

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

SiVEST



Established in 1952

ENVIRONMENTAL BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA) FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF LAYER POULTRY HOUSES, TILLBURY CREEK TRUST, VAALKRANS FARM, WINTERTON

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

SiVEST Environmental has been appointed by **Tillbury Creek Trust** to conduct an Environmental Basic Assessment Process for the proposed development of layer poultry houses in at Vaalkrans Farm, Winterton, KwaZulu-Natal Province. The Basic Assessment will be conducted in terms of Regulations 19 and 20 of the Regulations compiled in terms of **Chapter 3** of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) as amended 2014, and the project will be registered with the Provincial Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA).

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to inform interested and/or affected parties (I&AP's) of the Environmental Basic Assessment Process (BA) that will be conducted for the proposed development. In addition to supplying information about the proposed Project, this BID will also provide I&AP's with the opportunity to:

- **Register as stakeholders in the public participation process;** and
- **Provide initial comments on the proposed project.**

BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

SiVEST, on behalf of Tillbury Creek Trust, propose the development sixteen (16) poultry houses on Vaalkrans in Winterton, co-ordinates Latitude 28.684184 and Longitude 29.563614.

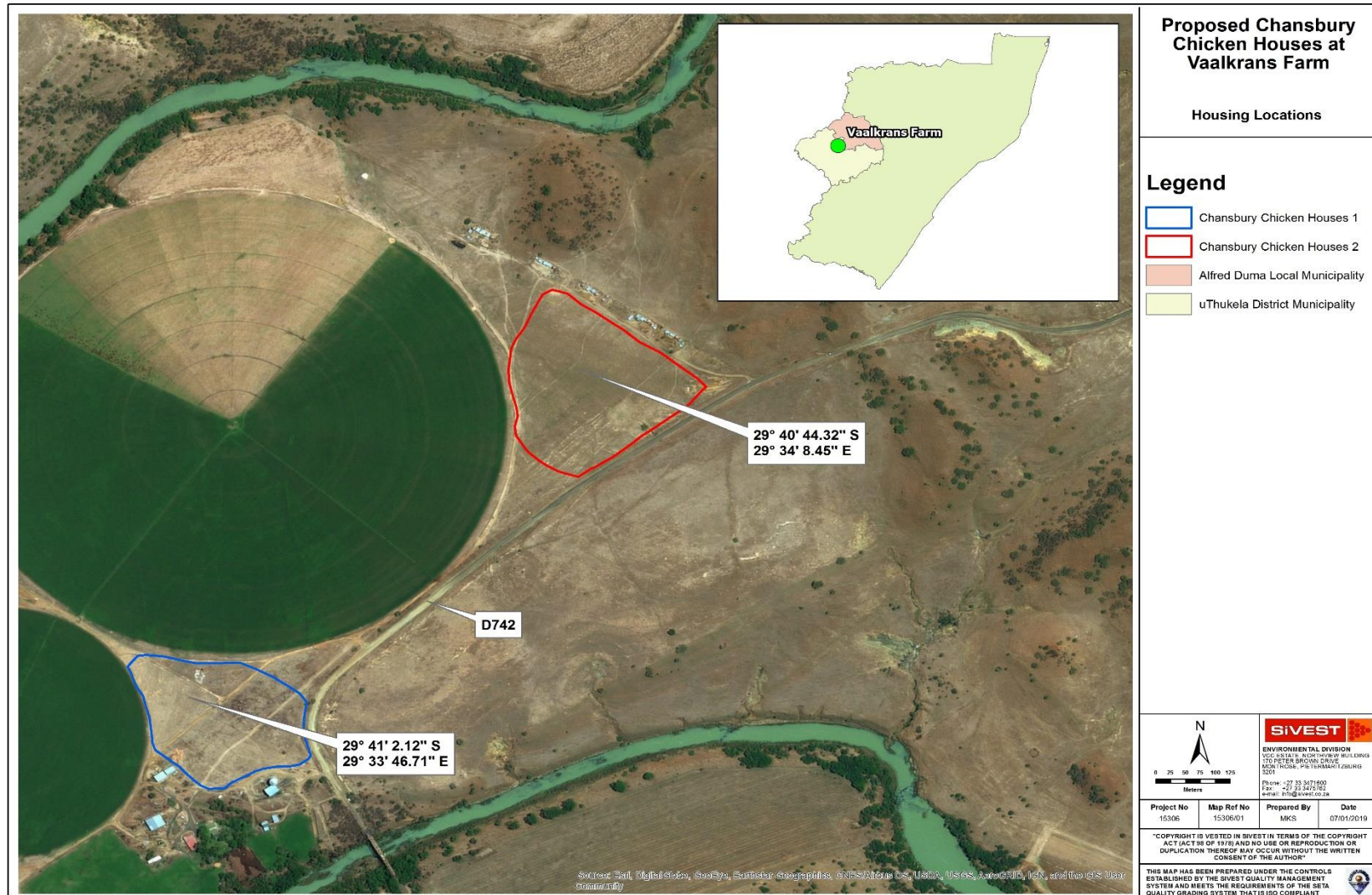
Four houses are expected to be built within five years, after which the farmer expects to build a further 12 houses over the following 15 years. Each house will contain a maximum of 33 500 layers, with a maximum housing capacity 536 000 layers once all houses are operational. Two locations on Vaalkrans Farm have been earmarked for this development, where eight (8) houses will be built at each location. Each of the two locations will have packing room (20 x 25m) with a wash bay and 1000kVA transformer which will power the houses and associated infrastructure. Further to this, the farmer proposes the installation of four (4) solar panels between each house, which will be leased from a solar energy company (please note, this does not form part of this Basic Assessment).

Water will be used from the farm's existing borehole (capacity of 24000L per hour), which has been licensed with the Department of Water and Sanitation. It is planned that the manure resulting from the layers will be composed in windrows and used on the farmland for their cropping program (wheat and maize production). This requires a waste licence.

For this development to go ahead, Environmental approval and a waste licence is needed.

SITE LAYOUT

The proposed area for development is indicated below;



ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS

What is a Basic Assessment Process?

A Basic Assessment (BA) is a process of collecting, organising, analysing, interpreting and communicating information that is relevant for the consideration of a particular application. BA's are undertaken where the impacts are less likely to have significant impacts on the receiving environment.

BA's are used by planning authorities/developers to obtain an independent and objective view of the potential environmental (biophysical and social) impacts that could arise during the construction and operation of the proposed development. This information needs to provide the Competent Authority with a sound basis for their decision-making. Environmental management and mitigation measures are also identified through the BA process.

National Environmental Management Act (NEMA)

In terms of the Environmental Regulations promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, the BA will be conducted for the proposed development in terms of the new EIA Regulations **Section 19 and 20** for the following activities:

Relevant Government Notice:	Activity No. (s)	Activity description
GNR 324 of 7th April 2017	12	<p>The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p> <p>d. KwaZulu-Natal</p> <p>v. Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</p> <p>viii. A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies;</p> <p>The proposed development falls within the 5km buffer of Spioenkop Nature Reserve, as such the above listed activities are triggered.</p>
GNR 327 of 7th April 2017	5	<p>The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the concentration of—</p> <p>ii. more than 5 000 poultry per facility situated outside an urban area, excluding chicks younger than 20 days;</p> <p>Each house is likely to house 35 000 layers, which totals 560 000 layers when all 16 houses are up and running. The proposed development occurs outside an urban area, therefore the above listed activity is triggered.</p>
GNR 327 of 7th April 2017	8	<p>The development and related operation of hatcheries or agri-industrial facilities outside industrial complexes where the development footprint covers an area of 2 000 square metres or more.</p>

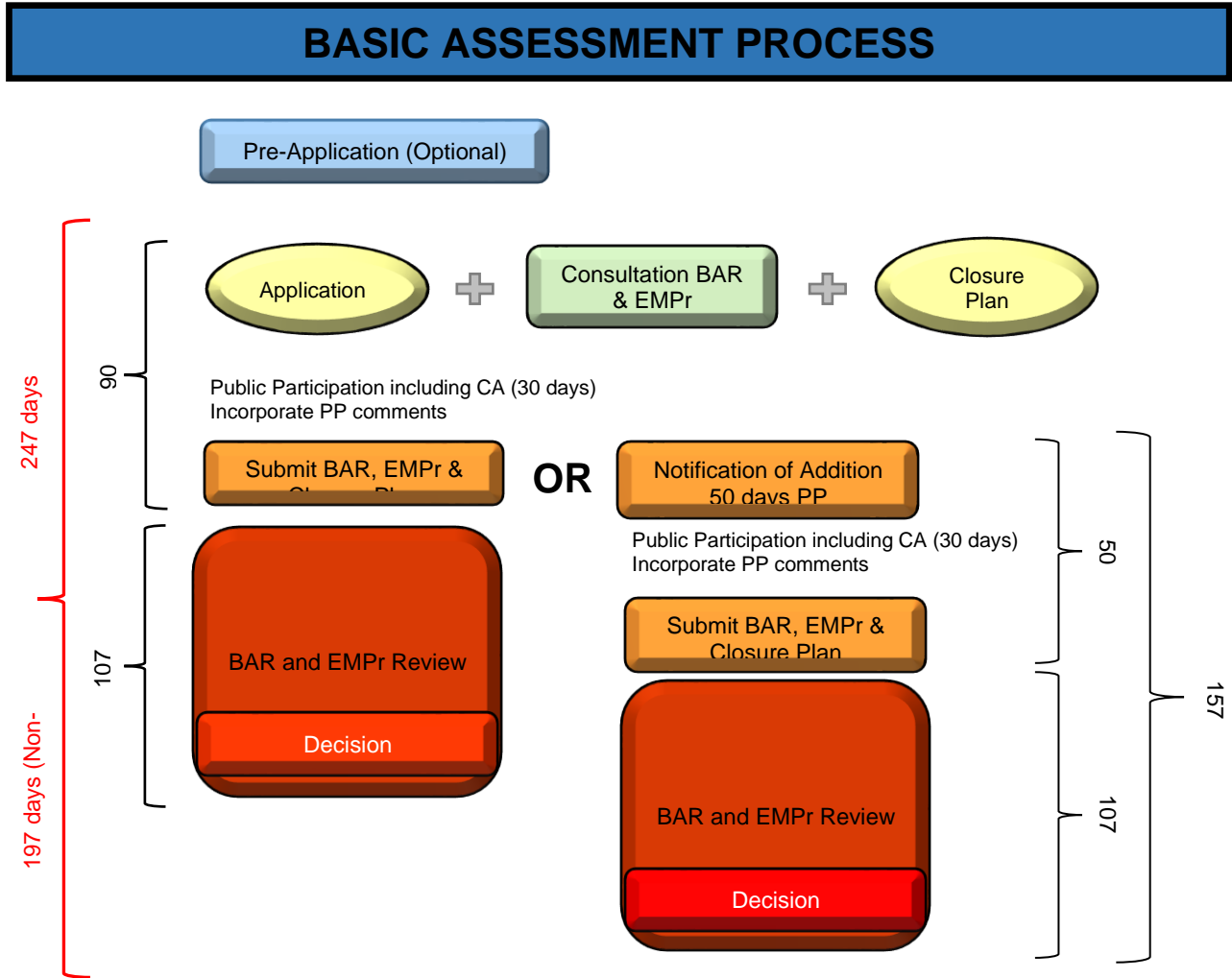
		The development area covers approximately 92 000 square meters (9.2ha) in extent, therefore the above listed activity is triggered.
GNR 921 (Category A)	6	The treatment of general waste using any form of treatment at a facility that has the capacity to process in excess of 10 tons but less than 100 tons. The proposed project will treat the chicken manure with lime, hence triggering activity 6 of the Waste Act
GNR 921 (Category A)	10	The disposal of general waste to land covering an area of more than 50m ² but less than 200m ² and with a total capacity not exceeding 25 000 tons. Chicken manure will be temporarily stored in windrows next to the chicken houses, and composted, after which manure will be applied to the farmers cropping lands.
GNR 921 (Category A)	12	The construction of a facility for a waste management activity listed in Category A of this Schedule (not in isolation to associated waste management activity). The proposed project seeks to create windrows for the composing of manure, therefore by the definition of facility in GNR 921, this activity is triggered.
GNR 921 (Category C)	1	Storage of general waste at a facility that has the capacity to store in excess of 100m ³ of general waste at any one time, excluding the storage of waste in lagoons or temporary storage of such waste. Manure will be stored for a period of up to 6 months in windrows at the proposed application site.

Competent Authority

The Competent Authority, as described according to the new EIA Regulations, for this proposed project is the Provincial Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) which will ultimately be responsible for providing a decision on whether the proposed Activity will be granted Environmental Authorisation in terms of NEMA.

Basic Assessment Process

The Basic Assessment Process to be followed is shown in the below flowchart.



Environmental Issues to be investigated by SiVEST during the BA Phase of the Proposed Project

- Heritage Impacts
- Vegetation impacts

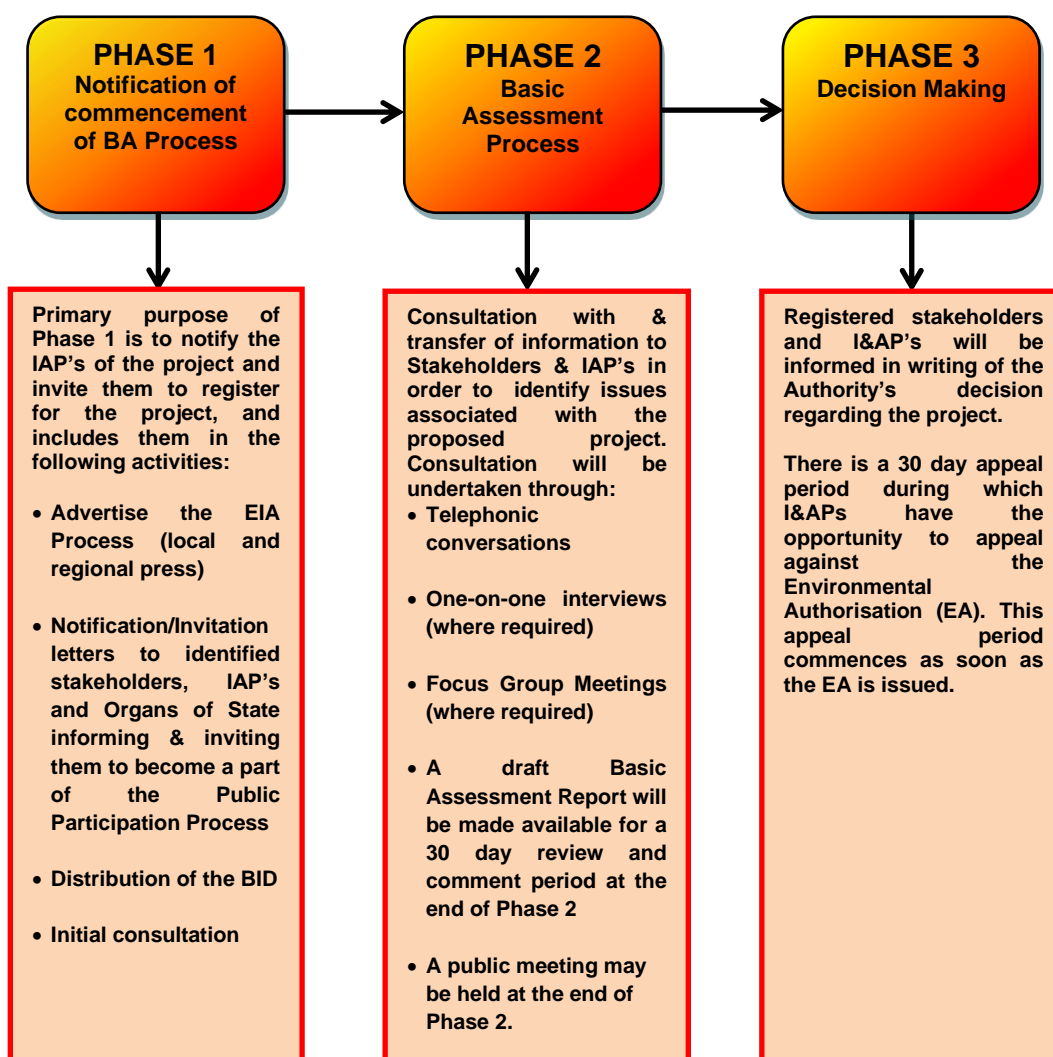
The Public Participation Process

Public Participation is the cornerstone of any BA, as it will be for this proposed project. The principles of NEMA govern many aspects of BAs, including public participation.

The key objective of public participation during this BA will be to provide I&AP's with sufficient and transparent information on an on-going basis in order to ensure effective participation throughout the process. As part of this public participation process you will also be provided with the opportunity to comment on the findings of the Basic Assessment Report, which will be made available for public review during the process.

It is important that relevant I&AP's are identified and involved in the public participation process from the outset of the proposed project. In order to ensure effective public participation, the public participation process includes the following steps:

Public Participation Process for Basic Assessment:



You will receive personal notification, once registered, by fax or e-mail of all documents available for comment, and due dates for comment at every stage.

Your responsibilities as an I&AP:

In terms of the EIA Regulations, your attention is drawn to your responsibilities as an I&AP:

- In order to participate in this BA process, register yourself on the project database.
- Inform any other parties (neighbours, friends, colleagues, etc) who may be interested and/or affected by the proposed project about the EIA process and encourage them to become involved.
- Ensure that any comments regarding the proposed project are submitted within the timeframes that have been approved or set by EDTEA, or within any extension of a timeframe agreed to by EDTEA and the applicant (i.e. THD).
- Disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the application **THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF LAYER POULTRY HOUSES, TILLBURY CREEK TRUST, VAALKRANS FARM, WINTERTON.**

Our responsibilities as Independent Environmental Consultants:

In terms of the EIA Regulations, our responsibilities in the public consultation process include:

- Ensure that sufficient information regarding this proposed project is made available to you, either through the BID or providing information as and when requested.
- Ensure that you have an understanding of the proposed project to be able to comment informatively and to enable you to submit any concern in an informed manner.
- Ensure that the following actions are taken upon receiving any comments/queries/issues:
 - * The contact details provided by you are entered into the project database and that you are sent all further information releases
 - * If you send us queries or comments, we respond in writing
 - * If you call us, your details and queries / comments are recorded. Should we not be able to answer your question immediately, your call will be returned as soon as possible with a response.

How to become involved:

1. Respond (by phone, fax or e-mail) to our invitation for your participation, which has been advertised in the printed media.
2. Mail, fax or e-mail the attached Registration and Comment Form to SiVEST.
3. Attend the meetings that may be held during the course of the project. Should you register as an I&AP you will automatically be invited to attend these meetings.
4. Contact us telephonically should you have a query, comment or require further project information.

5. Review the draft Basic Assessment Report within the **30 day review periods** that will be stipulated in the advertisement as well as in your personalized letter.


If you consider yourself an I&AP for this proposed project, we urge you to make use of the opportunities created by the public participation process to become actively involved in the process and provide comment or concerns which affect and/or interest you, or about which you would like more information. Your input into this process forms a key part of the Environmental Studies and we would like to hear from you to obtain your views on the proposed project.


By completing and submitting the accompanying Registration and Comment Form, you automatically register yourself as an I&AP for this proposed project, and are ensured that your comments and/or concerns raised regarding the proposed project are noted. The public participation consultants will respond to all comments and queries received during the course of the project. Please be informed that all relevant public documents can be downloaded from SIVEST's website (<http://www.sivest.co.za/Download>) then select **THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF LAYER POULTRY HOUSES, TILLBURY CREEK TRUST, VAALKRANS FARM, WINTERTON.**


We look forward to your contributions. Please also feel free to suggest other stakeholders to be consulted.


8. COMMENTS AND QUERIES

Mark Summers

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 Phone: (033) 347 1600

 Fax: (033) 347 5762

 E-mail: marks@sivest.co.za

LIST OF ACRONYMS

BA	Basic Assessment
BID	Background Information Document
EDTEA	Department of Economic Development, Tourism, Environmental Affairs
EA	Environmental Authorisation
EMPR	Environmental Management Programme
I&AP	Interested and Affected Party
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
WULA	Water Use License Assessment

**THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF LAYER POULTRY HOUSES, TILLBURY CREEK TRUST,
VAALKRANS FARM, WINTERTON.
EDTEA REFERENCE NO:**

WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Please complete this form and return it to the Public Participation Office below:

Mark Summers

✉ PO Box 707, MSUNDUZI, 3231
☎ Phone: (033) 347 1600
📠 Fax: (033) 347 5762
✉ E-mail: marks@sivest.co.za

Website: www.sivest.co.za

TITLE (Prof/Mr/Mrs)		FIRST NAME	
SURNAME			
CAPACITY (e.g. Secretary/Director)			
ORGANISATION			
POSTAL ADDRESS		POSTAL CODE	
TEL. NO.: ()		CELL NO.:	
FAX NO.: ()		E-MAIL ADDRESS:	

COMMENTS (You are welcome to use a separate sheet if required)

The following environmental, social and economic impacts must be addressed during the EIA / BA:

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Please add the following of my colleagues/friends/neighbours onto your mailing list:

Name:		Organization:
Contact details:		
Address:		
Tel.:	Fax:	Cell:
E-mail:		

IF YOU WISH NOT TO RECEIVE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THIS PROPOSED PROJECT, AND PREFER TO BE REMOVED FROM THE PROJECT'S DATABASE, PLEASE SIGN BELOW AND RETURN THE FORM TO THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CONSULTANTS WHOSE CONTACT DETAILS ARE PROVIDED ABOVE

Yes, please delete my contact details from the project's database	SIGNATURE:
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