

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED 13 NOS OF SAND GHAT DREDGING IN SOLAPUR DISTRICT AT TALUKA – AKKALKOT, MOHOL, MANGALVEDHA, SOUTH SOLAPUR, MADHA & PANDHARPUR FOR OBTAINING ENVIRONMENT CLERANCE PROPOSED BY PROJECT PROPONENT DISTRICT MINING OFFICER, DISTRICT COLLECTOR OFFICE, SOLAPUR, MAHARASHTRA

The Environment Public Hearing for proposed 13 nos of Sand ghats Dredging in Solapur District at Taluka – Akkalkot, Mohol, Mangalvedha, South Solapur, Madha & Pandharpur for obtaining Environment Clearance proposed by Project Proponent District Mining Officer, District Collector Office, Solapur, Maharashtra was conducted on Friday, 02nd February, 2024 on 12.00 noon at Zillha Nirojan Bhavan, , Saat Rasta, Solapur. The 13 number of sand ghats are as follows: -

Sr.No	River	Name of Sand Ghat	Taluka	District	Gat No.	Area (Hector)
1)	Bhima	Khanapur	Akkalkot	Solapur	225 to 266	4.88
2)	Bhima	Kudal	Akkalkot	Solapur	72 to 90	4.50
3)	Bhima	Devi Kavathe	Akkalkot	Solapur	9, 8/B, 7/B, 6, 2	3.75
4)	Bhima	Miri Tandor	Mohol Mangalvedha	Solapur	Miri- 55 to 58, Tandor 203, 205, 207, 208, 209, 213, 214	4.45
5)	Bhima	Balgi	South Solapur	Solapur	1 to 25	3.18
6)	Bhima	Bhandarkavathe	South Solapur	Solapur	829, 791 to 797	4.20
7)	Bhima	Lavangi	South Solapur	Solapur	115, 148 & 157	2.29
8)	Bhima	Malegaon	Madha	Solapur	60, 61/b, 70 & 72,81, 88	1.63

9)	Bhima	Aalegaon (Kh.)	Madha	Solapur	92 to 97, 100 to 102, 104, 108, 109, 110, 113	4.83
10)	Bhima	Takli (TE)	Madha	Solapur	157, 160 to 165, 168 to 170, 175, 176, 180, 181, 185 to 190	4.75
11)	Bhima	Gar Akole	Madha	Solapur	38, 40 to 43, 47 to 49	4.72
12)	Bhima	Aavhe	Pandhar pur	Solapur	46 to 54, 56, 57, 59, 60, 61	3.78
13)	Bhima	Nandore	Pandhar pur	Solapur	187 to 189, 193 to 200, 77, 201, 202	3.36

Shri. Nikhil More, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and Member, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri. Kumar Ashirwad, IAS, District Collector & District Magistrate when he came in the meeting hall.

Shri. Nikhil More, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Solapur, Member, Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri. Kumar Ashirwad, District Magistrate, Solapur and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Resident Collector, Deputy Collector, Tahsildar, Sarpanch of all villages, Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists, Representative of media channels and local people/participants who were present and with permission of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee started the proceedings.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that as per the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (i.e. MoEF &

CC, GoI) dated 14th September, 2006 as amended on 1st December, 2009 and as per letter dated 03-12-2009 of Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mantralaya, Mumbai, the area less than five hectares have been categorized as minor mineral (sand group) within category B-1 have to obtain Environment Clearance (EC) from State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Environment & Climate Change Ministry, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai, for which it is mandatory to conduct prior public consultation to certain projects which are covered in the schedule of the said Notification.

Shri. Nikhil More, Member, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that Maharashtra Pollution Control Board was in receipt of proposal from Project Proponent District Mining Officer, District Collector Office, Solapur, District – Solapur to convene Environment Public Hearing Meeting to obtain Environment Clearance for auction of 13 sand ghats /belts at Akkalkot, Mohol, Mangalvedha, South Solapur, Madha and Pandharpur Talukas of Solapur District.

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.

After sanction from District Collector, Solapur to conduct the Physical Environment Public Hearing on Friday, the 02nd February, 2024 at 12.00 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 Committee vide Board's Office

Order No. E- 107 of 2024 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 240117
FTS- 0122 dated 17-01-2024 as under:-

1) District Magistrate-Solapur **Chairman**
or his representative not below
the rank of an Additional District
Magistrate

2) Representative of Maharashtra **Member**
Pollution Control Board, Mumbai -
Regional Officer – Pune,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Pune

3) Sub Regional Officer, **Convener**
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Solapur

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Solapur in the Local Newspaper in Daily Sanchar for Marathi and in daily Newspaper Daily Divya Marathi for English on 02nd January, 2024. 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 as under:-

- 1) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Zonal Office, Western- Central Zone, New Secretariat Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Line, Nagpur-440 001;
- 2) District Collector, Solapur;
- 3) General Manager, District Industries Center, Solapur;
- 4) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Solapur;
- 5) District Mining Officer, Collector Office, District – Solapur;
- 6) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office – Akkalkot, Taluka – Akkalkot, District – Solapur;
- 7) Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Akkalkot, Taluka – Akkalkot, District – Solapur;
- 8) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office – Mohol, Taluka – Mohol, District – Solapur;
- 9) Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Mohol, Taluka – Mohol, District – Solapur;
- 10) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office – Mangalvedha, Taluka - Mangalvedha, District – Solapur;
- 11) Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Mangalvedha, Taluka – Mangalvedha, District – Solapur;
- 12) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office – South Solapur, Taluka – South Solapur, District – Solapur;
- 13) Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, South Solapur, Taluka - South Solapur, District – Solapur;
- 14) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office – Madha, Taluka – Madha, District – Solapur;
- 15) Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Madha, Taluka – Madha, District – Solapur;

- १६) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office – Pandharpur, Taluka - Pandharpur, District – Solapur;
- 17) Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti - Pandharpur, Taluka–Pandharpur, District – Solapur;
- 18) Gram Panchayat offices related to - Mouje – Khanapur, Kudal, Devi Kavathe villages, Taluka – Akkalkot, District – Solapur;
- 19) Gram Panchayat offices related to – Mouje Miri, Taluka – Mohol, District – Solapur;
- 20) Gram Panchayat offices related to – Mouje Tandor, Taluka – Mangalvedha, District – Solapur;
- 21) Gram Panchayat offices related to – Mouje Balgi, Bhandarkavathe, Lavangi, Taluka – South Solapur, District – Solapur;
- 22) Gram Panchayat offices related to – Mouje Malegaon, Aalegaon (Kh), Takli (Te), Garakole, Taluka – Madha, District – Solapur;
- 23) Gram Panchayat offices related to – Mouje Aavhe, Nandore, Taluka – Pandharpur, District – Solapur;
- 24) Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building, 15th Floor, Mantralaya, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai – 400 032;
- 25) Joint Director (WPC), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Floor, Sion-Matunga Scheme Road No.8, Opp. Cine Planet Cinema, Near Sion Circle, Sion (East), Mumbai – 400 022;
- 26) Regional Officer, Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, 3rd & 4th Floor, Jog Center, Old Pune Mumbai Road, Wakadewadi, Pune – 411 003

- 27) Sub Regional Office-Solapur, B/4, Bali Building, Civil Lines, Opp. Government Milk Scheme, Sat Rasta, Solapur – 413 003;
- २८) Website of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai;

Convener informed that 02 suggestions/ objections have been received for the auction of the said sand ghats.

Convener informed that an opportunity is given to all participants to raise any doubts, suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle, which can be submitted by orally or in writing also.

Convener asserted that this Committee is only for recording public opinion, views, suggestions, objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only and the Committee has no right to approve, reject or recommend the project. The suggestions/objections raised by the participants in the public hearing will be noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting. Similarly, the revised Environmental Assessment Report of the Project Proponent and minutes of the meeting along with written suggestions/objections after approval of Chairman will be submitted through MPCB Head Office to the Environment & Climate Change Department, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai after taking note of the video recording of the said meeting, suggestions and objections recorded in the meeting. An Expert Committee there takes further decision regarding the same He requested Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to inform Project Proponent to start the presentation.

At the beginning of the meeting, Additional District Magistrate informed that the Project Proponent District Mining Officer, Collector's Office, Solapur could not attend this meeting due to some unavoidable reasons.

He said that, as per Government Resolution dated November 21, 2022 of the Department of Industry, Energy and Labour of Maharashtra Government and as per Maharashtra Government Decision dated April 19, 2023, a Comprehensive Policy regarding mining, storage and sale of sand and sand through online system has been prepared by the Maharashtra Government and according to this Comprehensive Policy in Maharashtra, if sand is to be mined at any place, sand cannot be mined without prior Environmental Clearance.

Also, as per the directives of Hon'ble Supreme Court, Hon'ble High Court and Hon. National Green Tribunal (NGT), it is mandatory to obtain Environmental Clearance (EC) and to implement Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and various directives as issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi from time to time. Excavation of sand, sand is not allowed without Environmental Clearance.

Additional District Magistrate said that for the sand auction to be held in Solapur district in the year 2023-24, according to the prescribed procedure laid down by the Government, before granting the Environmental clearance, the villagers and local people of the villages where the auction of sand and sand ghats are going to be held, an

important part of this process is to obtain environmental suggestions, objections, views regarding the auctions.

Accordingly, after the Technical Committee under the chairmanship of the Tahsildar, who proposes the sand ghats, submits a report to the sub-divisional committee, the sub-divisional office submits the report to the Collector. For sand auction, consent of those villages, approved resolution of Gram Panchayat is required. The Gram Sabha resolutions of all these thirteen villages have been received.

He said that the Environmental Consultant has submitted a report on the adoption of various measures to avoid any temporary and far-reaching impact on the river basin and environment where sand mining and auctioning is to be done.

This Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA) was published on NIC website of Solapur district for submission of claims, objections, suggestions. He directed Project Environmental Consultant to make a presentation on Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Environmental Management Plan.

With the permission of the Hon'ble Chairman, Project Environmental Consultant made a presentation about the project and the Environmental Management Plan.

Environmental Consultant said that all Gram Panchayat offices have submitted no objection certificates for the said sand auction. Reti ghat for sand mining shall remain for one year from the date of allotment.

At that time, Additional District Magistrate said that the period for excavation is after auction till June 10, Auctions will be held after obtaining Environmental Clearance (EC). Excavation is banned from 10th June.

Environmental Consultant said that the sand will be transported from the site to the stock yard by tractor trolley. Plantation of trees will be done along the banks of the river and along the traffic roads. Mobile toilets will be provided at the mine site for the labourers.

Similarly polythene bags, jute bags etc., waste material will not be allowed to be dumped in the river bed. This mining will not generate waste. Local/native species will be planted while developing the green belt. Government will get additional revenue (royalty) due to mining. Similarly, the mineral fund will increase due to income and it will be used for local development only. Ear mugs/plugs will be provided to avoid noise pollution to the workers.

This project will provide employment opportunities to the villagers. Similarly, the proposed project will hopefully contribute to the overall development of social infrastructure and the region.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that on behalf of Environment Public Hearing Committee, now opportunity is given to all participants to raise any suggestions, objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only. He said that it is already informed that this Committee is only for recording public opinion, views, suggestions, objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle only and the Committee has no right to approve, reject or recommend the project. The suggestions/objections raised by the

participants in the public hearing will be noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting. Similarly, the revised Environmental Assessment Report of the Project Proponent and minutes of the meeting alongwith written suggestions/objections after approval of Chairman will be submitted through MPCB Head Office to the Environment & Climate Change Department, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai after taking note of the video recording of the said meeting, suggestions and objections recorded in the meeting. An Expert Committee there takes further decision regarding the same.

Additional District Magistrate directed to take note of each sand ghat/belt as per the numbers.

Views, questions, suggestions/objections raised during the Environment Public Hearing and the answers/promises given by the Project Proponent/Project Consultant/Environment Public Hearing Committee :-

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that as Environment Public Hearing Committee given opportunity to all participants, it is appealed to raise suggestions/objections regarding the above referred project.

1) Shri. Saifan Patel, Sarpanch, Khanapur Grampanchayat, Taluka-Akkalkot, District – Solapur:-

Responsibility should be taken to ensure that village roads are not damaged, people should not suffer and sand should be dredged/lifted by using manual/human force only. Therefore, job opportunities should be available to the local people of the village.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed villagers, residents of Akkalkot Taluka to raise suggestions/objections

2) Shri. Sangamesh Pujari, Residence – Kudal, Taluka – Akkalkot, District – Solapur :-

We don't mind carrying of Sand ghat auction. But the previous experience is that the contractor does not follow any government directives. In fact, sand dredging is carried with the help of JCB machine instead of human/manual force . If anybody goes to tell them (contractor), they say that we work as per tender terms and conditions. However, if it is mandatory to follow the directives given in the meeting, then we do not have any objection.

Convener appealed villagers of Devikavathe, Taluka – Akkalkot and Miri Tandor, Taluka – Mohol Magalvedha, Balagi, Bhandarkavade, Taluka – South Solapur to raise any suggestion/objection regarding the proposed project.

3) Shri. Bhimashankar Kallappa Murlishawar, Sarpanch Bhandarkavade Gram Panchayat, Taluka – South Solapur, District – Solapur :-

We approve the auction of sand ghat. However, while transporting, the vehicle should not be allowed to carry the material more than its capacity.

Convener appealed villagers of Lavangi village, Taluka – South Solapur to raise their suggestions/objections regarding the proposed project.

4) Shri. Sangamesh Patil, Sarpanch, Lavangi Gram Panchayat, Taluka – South Solapur, District – Solapur :-

Sand dredging is essential.

Convener appealed villagers of Malegaon village, Taluka – Madha, Takle (Te), Gar Akole, Taluka – Madha to raise their suggestions/objections regarding the proposed project.

Convener appealed villagers of Aavhe, Nandore village, Taluka – Pandharpur to raise their suggestions/objections regarding the proposed project.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all to raise any suggestions, objections, views regarding the proposed project.

At that time, **Shri Saifan Patel, Sarpanch, Khanapur Gram Panchayat, Taluka – Akkalkot, District – Solapur** raised the objection that –

In 2014-15, 2015-16, the auction of Sand ghats/belts was held (tender). But the amount from the mineral funds to the Gram Panchayat from the Government have not yet been made available. Funds have not been made available for this despite repeated follow-ups. Hence, the requisite amount from the funds should be transferred to the Gram Panchayat immediately.

5) Shri. Sunanda Reddy, Environmentlist, Telangana:-

He requested Environment Public Hearing Committee to allow to speak.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed Shri Reddy to raise the points in brief.

Shri Reddy said that I am an Environmentalist. As per my opinion, river sand is a renewable mine. It is the world's renewable mine. Millions of liters of rain water enters the river every year. About 30 percent of sand accumulates in the river. Sand collection/excavation is an important aspect. I support that, because if you don't collect the sand, it will go into tanks, reservoirs. In India, roughly 2% of water-holding capacity is lost due to sand every year. Another thing is that filter sand is not taken in sand mining.

I am suggesting here that the questions in the public hearing are asked about water, air and land pollution. No drilling or blasting here.

Transportation here is very light components. No machinery is required for this.

Hence, I request Government of India to give exemption for conducting public hearing for sand mining process.

Sand mining is essential for society. As the use of sand is essential for government work, I request that the project be given permission at the earliest. While developing the green belt, plants of medicinal value and fruit bearing trees should be planted instead of common vegetation. It will be very useful to the society.

Also requests Project Proponent to form a Co-ordination Committee with the village representatives to spend the CSR funds with the villagers. Demand oriented work should be undertaken. This will give greater credibility to the District Mining Officers.

Rainwater harvesting system should be implemented and this point should be included in the EIA report. I request that the auction of sand ghats be allowed.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee suggested that even if it is not possible to reach the villagers on time due to some reasons, the process of public hearing meeting should continue for ten more minutes.

Additional District Magistrate said that those who wish to register written suggestions, objections, may submit the same by email to Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Solapur by 6.00 pm today. Similarly, you can also submit it by post also.

The said suggestions, objections will be submitted to the Government along with revised Environmental Impact Assessment report and minutes of the meeting. After waiting for ten minutes, it was noticed that no new person or group had come for the public hearing. Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee directed Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee to conclude the meeting.

While concluding the meeting, Member, Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that in today's public hearing meeting, the Committee has given enough time to the participants to present their suggestions, objections and view. He again appealed the participants to raise any suggestions, objections, views orally or even by writing also. There was no response from the participants.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that suggestions, objections raised during the meeting have been noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting. It will be submitted alongwith Revised EIA report and written objections, suggestions to Environment & Climate Change Ministry, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai with the approval of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee through Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. An Expert Committee at Environment & Climate Change Ministry, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai will take further decision.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee thanked all for attending the meeting and raised their views, opinions, suggestions or objections and on behalf of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee declared that the meeting is concluded.

Meeting ended extending thanks to the Chair.

Enclosed herewith 02 written suggestions / objections received during public hearing & copy of presentation given during the public hearing.



(Nikhil More)
Convener,
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
Sub Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control
Board,
Solapur



(Kumar Ashirwad)
Chairman,
Environment Public Hearing
Committee
And
Regional Officer,
District Magistrate Solapur,
District- Solapur