MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED EXPANSION IN EXISTING UNIT OF MANUFACTURING OF 7.50 TPA OF EC PRODUCTS & NON-EC PRODUCTS 783.90 TPA AT GUT NO./S.No.65, H.No.2, PAIKI VILLAGE, GATESH BUDRUK, TALATHI SAJA KONE, TAL-WADA, DISTRICT – PALGHAR, MAHARASHTRA STATE BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S SYNERGIA LIFE SCIENCES PVT. LTD.

The Public Hearing for proposed expansion in existing unit of manufacturing of 7.50 TPA of EC Products & Non-EC Products 783.90 TPA at Gut No./S.No.65, H.No.2, Paiki Village, Gatesh Budruk, Talathi Saja Kone, Tal-Wada, District – Palghar, Maharashtra State by Project Proponent M/s Synergia Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd., was conducted on Monday, the 29th August, 2022 at 12.30 p.m at Pathare Mangal Karyalaya, 2nd Floor, Vivek Nagar, Wada, Taluka – Wada, Dist – Palghar, Maharashtra.

Shri Devidas Koparkar, Sub Regional Officer-Kalyan-3, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalyan and Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri Dilip Gutte, Additional District Magistrate, Palghar and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Babasaheb Kukade, I/c Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalyan and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Tahsildar of the Wada Taluka, Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists and Company Officials and local people/participants who were present and informed that as per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (i.e. MoEF & CC, Gol) dated 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 as amended on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2009, it is mandatory to conduct prior public consultation to certain projects which are covered in the schedule of the said Notification.

Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed all and informed that the meeting is called in the background of Covid-19. Hence, it is requested all the participants to follow strict guidelines of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi's Office Memorandum dated 14-09-2020. The thermal checking and use of sanitizer is kept at the entrance of the

pandol and now it is compulsory to wear a mask and follow the social distancing amongst the persons in the meeting hall.

Convener further informed that as per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (i.e. MoEF & CC, GoI) dated 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 as amended on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2009, it is mandatory to conduct prior public consultation to certain projects which are covered in the schedule of the said Notification.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee infomed that Maharashtra Pollution Control Board was in receipt of application from Project Proponent M/s Synergia Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd. for their proposed expansion in existing unit of manufacturing of 7.50 TPA of EC Products & Non-EC Products 783.90 TPA at Gut No./S.No.65, H.No.2, Paiki Village, Gatesh Budruk, Talathi Saja Kone, Tal-Wada, District – Palghar, Maharashtra State.

The Convener further informed as per EIA Notification, 2006 the category of project falls under Category A 5 (f) ) which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi for which prior environmental consultation is mandatory.

Convener informed that the aim of conducting prior public consultation is to make aware, local people who can be participant in the hearing and they should know the developmental activities and Environment Management Plan of the unit.

Project Proponent had submitted online prescribed application alongwith pre-feasibility report to the, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi and it has been considered and given online approval on 20-04-2022.

After sanction from District Collector, Palghar to conduct the Physical Environment Public Hearing on Monday, the 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 at 12.30 noon, and as per the Notification dated 14-09-2006 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (MoEF & CC, GoI), New Delhi and subsequent amendment on 01-12-2019, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai has constituted Environment Public Hearing Panel vide Board's Office Order No. E-57 of 2022 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 220812FTS-0009 dated 12-08-2022:

 District Magistrate-Palghar or his representative not below the rank of an Additional District Magistrate Chairman

 Representative of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai -Regional Officer – Kalyan, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalyan Member

 Sub Regional Officer-Kalyan-3, Convener Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalyan

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Kalyan-3, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalyan in the Local Newspaper in Daily Sakal for Marathi and in National Newspaper daily Free Press for English on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2022. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed unit.

Also copy of EIA report and executive summery were made available in Marathi and in English at various notified Government offices –

- Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
   Zonal Office, West Central Zone, New Secretariat
   Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Line, Nagpur-440 001;
- 2) District Collector, Palghar;
- General Manager, District Industries Centre Office,
   Palghar;
- 4) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad Office, Palghar;
- Joint Director (WPC), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Head Office, Mumbai;
- Environment & Climate Change Department,
   Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building,
   Mantralaya, Mumbai;
- 7) Sub Divisional Officer-Wada, Tal Wada, Dist Palghar;
- 8) Regional Officer, Regional Office-Kalyan, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Shree Siddhi Vinayak Sankul, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Near Oak Baug, Station Road, Kalyan (West) – 421 301, Dist – Thane;
- 9) Sub Regional Officer, Kalyan-3, Sub Regional Office-Kalyan, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Shree

Siddhi Vinayak Sankul, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Near Oak Baug, Station Road, Kalyan (West) – 421 301, Dist – Thane;

- Tahsildar, Tahsil Office Wada, Dist Palghar;
- Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Wada,
   Tal-Wada, District Palghar;
- Sarpanch, Group Gram Panchayat, Gatesh Budruk,
   Saja Kone, Tal Wada, Dist Palghar;
- 13) Website of MPCB;

The public in general were appealed to send any suggestion or objection regarding the proposed project. MPCB is in receipt of 70 letters which have extended their support, one objection in writing and have been noted.

Convener informed that participants can raise their views, suggestions/objections for the proposed project in environmental angle only orally as well as in writing also.

Convener informed that this Committee is constituted to know the views, opinions, suggestions or objections of the local people and it does not take any decision of sanction, recommendation or rejection of the project. The suggestions/objections raised during the meeting will be included in the minutes of the meeting. The video shooting of

EIA report will be submitted with the approval of Chairman of the Committee through Head Office MPCB to Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi for further decision. An Expert Committee at Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department, Govt of India will take further decision.

Convener requested Chairman to inform Project Proponent to start the presentation.

With the permission of the Chairman, the Project Officer made a presentation on the entire Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the proposed project. He informed about the geographical location of the proposed project, possible impact on the environment due to the proposed project, and the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) prepared for it, details regarding Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Fund and Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) Fund.

After the Presentation, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed the participants to raise views, suggestions or objections regarding the proposed plant in environmental angle only. While raising the suggestions or objections, full and name of the village should be informed.

# FOLLOWING PARTICIPANTS HAVE TAKEN PART IN THE DISCUSSIONS AND ANSWERS GIVEN BY PROJECT CONSULTANT/PROJECT PROPONENT/ENVIRONMENT PUBLIC HEARING COMMITTEE:-

1) Shri Bhaskar Ladku Dalvi, Residence - At Post - Pavani Pada, Gatesh BK, Tal - Wada, Dist - Palghar:-

Sr. No.	Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	We have been complaining against this project for many years. In the meantime, action has been initiated against the project. Many hearings have also been held. The area of Pavani Pada is completely polluted and waste water after mixing in bore wells and wells, totally polluted the water. The issue of water and agriculture is a big one. After complaining for many years, the pollution has not been	

2)	stopped. There is total pollution in that area.  If Project Proponent reiterates that this project is	
	ZLD — Zero Liquid Discharge, then who is responsible for this pollution, as there is no other company. The meetings were held several times at office of the Tahsildar. Several complaints were raised against the company regarding the pollution at Lokshahi Din. The big promises made by the Project Proponent are not implemented at all. Who is owner of this project? As per the Notification of the Gram Sabha, a resolution is passed on 15-06-2016 against the factory. After several requests, Project Management did nothing. As a punitive action against the project, power supply to the project was cut off.	
3)	Company should be in operation. It is not our	

intention to close the factory. But Owner of the company should come before the The dialogue villagers. should be held with Owner of the company and the villagers. But here private contractor of the company come forward instead of Owner. The Owner should discuss with the villagers regarding minimizing of the pollution and waste water management. Last many years, we are raising our complaints. During the rainy season, the situation is so bad that even if a coat is tied, the water does not stop. There was galvanizing company Kone village. They used to keep acid. If the acid is thrown here, it will go upto 400-500 meters. The wells and borewells which are inside the village, the the water will go into the well. Convener, Environment Public 4) In our Pawani Pada, there may be 3-4 bore wells. Project asked Hearing to clarify for not Proponent

Local people do not drink water from any well. Villagers do not use that water even for cooking food. This glavanizing is located company upstream of Pawani Pada and all the water goes down stream. No one has seriously considered this. Pawani Pada is a purely "Tribal Pada." The situation there is very serious. because the poor tribals there are going to die due to pollution. This has never been considered. This Wada Taluka is not declared and notified as Chemical Zone. The Chemical Zone is at Khanivali Area. The project should be totally shifted there. Hence Owner of the should Company come forward. should explain regarding pollution at Gram Sabha and to the villagers. resolutions Many have been passed against the company. Palghar district is a tribal dominated district and Pesa Act has been

discussing with the villagers and did not co-operate with the requests of the local people. Project Officer answered that this project is Private Limited Company, hence here there is no one owner. Here there are Board of Directors. There are 8-10 Board of Directors.

The Project Officer clarified rainwater flows time. Convener here asked to regarding clarification the Owner of the Project. Here Project Officer answered that there are three partners. One is Dr. Mehta, other is Disuza. At that time, Convener suggested partner a schedule a time to discuss with The the villagers. project officer agreed to it.

implemented here. According to the powers given to the village under Pesa Act. the the resolutions have been passed in the Gram Sabha. If the resolutions passed are not implemented, then it unfortunate for this is district.

5) The reports presented by Panchayat Samiti member Shri Amol Patil proved to be false. This is an open public hearing on environmental issues and accusations are being made. It should also be considered whether the workers in project permanent or contract. What is their future? Local should be given people employment. permanent This is our demand. anvone is asking funding, their names should We raised be given. questions on Democracy Day. We are holding the administration accountable. A committee should be

suggested Convener the project administration to give an answer as to whether or not the locals will be permanently Project employed. The Proponent said that demands made by Shri Dalvi have been properly presented. lt will be considered sympathetically. Some iobs are of special skill, for which only those persons should be employed. We will make local people permanent. But it is not possible to hire permanent that's people. where contract system comes in. We promise to provide permanent employment wherever possible

constituted pollution.	to	study	
			,

## 2) <u>Shri Parshuram Shankar Gotarne, Residence – Kone, Harne Pada, Tal – Wada, Dist – Palghar :-</u>

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	Our farm and houses are adjacent to this company. Two years ago, there was a problem of smell nuisance in the area, a complaint was made to the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. Thus, 80% of the smell nuisance has been solved. But still there is 20% trouble. There is no smell nuisance during the day. However, between 7-8 in the evening, the nuisance of smell (bad smell) occurs.	Public Hearing Committee

		project officials to give answers.
2)	contaminated water, I have submitted an application to the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and sought information. While complaining there, the issue of drinking water comes up. Because we drink the borewell water, there are farm ponds and a well belonging to it. The samples of these three types of water sources were collected by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and we received the report yesterday. In that water i.e. in all the three sources —	of the complaint raised by Shri Parashuram Gotarane. The concerned complainants are shareholders. As shown in the presentation, most of the expenditure to be spent on project expansion will be used for pollution control. The existing project is ZLD – i.e. Zero Liquid Discharge. MPCB doc collect the samples from our project from time to time. Our project is not involved in the said pollution. However, if there is any discrepancies in this, we are ready to remove all the errors. Environment Public
3)	Now it was complained last time that the rain water is not stopped, but to some extent the water seeps into	

	the ground and comes to our farm. Even today, on	
	actual inspection, there is a pit on the side of the pond,	
	the water is stagnant in it,	
	the black water is lying in	
	the pit. It should be	
-	inspected today only.  The same water percolate	
	in a nearby lake. For two	
	years, we put fish seed in	
	that pond, not a single fish comes from that pond.	
4)	We had complained to the	
	Tahsildar regarding the	
	third issue which is agriculture. There is no	
	inspection after the harvest.	
	After that there was an	
	inspection. At that time, a NIL report was given.	
5)	Our demand is that the	
	project should be carried	
	out, but I earnestly request this platform and the	
	Pollution Control Board that	
	the pollution which is	
	created, it must definitely be stopped. Because of the	
	salt water that I and we	
	drink today, dengue patient	
	is found there. We demand	
	that the inspection be	

carried out today only, so that we can realize it. However, I request the said company to take immediate action regarding health matters in the area.

#### 3) Shri Madhukar Pandurang Gotarane, Residence – Kone, Harane Pada, Tal – Wada, Dist – Palghar:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	I have submitted my written objection in the meeting just now. It is requested to do the neeful at the earliest.	promised that necessary

### 4) Shri Ranjan Raghunath Patil, Residence – Neroli Tal – Wada, Dist – Palghar :-

Sr.	Objection / Information /	Answers / Assurances given		
No.	Question	by Project Promoter /		
		Environmental Consultant /		
		Environmental Public		
		Hearing Committee as per discussion		

- 1) In the Presentation, Project Consultant informed about the expansion project. But it is not informed about Pollution Control System, Safety and Cleanliness at the existing plant which is in operation. The Environmental Consultant narrated some slides such a hurry that the local people did not understand them.
- 2) Whether the expansion is of Synthetic Organic Company or Synergia Pvt Ltd Company? Local people do not know whether it is an expansion of the existing company or setting up a new company. It is a fact that if pollution control norms are strictly enforced, no company will operate in Wada taluka. An Industrial Zone was declared and notified here in the year 2009, companies were set anywhere in this Wada taluka. The positive side of this is that the local people

got employment. So, it is not possible to close this working projects. However, all projects should strictly follow environmental norms. Farmers adjacent to the project expressed their grievances. So. their problems may have been ignored, but an industrial zone was declared notified here, so progress is seen here. The standard of living of the local people has also increased.

3) employment Even if generated in various projects, CSR funds should be utilized in this area only. Similarly, environmental regulations should be strictly enforced SO that local farmers are not harmed. Here the local expressed farmers their grievances, while at the same time demanding that should the project run smoothly.

The water table in the area 4) has gone down due to pumping of ground water for the project. For that, if the river water is directly the company's drawn. neighboring villages will get water and the water level will not go down. In this regard, instructions should be given to the said project Effluent should be stored in 5) RCC tanks so that it does not mix with rainwater in the fields. Because here the agriculture in Gates village is on the lower side of the project. It is open demand that the Project Administration be instructed to strictly follow the pollution allow and the norms expansion of the project.

#### 5) Shri Amol Damodar Patil, Member, Panchayat Samiti, Former Dy. Chairman:-

Sr.	Objection /	Information /	Ans	wers / Ass	urances give	en
No.	Question		by	Project	Promoter	1

		Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	The said company is in my constituency. However, it is necessary to present the obstacles of the people in the constituency. MPCB, Kalyan Office has given a certificate that the water in the said company is not potable.	
2)	According to the 2020 letter of the Panchayat Samiti, Health Department, they have agreed that there is a large amount of smell nuisance/odor in the project area. Adjacent to the company compound is the house of Shri . Parashuram Gotarane. The houses there are before the company and the company has come later. So, measures are taken regarding the problems caused by the company's neighboring residents.	

3)	Letter from District Collector, Palghar that there is a lot of pollution in the project area.	
4)	Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti's letter of the 2020 reveals that pollution was on a large scale. Many times the Project Proponent have not taken any measures regarding the pollution despite giving serious instructions by various government departments.	
5)	Gram Panayat Gatesh did not keep the distance of the project from village 500 meters or more. It is very important. The working project is adjacent to residential houses. There are Zilla Parishad schools and Anganwadis within the distance of 500 meters. They will be the first victim of pollution.	
6)	The river distance from the project is also less than one km. Although the Wada Taluka is declared and	

notified Industrial Zone, there is no Fire Bridage System. A few days ago, a person died due to boiler explosion in Konase village near Gate village. Who will be held responsible for such incidents? For that there is a need to have a Fire Bridage System in the area.

7) How will the Project Administration dispose the waste water? how will the generated in waste the project be disposed of, CSR funds have not been used in the villages in the area since the company came. into existence. Should the local people suffer from the project? However, these three questions should be answered

Convener asked the Project Proponent to clarify. Project Proponent. while replying about the waste water. explained that the said project is a Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) project and generated waste water treated in the project itself and reused in the project itself. He said that since there is less water in the area. it necessary for us to treat and recycle the waste water in the project itself.

He said that since there is less water in the castle, it is necessary for us to process and recycle the waste water in

project itself. Project the officials asserted that not even a single drop is being released from the project. Another issue is waste disposal. Hazardous solid waste from the project will be sent to an authorized recycler in Taloja. 48 lakhs has been shown for CSR fund. At this time, Shri Amol Patil stated that the Project Proponent should inform what they have done since start of the project. Project Proponent The suggested that a joint committee should be formed with the project promoters of the local people to spend the CSR funds and the policy can be decided as to how and where the CSR funds should be spent.

#### 6) Shri Naresh Aakare, Former Zilla Parishad Member :-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	There must have been mistakes in the past. But it is observed that many companies do not spend CSR funds. Local people are working here in many projects. Good job opportunities are provided. 2-5% people oppose the project. It cannot be denied that they are suffering. The Government Administration has to check the same. However, there have been visits and inspections of various people's representatives. Representatives of various parties have also visited. The manufacturing process of the companies has improved to a great extent. However, the Environment	

Committee should visit and Letters from inspect. various parties supporting the said project should be perused. If there are any suggestions for the project, they should be given. Many local leaders. public representatives expect something different from reputational companies. Industrial Wada Association Development has complaints about this. No one takes interest in agriculture in the area. If these companies close down, people have to move to Kalyan, Thane. A drain runs through the Wada, the smell of the entire Wada is spread in it. Taluka Black water is seen in many places in the area. It should be checked. 100 people are employed and there are other works and the trees well planted, if the are upper side of the borewell are getting bad water, the companies upto one k.m. should be checked.

## 7) <u>Shri Deepak Toluram Patil,Residence – Gatesh Khurd, Tal-Wada, Dist-Palghar :-</u>

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	I have been watching this company for the last 12 years. The company has expanded well. My only point is that Shri Dalvi has said that show the owner of the company. I have two nurseries. So here there is no disturbance / decomposition on plants and leaves. Those nurseries are in good conditions. I have bore well business. Water makes its way from anywhere. For one nursery, water is brought from Vaitrana river. The second nursery is on Borewell. Salts are present in underground soil. However, I request that permission be given to expand the said project.	

Convener appealed that here many female local residents are present. They may raise any suggestions, objections regarding the proposed project.

#### 8) Shri Manoj Mangesh Gotaraane, Residence - Gatesh,

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussion
1)	preference is given to local people. Shri Dhanaji Gotarane's son met with an accident. But now if he goes to work, it is informed to him that you will not be able to work. He has two children, works in the	Member here asked all the Participants to raise any suggetions, objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only. Project Officer informed that in view of security, the concerned person cannot be given the job. But justice will be given to the person concerned.

Tahsildar Wada Taluka appealed all the participants to raise any suggestions, objections of thee proposed project in environmental angle only. He remarked the points which have been raised earlier should not be repeated and if there are other issues, it can be raised. Sarpanch promised in the meeting to conduct the separate meeting for other issues.

Sarpanch promised in the meeting to conduct the separate meeting for other issues.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee all Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists and Company Officials and local people/participants who were present and informed that the company is in operation and planned for the expansion. The local people have raised many issues. Company has also made available the EIA. If the company does not fulfill the promises in future, Government Administration do initiate further action. He appealed all office bearers to make available the EIA report. Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee also directed to make available the Presentation. He further said that it is mandatory Project Proponent to implement the Environment Management Plan. He informed that this Committee is constituted to know the views, suggestions or objections of the local people for the proposed project and the Committee does not take any decision of the sanction of the project or rejection of the project or keeping the pendency of the project. The suggestions, objections raised during the meeting are noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting in English and in Marathi and will it be submitted alongwith Final EIA

and submitted through MPCB Head Office to Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department, Govt. of India, New An Expert Committee constituted will take further decision. If the company does not follow the promises, the District Administration can ask the Project Proponent, It is responsibility of the Project Proponent to follow the strict guidelines of CSR and CER funds. Also it is responsibility of the company to keep good and congenial relations with the local people. Chairman further remarked that it is necessary to the company to implement Skilled Development Programme for the local people. Here, Tahsildar and Prant Officer are directed to arrange a meeting of the local factories and orer them to give priority to the local people for job opportunities. Also it is responsibility of the company to implement Skilled Development Programme for the local people. Tahsildar and Prant Officer are directed for the same. Chairman further said that as Chairman of the Committee, he declared that the meeting is concluded.

The meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

The signed list of the participants is enclosed herewith as Annexure - "I." The 70 letters received for supporting the project are enclosed as <u>Annexure – "II"</u> and one objection is enclosed as <u>Annexure – "III."</u>

(Devidas Koparkar)

Convener
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
Sub Regional Officer,

Kalyan-3, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board Kalyan (Babasaheb Kukade)

Member Environment Public Hearing Committee

And
I/c Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution
Control Board
Kalyan

(Dilip Gutte)

Chairman

Environment Public Hearing Committee And

Additional District Magistrate, Palghar, Dist - Palghar