

**Subject:** Jalal Pur Irrigation Project, Pakistan

**Date:** Sunday, June 25, 2023 at 6:28:02 PM Philippine Standard Time

**From:** Asad Minhas

**To:** Complaint Receiving Officer

**Dear Complaint Officer,**

We are residents of Jalal Pur Sharif, where the Jalal Pur Irrigation Canal Project is being executed, and own Agricultural Lands on the left bank of the proposed canal. The issue being raised had already been conveyed and presented to local actors including CRE, Project Director, and Revenue Department but CRE and PD seem to be closing their eyes on the critical matters and kick start the remaining part of the structure, which was already under dispute with Iftikhar Siddique. We will try to list and elaborate on all 4-issues sequentially;

**2- Canal Crossing to Access Farm Lands**

We have a Governmental approved path at the location (32.65618,73.42088), which is used to access more than 350 acres of agricultural lands across the Canal structure. Due to the canal infrastructure build-up and recent construction progress, we are unable to access our farmlands besides transporting our agricultural commodities to the market. Whereas, the next crossing bridge is at least 3 kilometers on either side of the structure, and accessing link road passes through a thickly populated area of Jalal Pur Sharif, not suitable for carrying Agricultural equipment and machinery to the farmlands. An application was forwarded to the Assistant Commissioner, who is also Land Acquisition of Tehsil: Pind Dadan Khan on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March which was later forwarded to all concerned authorities including the Project Director on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March vide letter no.870/ACP. We are informed that a Pedestrian Bridge of 60 to 72 inches in width will be constructed to access the other side of the Canal. It's almost 4-months while we are still waiting for compliance from the concerned authorities.

## **2- Water Passage FCC-1**

A Flood Carrying Channel is being constructed at (32.65537,73.41943) which hardly brings 2 Inches of rainwater in case of severe precipitation in the area which often dries out before falling into the river drainage. However, it affects 2 acres of agricultural land on the right bank of the Canal where the water level may reach up to 4 inches or less for 2-3 days. Project authorities are planning to construct a channel to drain water into the river Jhelum at a location that is again owned by the farmers whereas Google maps shows it as a river basin. Moreover, they're supposed to construct a 110 feet wide channel across 10 acres length which would need buying not only another 5 acres of productive land but the water would also drain into the agricultural lands instead of the river. It is advisable to reduce the size of the Flood Carrying channel to 10 feet or less or simply allow the free flow of water to the left bank of the canal for better water conservation practices for the growers. Otherwise, FCC-1 could run with the length of the canal at the left bank and drain at (32.65688,73.42371) where a Syphon is purposefully built. Since the growers of the said location don't come under the Canal Command area, they could prepare their water storage for irrigation and livestock through any community development program. Moreover, draining this little quantity of water through concealed underground pipes is also feasible. It is also noticeable that most spillover water of populated areas drains into FCC-2 and there are only 10-houses that drain at (32.65537,73.41943).

**Note:** An application was forwarded to construct a water channel to the local authorities with 120 signatories which were either non-land holders or the residents of the area having no concern with irrigation projects or water drainage. Similarly, non-grievors appeared before the Grievance Committee when a meeting was conducted at the camp office to discuss the FCC-1 issue. Moreover, a few property developers on the backend also supported this application process with the concerned authorities who are already demolishing the hilly terrain to construct colonies.

## **3- Land Encroachment without Legal Notice**

Our personnel land measuring 1632 square feet located at (32.65669,73.42347) was acquired almost 2 years ago. A sudden change in the Canal route was observed at the same location and the project authorities encroached another 11000 square feet of land from Square No.12, Acres 24 & 25 without any legal notice and prior intimation. The change in the canal route happened due to a suit filed by Mian Iftikhar Siddique S/O Mian Muhammad Siddique (Resident of Jalal Pur) and the outcome was drifting the canal 75 feet South of the original route. This is not justifiable for the reasons that; 1- No payment is made for this forced capturing.

2- The land has already been sold to a third party and they're demanding the possession.

### **Way Forward:**

Making payments for the said possession at a fair price or allocating the same size of the land that remains vacant due to canal route shifting. Otherwise, we reserve the right to take the issue to the International Court of Justice and Climate Change for a fair trial.

### **Great thanks for your time and consideration,**

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**(Residents and Owners of the Lands on the Left Bank of the Canal)**

***Asad Minhas***