carried out. Dhillon added that even he was surprised that why peacocks had disappeared from the town. He said that peacocks were present in the neighbouring Abohar subdivision also.

Navdeep Asija, secretary (administration), Graduate Welfare Association Fazilka (GWAF), said the organisation was trying to bring back peacocks in this town by reviving the lake and creating a huge green cover by planting shady, fruit bearing and other trees in the area.

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/2010/20100510/punjab.htm#8>

Punjab initiates peacock breeding project

June 22, 2011 12:00:00 AM

PNS | Chandigarh

Punjab will rear the India's national bird - Peacock, which had become a rare sight in Malwa region in the past decade or so, with the help of the Central Government.

In a move to check the depleting strength of peacocks in the State, especially in the Malwa region, the Punjab Government has initiated a normal Peacock Breeding Project in the Malwa region.

Disclosing this, State's Forest and Wild Life Minister Arunesh Shakir on Wednesday said that Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal was quite concerned about ill-effects of insecticides and pesticides on the 'national bird' peacock and was taking keen interest in this project.

The project will soon be inaugurated by the Chief Minister in Bathinda district, said the Minister, adding that due to increasing urbanisation and increasing use of pesticides, the number of peacocks in Mansa, Bathinda, Mukatsar, Moga, Ferozepur and Sangrur has gone down drastically.

"In this centrally-sponsored project, eggs of peacocks collected from the Chhatbir Zoo in Mohali and Tiger Safari in Ludhiana would be bred under scientific supervision at Beehar Pond in Bathinda," elaborated the Minister.

Further, he said that after successful completion of this breeding programme, peacocks would be released in the Malwa Belt.

It may be added that the number of peacocks were quite high in Chhatbir Zoo and Tiger Safari, Ludhiana whereas in Doaba, situation was normal. But in Malwa the number of peacocks was near extinction.

In recent times, the peacock population has started increasing showing improvements in a few villages of Abohar and Fazilka sub-divisions, which had peacocks in large numbers and attracted people many years ago but now witnessed a large-scale killing of these birds after their habitats were endangered by reckless use of pesticides in agricultural operations, especially in cotton cultivation and kinnow orchards. situation had reached a point where the national birds nearly disappeared from these two sub-divisions.

As of now, the State wildlife department had done nothing for the protection of peacocks.

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/342801/Punjab-initiates-peacock-breeding-project.html>

Illegal colony spoiling wetland zone in Fazilka

Manoj Tripathi
Fazilka, June 27

THE DISTRICT administration has turned a blind eye to an illegal residential colony coming up within a wetland zone in violation of environmental and building bylaws.

The colony, being developed on 2 acres of land, is located between Salem Shah minor and Badha Lake on the banks of the lake. Though the area falls in the jurisdiction of the Forest Department, no prior permission was sought before removing the green belt along the Badha Lake wetland zone and Salem Shah minor. No permission was sought from PUDA either before going ahead with the construction.

The Water Supply and Sewerage Board had even dug up a tubewell on private land to help the colonisers without seeking the Municipal Council's approval.

This water supply scheme was inaugurated by then Congress MLA Mohinder Rinwa in December 2006 in violation of rules. It is alleged that the Board had spent about Rs 15 lakh on its construction.

Though Municipal Council officials confirmed on condition of anonymity that the Board had dug up a tubewell on private land without seeking approval,

they failed to give a satisfactory reply when asked how the former Congress MLA happened to inaugurate an illegal water scheme.

Officials of the Board, whose office has now shifted to Moga, evaded all queries.

It is also learnt that the coloniser has not submitted the environmental impact assessment screening report to the Board for getting environmental clearance for the colony.

While Forest Department officials feigned ignorance about the matter, Pollution Control Board authorities declined to comment on how a residential colony was coming up in a wetland zone. Surprisingly, the Ferozepur District Town Planner and PUDA officials said they were not aware of any such colony in Fazilka.

Interestingly, those who have purchased plots in the colony have also not bothered to find out where they will get their water and electricity supply from.

The area where the colony is being constructed comes under the flood plain and discharge basin of Sutlej river and is highly prone to floods. The entire area was submerged in September 1988. The Salem Shah minor not only defines the municipal boundary limits of Fazilka, but also protects the town from floods.

Hindustan Times, 27th June, 2007, Chandigarh Edition

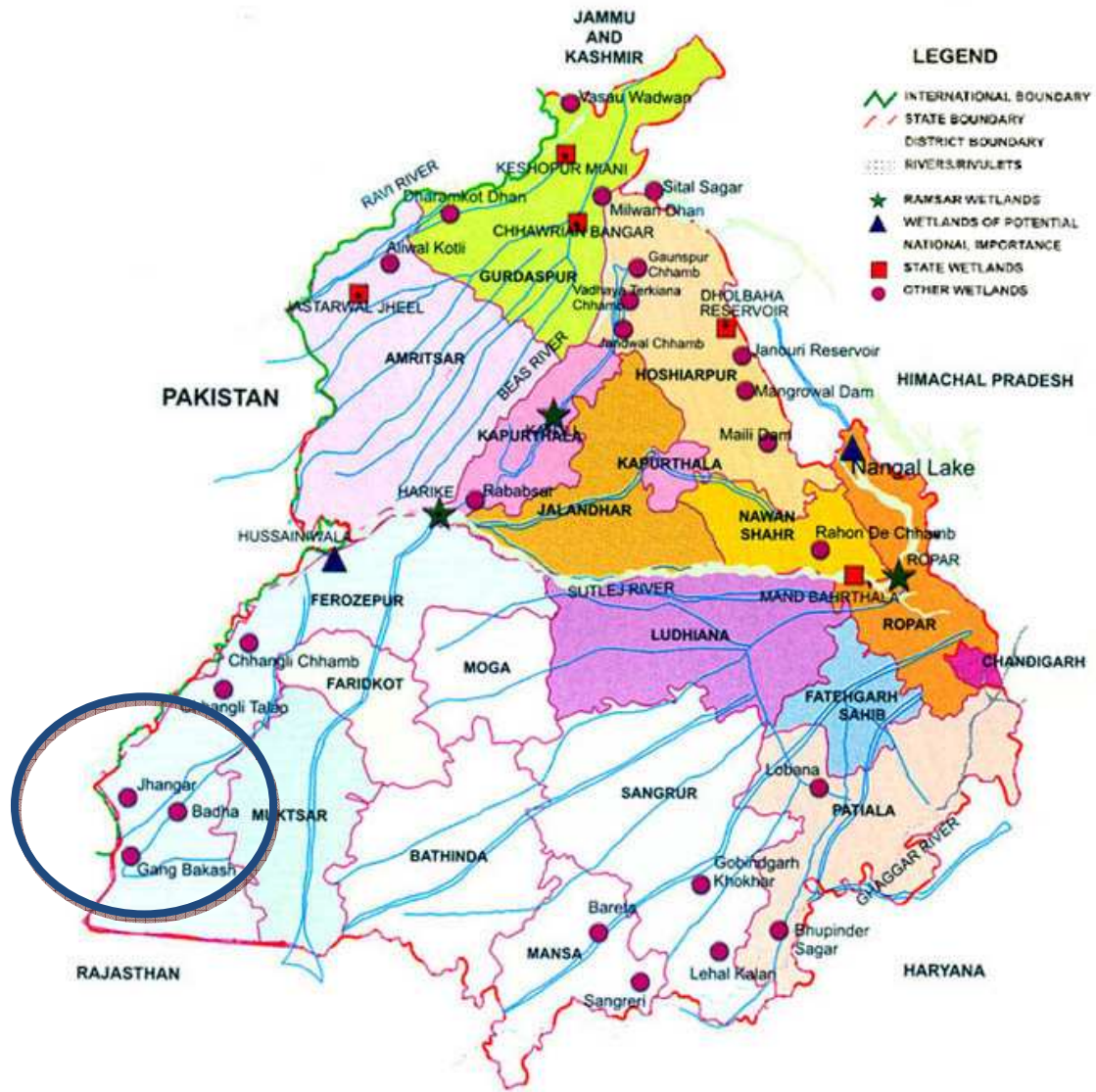
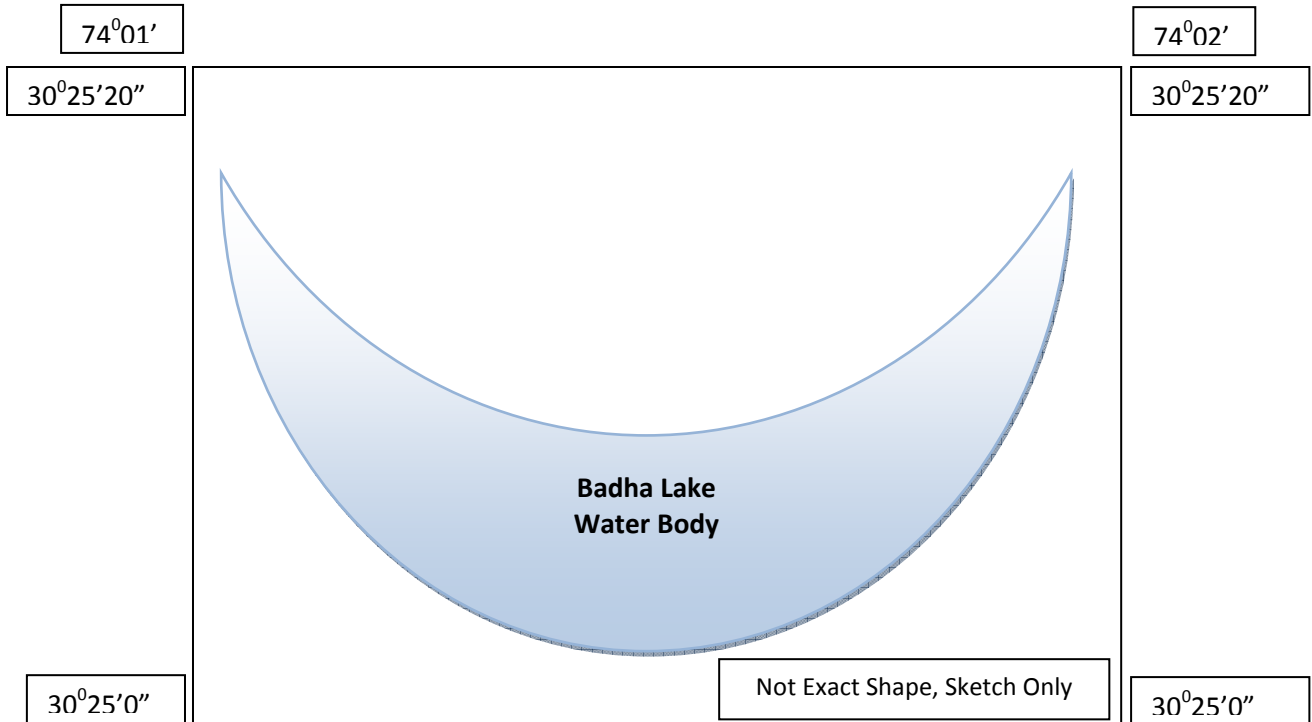


Figure 2: Location Map of Wetlands in Punjab (Source: Punjab State Council for Science and Technology)

Annex G

Survey of India Map Details – Badha Lake

Survey of India Map Sheet No. 44(J/3): Map Scale 1: 50,000 | Surveyed 1974-75 under supervision of Major General Girish Chandra Aggarwal, SGI, and Published in 1983.



This map falls under restricted area map by Survey of India. Complete coordinates of the Badha Lake wetland are given (area of interest); information may be obtained from Survey of India by the court.