

Minutes of the Environmental Public Hearing in Respect of Proposed Establishment of Saidongar 1- Karjat PSP of Installed Capacity 3,000 MW (Saidongar 1) at Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad, Maharashtra By Project Proponent M/s Torrent PSH3 Private Limited Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad, Maharashtra State

The Environment Public Hearing in respect of Proposed Establishment of Saidongar 1- Karjat PSP Of Installed Capacity 3,000 MW (Saidongar 1) at Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad, Maharashtra By Project Proponent M/s Torrent PSH3 Private Limited Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad, Maharashtra State was held on Wednesday, the 03rd September, 2025 at 03.00 noon at Survey No.27, Near Gaurmata Temple, Village-Gaurkamat, Gram panchayat – Vadap, Taluka-Karjat, District- Raigad, Maharashtra.

Dr. (Mrs.) Rutuja Bhalerao, Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-II, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Bhavan, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai and Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee on behalf of District Collector Office, Raigad, Alibag and Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai welcomed Shri Sandesh Shirke, Additional District Magistrate, Raigad and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Shri Sanjay Bhosale, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee, Dr. Dhananjay Jadhav, Tahsildar-Karjat, Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad; Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists, Representatives of media channels, Police Administration and Company Officials 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 and amendment thereto, it is mandatory to conduct prior public consultation to certain projects which are covered in the schedule of the said Notification.

The convener informed that the aim of conducting prior public consultation is to make aware the local people regarding the environmental impacts of the proposed project, proposed pollution control systems and Environment Management Plan of the proposed expansion unit.

She informed that Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai was in receipt of application dated 05.07.2025 from Project Proponent M/s Torrent PSH3 Private Limited Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad, Maharashtra State to conduct Environment Public Hearing in respect of Proposed Establishment Of Saidongar 1-

Karjat PSP Of 3,000 MW (Saidongar 1) Installed Capacity at Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad, Maharashtra.

Convener further informed that as per EIA Notification No.1533 (E), Dated 14-09-2006 and as per Amended Notification, the proposed activities fall under Category "A" Sr.No. 1 (c) - ≥ 100 Megawatt Hydro Electric Power Generation which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi for which prior environmental public consultation is mandatory.

Project Proponent has submitted an online application dated 16.01.2025 to obtain Terms of Reference (ToR) and to prepare the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi and the Terms of References (TORs) are approved on 29-01-2025.

Meanwhile, the Project Proponent has appointed an Environmental Consultant who has obtained NABET approval as per the directives of the Government of India and have carried out the environmental assessment through the environmental consultant. A detailed environmental survey within a 10.0 km radius of the project site was carried out for all three seasons i.e. Before Monsoon – March 2025 to May 2025; After Monsoon – October 2024 to December 2024 and Winter Season – December 2023 to February 2024.

A draft of the project site and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report was prepared and submitted to study the potential impact/impacts on the environment due to the establishment of the proposed project.

Joint Director (Water Pollution Control), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai vide letter dated 17.07.2025 directed Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-II, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai – 400 614 to carry out the process of conducting environmental public hearing regarding the said project.

Afterwards, Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-II, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Bhavan, 6th Floor, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai – 400 614 vide letter dated 21.07.2025 requested Hon'ble District Collector, Raigad, Alibag to conduct Environment Public Hearing for the proposed activity.

Hon'ble District Collector, Raigad, Alibag vide letter dated 28.07.2025 directed to conduct Physical Environment Public Hearing on Wednesday, the 03rd of September 2025 at 03.00 noon at Survey No.27, Near Gaurmata Temple, Village-Gaurkamat, Grampanchayat – Vadap, Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad, Maharashtra. and after getting sanction from District Collector, Raigad, Alibag, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai as per the Notification No. S.O. 1533 dated 14-09-2006 and amendment thereto as issued by Ministry of Environment,

Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (MoEF & CC, GoI), New Delhi has constituted Environment Public Hearing Committee vide Board's Office Order No. E- 57 of 2025 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B- 250812- FTS- 0048, dated 12-08-2025 as under:-

- 1 District Magistrate-Raigad, Alibag or his -- Chairman
representative not below the rank of an Additional
District Magistrate
- 2 Regional Officer – Raigad,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad - Member
Bhavan, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai – 400 614
- 3 Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-II -- Convener
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Raigad Bhavan, CBD Belapur,
Navi Mumbai – 400 614

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-II, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad, Navi Mumbai in the local newspaper in daily Krushival & Lokmat for Marathi and in national newspaper daily Indian Express for English on 02-08-2025. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed project.

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) Hon. District Collector, Collector Office, Raigad, Alibag;
- 3) Hon. District Collector, Collector Office, Pune;
- 4) General Manager, District Industries Centre, Raigad, Alibag;
- 5) General Manager, District Industries Centre, Raigad, Pune;
- 6) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Raigad, Alibag;
- 7) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Raigad, Pune;
- 8) Sub Divisional Officer-Karjat, Sub Division-Karjat, Taluka-Karjat, Dist-Raigad;
- 9) Sub Divisional Officer-Khalapur, Taluka-Khalapur, Dist-Raigad;
- 10) Sub Divisional Officer-Maval, Taluka-Maval, Dist-Pune;
- 11) Hon. Police Supdt., Taluka-Alibag, Dist-Raigad;
- 12) Hon. Tahsildar, Tahsil Office-Maval, Taluka-Maval, Dist-Pune;
- 13) Hon. Tahsildar, Tahsil Office-Karjat, Taluka-Karjat;

- Dist-Raigad;
- 14) Hon. Tahsildar, Tahsil Office-Khalapur, Taluka-Khalapur, Dist-Raigad;
 - 15) Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti Office, Karjat, Taluka-Karjat, Dist-Raigad;
 - 16) Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti Office, Khalapur, Taluka-Khalapur, Dist-Raigad;
 - 17) Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti Office, Maval, Taluka-Maval, Dist-Pune;
 - 18) TALUKA-KARJAT:- Gramsevak/Gramvikas Adhikari, Grampanchayat Offices – Vadap, Potal, Pali via Khothal Khalati, Humgaon, Bhivpuri, Vajinath, Mandvane, Savale-Hedvali, Savale, Kashele, Mograj, Bhaliwadi, Kadav, Borivali, Pathraj, Pimpaloli, Wakas, Nasarapur, Mangaon, Asal, Chinchvali, Ukrul, Umroli, Vavloli, Kirvali, Halvali, Karjat City, Palasdari, Vedgaon, Tivre, Warai via Need, Gourkamat, Khandpe, Shirse, Beed BK, Kondivade;
 - 19) TALUKA -KHALAPUR- Gramsevak/Gramvikas Adhikari-Beed Khudra, Jamrung,
 - 20) TALUKA-MAVAL, GRAMPANCHAYAT OFFICES - Udhewadi, Khandashi, Shirde, Khand, Dahuli, Kambre N.M., Kusvali, Uksan, Govitri, Malegaon BK, Savla;
 - 21) Hon. Secretary, Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building, 15th Floor, Mantralaya, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai – 400 032;
 - 22) Member Secretary, 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;
 - 23) Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Bhavan, 6th Floor, Sector-11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400 614;
 - 24) Website, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board – Executive Summary of the Proposed Project is made available in Marathi and English;

Convener informed that suggestions / objections have been received from various notified offices/by hand/by post and 25 suggestions/ objections by email by Sub Regional Office, Raigad-II, MPCB, Navi Mumbai regarding the proposed project.

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 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 hearing. Similarly, the revised Environmental Assessment Report of the Project Proponent, written suggestions/objections and minutes of the hearing in Marathi and English after approval of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee will be submitted through MPCB Head Office to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi after taking note of the video recording of the said hearing, suggestions and objections recorded in the hearing. An Expert Committee there takes further decision regarding the same. She requested Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee to inform Project Proponent to start the presentation.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed all and informed that this Environment Public Hearing is arranged for Proposed Establishment of Saidongar 1-Karjat PSP of 3,000 MW (Saidongar-1 Karjat) installed Capacity at Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad, Maharashtra by Project Proponent M/s Torrent PSH3 Private Limited Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad, Maharashtra State.

Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing informed that Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi has granted Terms of Reference (ToR) to the concerned Project Proponent for the above proposed project. As per the directives, Project Proponent has appointed NABET accredited Environment Consultant. They have carried detailed survey and prepared a draft Environment Impact Assessment report as per the Appendix III of the EIA notification 2006 amended to date.

After approval from District Collector, Raigad, Alibag, this public hearing is arranged today (03.09.2025). 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 hearing. Similarly, the revised Environment impact Assessment Report (say "EIA") of the Project Proponent, written suggestions/objections and minutes of the hearing in Marathi and English after approval of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee will be submitted through MPCB Head Office to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi after taking note of the video recording, suggestions and objections recorded in the hearing. An Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of MoEF&CC, New Delhi takes further decision regarding the same.

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

Project Proponent said that keeping in view the increasing demand for electricity in the state and the country, the project promoters have planned to set up the proposed Saidongar-1-Karjat Udanchan Hydroelectric Project (3,000 MW).

Company has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Water Resources Department of the Government of Maharashtra on 03-09-2024 for the construction of the said project. The project will have a top reservoir and a bottom reservoir.

In this project, 23.0 million cubic meters of water is proposed to be used in both the reservoirs in a circular manner for non-consumptive water use. For this project, 233 hectares of forest land will be allotted with the permission of the Forest Department.

While Project Proponent was providing information about the proposed project and its Environmental Management Plan (EMP), group of local people came before the dais of Environmental Public Hearing Committee and started raising objections collectively, stating that –

1) Shri Sudhakar Ghare, Karjat Rashatravdi-Ajit Pawar Group, Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad:-

On behalf of farmers, I am making a plea that we do not want to hear the presentation about the proposed project. This project is proposed in our Karjat, we would have welcomed this project, as this is in our Karjat, but information related to land acquisition has not been made available to local farmers such as exact location of the project that is gat numbers/survey numbers, which farmers' lands will be acquired, and how many farmers will be affected..

As per the rules, the Government Gazette has not been published in this regard. Similarly, this proposed project does not even have permission from Forest Department of Government of Maharashtra. If permission for land acquisition is not granted, then it is not appropriate to hold a public hearing on environmental issues. Hence, we are opposing the conduct of this environmental public hearing.

We will continue our opposition to this public hearing until Project Proponent publishes a land detail in official Gazette stating survey number of land to be acquired and provides prior information regarding how much compensation will be paid and its disbursement mechanism.

Shri Sudhakar Ghare, said that we have submitted our written objections. We are not against the development provided farmers are paid compensation as per the prevailing

market rate. He further said that the proposed project has not been taken prior permission from the affected Gram Panchayats. The Sarpanch & members of Gram Panchayats are also present in the public hearing.

The Public hearing of the project is organized in the Gaurkamat / Vadap Gram Panchayat which is not affected by the proposed project. Mainly, no part of the project falls within this Gram Panchayat.

We once again reiterate that the villagers are not aware of the survey number in which the project will be established, therefore, we request SRO, Raigad and Additional District Collector to adjourn the public hearing for time being.

Mr. Ghare once again reiterated that the project is going to be built in Saidongar village but the public hearing on environmental issues is organized in Gaurkamat Gram Panchayat area.

The locals' people are not aware of the land acquisition details for the project. Moreover, the proposed project does not have prior permission from the Forest Department. Also, there is no government gazette notification regarding the survey number to be acquired for the proposed project.

The Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee (RDC) asked the representative of project proponent to provide clarification on this matter.

The representative of the project proponent informed that the presentation is about the proposed project which provides detailed information about the location, type, land area requirement, technical details environment impact and its mitigation measures along with management plan.

Here, Shri Sudhakar Ghare further objected that until our farmers are fully informed about this project, on which gat number and plot it will be built, a Government Notification is published, how much it will cost, and the local farmers agree to it, we will not allow this project to commission. Therefore, I am requesting with folded hands that this public hearing be stopped immediately, and this Environment Public Hearing be immediately adjourned.

For this, a few days should be taken to make the farmers in the villages aware of the project, providing them with all the information regarding the plot, gat number and its remuneration. You will be welcome in the village. However, the public hearing process of today should be stopped.

According to the information received, the project proponent is going to close certain public roads. It was stated that Road No. 55 is planned to be closed. Hence, complete information regarding this should be provided to the local residents as per applicable

regulations. They demanded that there should be no public hearing today. They also asked participants about the non-public hearing, and all participants supported it.

Project Proponent while clarifying, informed, that whatever information that is fully available is being provided here. Further decisions will be taken in consultation with local farmers, local people, public representatives, and Local Bodies, taking everyone into confidence, as needed in the future. As this public hearing's is related to environmental and forest, all the information about it is being shared with the participants. The layout plan of the proposed project is being made available here.

If participants desire to view the slides again, then all the information will be provided again. However, it is a humble request to all participants to listen to the entire presentation.

Shri Sudhakar Ghare raised the objection that as local farmers do not know where the project will be commissioned, how much land will be acquired, on which gat number of land it will be built, how many farmers will be affected and amount of compensation, then what is use of conducting this Environment Public Hearing?

2) Advocate Yogesh Deshmukh

He objected that the public hearing notice published in the newspaper for the information of the public regarding Environmental Public Hearing has given information about the conducting of a public hearing on the environment at S.N. 27, Village-Gaurkamat, Gram Panchayat-Gaurkamat. Here, how does S.No.27 come? Is there S.No.27 at Gaurkamat? Is this information sought by Project Proponent? Because there is no Survey number 27 at Gaurkamat where this public hearing is called.

Project Proponent may be citing the old survey number. This public hearing is being held on the plot of Forest Department. Hearing is called in front of Reserved Plot for cattle grazing (Land reserved for cattle grazing) of Gourkamat Gram panchayat. Project Proponent has not even applied to the Gram Panchayat for project approval. Hence, Project Proponent should first ascertain the true circumstances here and only then hold a public hearing on the environmental issue.

Shri Ghare objected again that Tahsildar of Karjat Taluka is present in this hearing. How could he have given permission without getting basic information? It was right for the Tehsildar to organize a hearing of all the villagers and Representatives of People of all parties and provide information.

It was necessary to organize a hearing for all the local Gram Panchayat Members and local leaders of all parties and take them into confidence first. If the Tehsildar is going to do such a wrong thing, then we all will sit on a hunger strike at the Taluka office.

3) Smt. Usha Dhakol, Gram panchayat Member (Former Dy. Sarpanch), Vadap Grampanchayat, Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad

The project is going to be commissioned in Dhak Gram Panchayat area. Three generations of us have been living here in Dhak village. None of the objectors live here in Dhak village. So why do these objectors here raising objections? If a project is developed in Dhak village, the entire Dhak village will support the project. There is no road in our village, so many people left the village to live elsewhere. Then why didn't the objectors give up their land for the road?

We are in support of the proposed project. The entire Vadap Gram Panchayat is in support of the project. Those who objected to the project and gave speeches should tell us how much of their land is in the Dhak Gram Panchayat area.

No party politics should be brought here. Those who have neither land in Dhak area nor residents of Dhak village should not speak here. They should sit on seats in the pavilion. They should not create confusion among the people.

Smt Usha Dhakol stated that a project is being built in Dhak and we want it. This project will lead to our development and we are in favor of the project.

At that time, some local people were raising objections collectively, saying that if there is a project on Saidongar, then why is this public hearing held in the Gaurkamat Gram Panchayat area, which is 16 km away from here.

At that time, Smt. Usha Dhakol, Gram Panchayat Member, (Former Dy. Sarpanch), Vadap Gram Panchayat, expressed the opinion that the objectors had not given us a place to live within their Gram Panchayat limits. Therefore, they should not object to the project, whole Vadap Gram Panchayats want the proposed project. The project will be commissioned in Dhak itself.

4) One Participant

He said that due to this proposed project, Aambot, Kothal, Pali, Potal and Bhaliwadi villages will be affected. We are farmers of these village. Our voices should also be heard. We have asked Sudhakar Bhau Ghare to present our case on behalf of all the farmers. He is speaking on behalf of all the affected farmers, not on behalf of any village. The information about the said project should be made available to all the local farmers by the Government, i.e. through the Tehsildars. We don't want the details of the project from the project proponent.

We are farmers and cultivating agricultural lands for generations. We will be affected; therefore we have asked Sudhakar Bhau Ghare to take the initiative on our behalf.

5) Shri Dilip Shrikande, Rashatrawati Taluka President, village-Potal, Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad:-

On behalf of Potal, Aambot and Bhaliwade villagers, we give our suggestions that we do not want to oppose this project. If there is a project without asking the farmers or taking any prior permission, then what is the purpose of holding this environment public hearing? Therefore, this Environment Public Hearing should be called again at project affected villages. We will raise our objections there. There is no use of conducting public hearing here.

6) Present Dy. Sarpanch, Resident of Ambad village of Potal Village: -

I am a farmer, and my land is going to be acquired for this project. I request that, all the local farmers have come here to register our suggestions, complaints and objections. All wise citizens are present here. Every farmer will get a golden opportunity to speak here. However, one person should not be given priority over another until he finishes speaking. Administration will be responsible for any chaos that occurs here.

Also, the name of the project here is "Saidongar" followed by "Plus Dhak". Since ten-day Ganpati festival is underway, many villagers could not attend this hearing.

Hence, this public hearing should be called again at Kothal via Pali, Potal. It will be dependent on the circumstances whether to approve the project or not at that hearing, as well as whether to co-operate or not with the project.

7) One participant from the Group

He reiterated that it is mentioned that this project is being proposed at Potal and Saidongar village. Therefore, the question of whether others should approve it or not does not arise here. We have asked Ghare Saheb to present our case on our behalf.

As per the directives of the Chairman, the Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee, it is clarified that this is the Saidongar-1 project, maximum people within a radius of 10 km from the project site should be able to participate in this public hearing, hence this location has been chosen for the hearing considering the proximity of the road and the availability of transportation facilities. Further to inform that proposed project area extends from the mountain to the foothills. There are no roads or vehicles to reach the mountain, so this location has been considered for the hearing.

She appealed all participants that suggestions, views or objections related to environment only shall be raised in respect of proposed project. Also written suggestions/objections can also be submitted. It will be sent along with the minutes of the hearing to Central Government for further decision regarding the Environmental Clearance, as per the requirement of EIA notification 2006 amended to date.

Convener further said that as informed earlier and now by Hon'ble Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee, this Committee does not approve, reject, or recommend the proposed project. Suggestions, views or objections raised during the hearing are noted and it will be included in the minutes of hearing. Written suggestions/objections will be sent along with minutes of the hearing to Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Govt. of India, New Delhi. An Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) there will take further decision related to the recommendation of the project.

8) Local People Group of Farmers

They submitted a written suggestion to Tehsildar on behalf of Potal Pali Gram panchayats and Bhaliwadi and Aambot Gram panchayats. Our demand is that we do not want to oppose the project. It has nothing to do with inviting us as farmers here and keeping our Gram Panchayats aside. This public hearing should be called at five project affected villages. We will raise our suggestions or objections there. Also, Shri Sudhakar Ghare is our Leader, and we support him.

9) Shri Adarsh, Potal Pali Grampanchayat

We do not agree that Environmental Public Hearing is conducted here. However, this hearing should be organized at Potal Pali.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that proposed project area extends from the mountain to the foothills. There are no roads or vehicles to reach the mountain, so this location has been planned for the hearing.

10) Shri Sudhakar Ghare, Karjat Rashatravadi -Ajit Pawar Group, Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad:-

While registering the objection, he said that the first gazette should be made available regarding where this project starts and ends. We are not against the development or the project. However, complete information regarding the survey number/gat number and consideration of the plot to be acquired for the project should be provided.

Here, Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee clarified that public hearing for the proposed project is not conducted individually or in person. As per Environment Impact Assessment Notification 2006 of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, it is mandatory to obtain prior Environmental Clearance (EC) for some notified projects while setting up or expanding the project.

Accordingly, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, New Delhi has granted Terms of Reference (ToR) to the proposed

project and directed to carry environmental Baseline survey within a radius of 10 km from the proposed project location to study the present status of the environment and the potential impacts of the proposed project in the area.

As per the directives, Project Proponent has appointed NABET approved Environment Consultant and Environment Consultant has conducted baseline survey in all seasons and prepared a draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)/Environment Management Plan (EMP) report.

Project Proponent has applied to Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai to arrange Environment Public Hearing for obtaining Environment Clearance. After getting approval from District Collector, Raigad, Alibag this public hearing is organized.

Chairman of the Committee informed that this Committee does not sanction the project, does not reject the project or does not recommend the project. Suggestions/Objections raised during the hearing by the local people are noted and included in the minutes of the hearing and final EIA is also prepared as per suggestions/objections. All the documents are submitted to Central Government. An Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) there takes further decision. This Environment Public Hearing is to note the suggestions/objections of people of project affected gram panchayat area. Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all participants to understand the process.

It is mandatory to obtain Environmental Clearance (EC) while starting a project and if environmental clearance is not obtained, the project will not start. If the project is approved, then only land acquisition process will begin. All the participants should take note of this.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed to all participants to raise suggestions or objections one by one, so it can be noted. While raising suggestions, inform their name and name of the village prior to raise environmental suggestions/objections regarding the proposed project.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed Project Proponent to start the presentation again.

Here, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee again informed all participants that this Committee has no right to sanction, reject or recommend the project. Suggestions or Objections are noted raised during the hearing in respect of proposed project. It is included in the minutes of the hearing and Final EIA is prepared which is submitted to Govt. of India. Participants can also submit written suggestions/objections.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee again informed all participants to submit their written suggestions/objections if any. Receipt will be given accordingly. Also, after presentation of Project Proponent regarding Environment Management Plan-EMP, suggestions/objections if any can be raised. Chairman of the Committee directed Project Proponent to explain overall outline of the project.

Here, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee explained all participants that this project is Private Project. Therefore, the project will not be allowed unless Environmental Clearance (EC) is obtained. Without it, land acquisition for the project cannot be done.

Shri Ghare informed that the Railway Gazette has been prepared. Tahsildar must be aware of it. The Gazette of a thousand acres of land has been prepared. But there is acquisition of 200-250 acres.

If this project desires to acquire land in ten surrounding villages, we suggest that you first publish a Notification. Mention gat number/survey number of land which will be acquired, how much land will be acquired, it should be published, discuss with local farmers, gain their trust, and offer to buy the land at market price.

However, if Project Proponent oppresses and mislead the farmers, it will not work here, give farmers the market price, the farmers here will willingly give their plots to you. Farmers will support you.

However, if an attempt is made to impose the project without informing the local people about it, the people of Karjat will not tolerate it at all. Local farmers and local people request that you organize this Environment Public Hearing again in a month, we will help you.

However, a Gazette Notification should be issued stating how much land each farmer will be acquired. Only then, this public hearing be held again. Now this process is being implemented in the wrong way. There is no prior notice of land acquisition. We have come to know that project officials have started purchasing INR 20-25 lakh rupees acres in Dhak village. Now what will the farmer get for that 20-25 lakh rupees? Today, five times the market rate should be paid to each farmer. It means that farmers should get one and a half to two crores. Now, without any commissioning activities, companies are buying land from gullible farmers for 20-25 lakhs. I have 7/12 (sat bara) extract of those farmers.

Here, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that we cannot restrict private purchases.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee reiterated to all the participants that if public hearing process is complete, it doesn't mean that everything is over.

Shri Ghare remarked that if public hearing is completed, it means that Project Proponent has succeeded in going one step further. The farmers here are poor and naive. Tribal communities live here, and the company is luring them and taking their land.

11) One Participant-

He shouted that railway has published public notice in the paper while acquiring land.

At that time, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that Government cannot look into the purchase of land from a private company, but if the government acquires land, then all procedures are followed in this regard. Also, if Government has a matter of land acquisition, all the government's rules and regulations regarding the compensation for the plot are followed.

Here, Shri Ghare said that this is our demand that Government should do the land acquisition. People should get money. It should be tax-free.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that this is environmental public hearing and is intended to solicit suggestions and objections after the presentation of the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the proposed project.

Shri Ghare said that the proposed project does not have the permission of any Gram Panchayat. Mrs. Usha Dhakal, Member, Gram Panchayat Vadap remarked that the Dhak Gram Panchayat has approved the resolution to provide land for the project.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee here again appealed all that while raising suggestions/objections, first inform name and village name.

12) Shri Aatmaram Gaikwad, Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad

My wife is a Gram Panchayat member. Now her elder sister said that there is permission from Vadap Gram Panchayat. So, for the resolution of the Gram Sabha, a Special Gram Panchayat hearing is mandatory. But here, this matter has been kept before adjourned Gram Sabha. This topic was not on the agenda of the hearing. This topic was raised in the adjourned Gram Sabha. Therefore, this resolution is illegal.

Shri Ghare informed that he planned to file a petition in the Court of Law to challenge the illegal resolution.

Here, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee explained that the issue of whether the Gram Sabha resolution is illegal is not the subject of this hearing. Those who want to raise the matter, can go to respective authorities. This hearing is an Environment Public Hearing for the local people to raise their suggestions/objections

regarding the proposed project on an environmental angle only. Suggestions/Objections raised during the hearing are noted in the minutes of hearing and it is submitted to Central Government; this is main purpose of this hearing. No decision is taken here. Hence, it is requested to raise your suggestions/objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee here appealed all to register environmental suggestions/objections peacefully. Apart from that, if there are any written suggestions or objections, it should be submitted.

13) Shri Sunil Kumbhar, Residence-Pali, District- Raigad:-

I am a resident of Saidongar Pali. This is an environmental public hearing. The area where this proposed project is to be set up has been declared as an "Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)". So how will this project be set up in ESZ?

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee here informed that this report will be submitted along with minutes of the hearing to the MoEF&CC, Govt. of India. Therefore, MoEF&CC will take a decision in this effect.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee here reiterated that this public hearing is to record such suggestions and objections.

14) Shri Nilesh Bhagwan Mhasne, Karjat Taluka, Secretary, BJP:-

Local people present here have presented the factual situation. Today, the farmers of Potal, Ambot Pali villages are unaware of it. Although we welcome the project, the farmers and local people do not know whose land, i.e. the gat number/survey number will be acquired. So, as Sudhakar bhau Ghare said here, the Gazette should be published immediately to indicate whose land, i.e. Gat number/survey number, will be acquired for the project. Also, farmers should be paid the price as per the government guidelines. It shall be five times or more than the market price.

Project Proponents have not even taken the Gram Panchayats into confidence for this project. My wife is a Gram Panchayat member. They have not even been considered. The work on this project is going on keeping the farmers in the dark. On behalf of the villages of Ambot, Potal, and Pali, I am totally opposing this project.

15) Shri Pankaj Jadhav, Shiv Sena Party, Gour Kamat, Village, Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad

Some local people and public representatives have misunderstood the proposed project. Farmers should get the land acquisition price as per their demand. Moreover, one person from the family of the farmer whose land will be acquired for the project

must get an employment opportunity in the project. 80% social work and 20% politics is the aim of Shiv Sainiks.

16) Advocate Gopal Shelke, Residenc-Karjat, District-Raigad:-

I have seen it all in this land acquisition issues. I have participated in many people's struggles. Farmers co-operate after getting the price they desire. First four numbers of the notice are sent to the landowners. As per the Land Acquisition Act, 2013, five times land acquisition compensation should be paid.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee here again appealed all that this hearing is not for land acquisition subject. It is Environment Public Hearing hence, here suggestions, views or objections in respect of proposed project on an environmental angle should be raised. Further to inform you that if public hearing process is complete, it does not mean that everything is completed. Central Government takes further decisions regarding the proposed project.

Hence, participants are requested to inform name and village name while raising suggestions or objections. It will be included in the minutes of hearing, and the report will be submitted to Central Government.

17) Advocate Hrishikesh Joshi, Karjat, District- Raigad, State Level Member, BJP Worker

Permission has been granted for this project. Funds might have been made available for it.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee here clarified that this project has not been given permission.

He informed that as per Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 amended to date passed by the MoEF&CC, Gol, New Delhi it is mandatory to obtain prior Environmental Clearance (EC) for some notified projects while setting up or expanding the project.

Project Proponents have applied to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi for obtaining a TOR for the proposed project under the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006,

Accordingly, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC), Government of India, New Delhi has granted (TOR-Terms of Reference) to the proposed project and directed to carry environmental survey within a radius of 10 km from the proposed project location to study the present status of the environment and the potential impacts of the proposed project in the area.

As per the directives, Project Proponent has appointed NABET approved Environment Consultant and Environment Consultant has carried survey in all seasons and prepared a draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) report.

Project Proponent has submitted an application to Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai to arrange Environment Public Hearing for obtaining Environment Clearance. After getting approval from District Collector, Raigad, Alibag this public is arranged.

Chairman of the Committee informed that this Committee does not sanction the project, does not reject the project or does not recommend the project. Suggestions/Objections raised during the hearing by the local people are noted and included in the minutes of the hearing and final EIA is also prepared as per suggestions/objections. All the documents are submitted to Central Government. An Expert Committee there takes further decision.

After getting Environmental Clearance from Central Government, Environmental Impact Assessment report of the project is prepared and then only further decision regarding land acquisition is to be taken.

Shri Joshi further asked that if permission has not been given yet, then why godown arrangement is being done there to store the trees after they are cut? Land survey has already been conducted about timber. This is a deception of farmers.

The executive summary report of the project is ready. It states that the proposed project falls within the "Western Ghats Eco-Sensitive Area". Of this, 233 hectares are forest land, where only shrubs, grasses, and a dominant community are there.

If there are only bushes/shrubs, then where are the trees? Considering that the report has submitted false information, I will file FIR (First Information Report). This project is planned to establish in a "Heavy Density Forest Area".

The State Animal of Maharashtra, "Shekaru", is found here. It is an extinct animal not only in India but also in the world. It is a very rare animal. Bhimashankar Sanctuary is just 10-15 km away. The striped tiger is extinct from this Karjat forest.

According to the Constitution of India, it is mandatory to have 27% forest in Maharashtra. The forest area in the state of Maharashtra has reached 21%. And here, for the project, trees will be cut down in 233.0 hectares of forest area.

If the Maharashtra government is trying to increase the forest area, then by cutting down trees in 233 hectares of dense forest area, then when the trees will grow bigger. How will people get oxygen to breathe? Similarly, the livelihood of the tribal communities who go and live in the forest areas will be destroyed. However, the report notes that -

The forest area of the proposed project includes animals such as Indian Ciyar, Indian jackal/fox; Indian wolf; wild cat; leopard; Indian Porcupine; Sloth Bear; Bonnet Macaque/monkey, Greta langur; Asian Palm Civet/Squirrels; Small Indian Civet/Squirrels; four-horned deer; sambar deer, and Indian pangolin.

According to the EIA report, the above animals are here, which live in the forest area. However, the report states that there are bushes/shrubs and grass here. Also, in the list of these animals, mention of Shekaru animal is purposefully avoided.

According to my information, there are over 400 species of birds. Fifty different types of snakes exist here. Twenty-five types of snakes are found in earlier Karjat Tehsildar office. It is not mentioned in the report.

Project Proponent are going to destroy large area of forest for the proposed project. There is no information regarding compensation replacement for destruction of forest in the EIA report. This project will affect forest and poor people in Karjat. A similar project was built here by the Tata company 150 years ago. Its water is provided to farmers through the Irrigation Department. The electricity generated by Tata's project has never been available to the citizens of Karjat.

We will not allow the proposed Torrent project to be implemented in Karjat area. But if it is, whether Karjatkaras will get electricity? Moreover, we have the right to get electricity and water free of cost.

However, in any case, this project will destroy the forest resources, habitat for the animals, and common property resources of the tribal communities there, and if land would have been acquired by defrauding poor farmers, first, I am demanding that a case be registered against those who prepared the Environmental Impact Assessment Report of the proposed project.

Shri Joshi said that Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee is Executive Magistrate. Hence, do not wait till citizens have to file complaint. Executive Magistrate should initiate suo-motuo action against the Environment Consultant of the project.

Also, in which newspaper are the public notices published regarding the public hearing on the environment? Because I also received information about the public hearing on the environment two hours ago today.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee to inform in which newspaper public notice for Environment Public Hearing was published?

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that though as per Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, it is mandatory to publish 30 days' in advance environment public hearing notice in one local newspaper for local language (here Marathi) and one national newspaper for English, Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-2, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Bhavan, Navi Mumbai has published environment public hearing notice in two local newspapers for local language (here Marathi) i.e. Daily Krushival and Daily Lokmat and one national newspaper Infor English on 2nd August 2025.

Also, as per Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, Executive Summary was made available in English and Marathi for the information and study of public at various notified government offices and project affected gram panchayat offices. Executive summary was also made available on website of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai.

Here, Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee remarked that we have to hear the proposed project as a prime facie case.

Shri Joshi objected that if the project is not approved, then how large numbers of heavy machinery have been brought there? He appealed to the local farmers to take photos of heavy machinery and publish it. They will raise public movement against this company. At that time, many farmers said that the machinery are taken to the mountains.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed to raise all suggestions /objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle only. It will included in the minutes of the hearing and will be submitted to Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi. An Expert Committee will take further decision. Hence raise suggestions/objections if any.

Advocate Joshi further objected that if the project does not have Environment Clearance, then how Divisional Forest Officer has issued Sustainable Certificate for plantation on non-forest land as compensation for cutting for of trees for the project. Hence, my objection is this project might have been sanctioned by the Competent Authority and public hearing is organized as a farse/drama to mislead the public.

Shri Joshi appealed Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee that as he is Executive Magistrate, you can file FIR against the company.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee clarified that suggestions/objections in respect of proposed project in environmental angle can be raised. It will be noted. But the issue of tree plantation on non-forest land falls under the purview of the Forest Department. Also, as per Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, individual FIRs are not expected to be issued. Hence, it is informed

to look into the Law in this regard. However, you should show the provision of issuance of individual notice in this regard.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi has granted Terms of Reference (ToR). Afterwards, Project Proponent followed all and prepared Environment Impact Assessment report. Thereafter Project Proponent has submitted an application to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to conduct an Environment Public Hearing. District Collector, Raigad, Alibag only given permission to conduct Environment Public Hearing. After approval, MPCB has constituted an Environment Public Hearing Committee. This Committee only records the suggestions/objections if any in respect of proposed project in environmental angle and it is noted in the minutes of the hearing. It is submitted to Central Government.

There is a project worth Rs 13,000 crore and the public hearing notice is published in only three papers, which is not largely circulated papers in this area. The Doctrine of Notice has been violated.

Shri Joshi objected that if 233 hectares of forest department land is going to be diverted for use of the project, why Competent officers of the Forest Department not called to the hearing?

Here, according to the Doctrine of Notice, farmers were required to give advance notice of this hearing. Hence, you should postpone this public hearing and re-organize the public hearing. We will attend the hearing in large numbers and register suggestions and objections.

Convener further informed that with the publication of environment public hearing in newspaper, 48 Project Affected villages, Zila Parishad, Sub Divisional Offices, District Collector Offices as well as on website of MPCB, Executive Summary in Marathi and English were made available.

Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee clarified that as per EIA Notification, 2006, though it is mandatory to publish 30 days' in advance environment public hearing notice in one local newspaper for local language (here Marathi) and one national newspaper for English. Here, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has published public notice of Environment Public Hearing in two local newspapers. The aim of the public hearing is Environmental suggestions and objections regarding the proposed project should be raised by the local people, which are recorded in a report and submitted to Central Government.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked Shri Joshi to issue Personal Notice to Chairman of Environment Public Hearing Committee.

At that time, Convener, Environmental Public Hearing Committee informed Shri Joshi to personally submit his suggestions and objections to the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, as well as the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee clarified that after granting of ToR (Terms of Reference), it is mandatory to Project Proponent to carry environmental baseline survey in radius of 10 km through NABET approved Environment Consultant.

This Committee is constituted to take note of suggestions, objections of the local people, include it in the minutes of the hearing and submit it to Central Government. Just because a public environmental hearing was held does not mean that the project has been approved.

18) Shri Amit Marathe, Residence-Jambhivali, Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad:-

Today's public hearing is about the environment. So, I want to ask the company two questions. The first question is to provide information about both the submerged area and the affected area due to project.

Here, Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee informed to raise their suggestions, objections.

Shri Marathe suggested that first information about the submerged area and the affected area should be provided. He further said that as per Madhavrao Gadgil's report, Environment Committee should be aware of the sensitive area of the Western Ghats.

Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee informed that the minutes of this hearing will be submitted to the MoEF&CC, GoI, New Delhi, which declared the Western Ghats Eco-Sensitive Area Notification. Therefore, you should raise your suggestions and objections.

While giving suggestions, Shri Marathe said that as presented by Advocate Joshi in the hearing, there are dense forests, rare plant species, and rare animals in the Western Ghats. Now the vulture is a bird that is on the verge of extinction. Also, as suggested by Advocate Joshi in the hearing, the company administration should go to the forest with the local villagers.

There are types of Deorai, Amrai here, but even in 2025, sunlight does not reach the ground due to dense trees. The company's report says that there is no dense forest here.

Government encourages tree plantation every time. The project will be built on 233 hectares of forest land. Earlier Dabhol Power, formerly Enron, had a project of 750MW. Here the company has a proposed project of 3,000 MW.

While constructing the proposed 3,000 MW project, the company has not given detailed information about the submerged area and the affected area anywhere in the report. Farmers do not know whether their area is in the submerged area or the affected area.

Shri Marathe suggested that we should form a Core Committee on the issues raised by Advocate Joshi in this hearing. The Core Committee will cross-check the reports available from the Project Proponent. Because the report submitted by Project Proponent or their Environmental Consultant is completely wrong. According to the objections raised by Advocate Joshi, it was necessary for the forest department officials to be present here. The report also states that Bhima-Shankar Sanctuary is just 16 km away.

Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee informed to raise points which will be included in the minutes of the hearing. This report will be submitted to the Department of Environment and Forests, Government of India. There are experts and scholars in the forest sector there. However, you should only raise environmental issues.

Shri Marathe said that Bhima-Shankar Sanctuary is just 16 km from the project. Wildlife has no boundary limit anywhere. They roam within an area of 16.0 km, and also within an area of 160 km. There is a dense forest here. No survey has been carried out about it. This project will cause environmental damage.

- 19) Member, Environmental Public Hearing Committee informed to raise points which will be included in the minutes of the hearing. This report will be submitted to the MoEF&CC, Government of India. There are experts and scholars in the forest sector there. However, you should only raise environmental issues. **Shri Raghunath Ganpat Vibha, Pali via Kothal Khalati, Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad**

Our village is adjacent to the forest department. Although the project report does not mention many wild animals, we have a herd of wild boars, in Kothal and pali village. The farmland and agriculture field are damaged by these wild boars. All I have to say is whether the project will happen or not, information should be provided in the public hearing about what arrangements & provision are made for the wildlife.

20) Shri Ketan Belose

We, all the villagers, have submitted a statement to you that the villages that are being affected by this project include Kothal Khalati, Mouje Potal, Ambot, Saidongar, Bhaliwadi and Dhak. Now the public hearing has been held at Gaurkamat. Gaurkamat is not mentioned anywhere in the land acquisition. However, we have submitted a statement that this public hearing should be immediately postponed, and this public

hearing should be held in the project-affected village itself. We have requested that a response be provided immediately. Hence, an answer should be given.

Some individuals collectively demanded the cancellation of the public hearing.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee answered that Project Proponent has submitted list of projects affected villages to MPCB. Gaurkamat village was part of the affected villages. Accordingly, public hearing is arranged at Gaurkamat village.

21) Shri Krishna Joshi, Present Dy. Sarpanch, Potal, Village, Taluka-Karjat, District- Raigad

Today's public hearing has been organized as an Environment Public Hearing. This project of Torrent Company is in Saidongar and the villages of Kothal Khalati, Potal, Saidongar, Ambot, Dhak, Bhalivadi will be affected.

This project is first referred to as Saidongar and then as Dhak. Company has not arranged any vehicles to take the public hearing from Saidongar to Gaurkamat village. Due to the ten-day Ganpati festival, many people have not been able to come here as they have religious functions at home. However, on behalf of the Pali Gram Panchayat, Kothal Khalati, and the Potal Gram Panchayat, we request you to postpone this public hearing and hold it at Kothal Khalati via Pali gram panchayat. This will allow the local farmers to present their demands.

22) Smt Usha Dhakol, Gram Panchayat Member (Former Dy.Sarpanch), Vadap Gram panchayat, Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad: -

There is a demand to cancel the public hearing. However, water will be blocked from Dhak village itself. Therefore, we need this project, so this environmental public hearing should be continued.

23) Advocate Sanket Bhase, Residence-Karjat, Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad:-

I am a resident of Bhaliwadi village and a citizen of Karjat. This public hearing on environmental issues has been organized, the main purpose of which is to know the feelings of the people. We will definitely co-operate with the proposal to set up the proposed Torrent project in Karjat taluka.

Some people say that they could not come because of the Ganpati festival, some people say that they did not receive any news of the hearing. In such cases, you should guide people. Everyone is expressing their views in their own way.

You are diverting 233 hectares of land of forest area for the project. If such project by Torrent like Tata project is being implemented in Karjat taluka, it is welcome step.

However, you must consider the local farmers, local people, all the village gram panchayats here, and all the people's representatives.

There are sanctuaries like Bhima-Shankar nearby. There is also a forest area here. If trees have to be cut for the project, where will each of those trees be replanted is the question that all Karjatkar are asking.

We have now seen the design of this project. We will co-operate with the project, but all the demands made by the local people should be considered. Local people should be taken into confidence.

At this time, some participants were shouting slogans calling for the public hearing to be cancelled.

24) Shri Kiran Khandu Thakare, BJP Karjat Vidhansabha, Chief:-

The information about this hearing was known to me only 3-4 hours in advance. Farmers from one section are saying one thing, while farmers from another section are saying something else. But we have come to give justice to the farmers. However, it is a land of well-established farmers, preserved for generations. After it is given to the project, the farmers will become landless. Because it will not be possible for them to buy land elsewhere at the price offered by the company. This company has come to do their work. If we don't stand together, the poor farmers will suffer.

We have come together here to provide justice to the farmers and the poor sections of society. I appeal to all sections of the society here to stand united against this project and get justice.

He reiterated that Ganpati festival is going on today. Also, Project Proponent did not give any information in the hearing about which lands will be acquired. Therefore, the local people here are unaware. Some people are of the opinion that the public hearing should continue, while others say that the public hearing should be postponed.

However, my request is that this public hearing be postponed, and a public hearing be organized again, in which forest officials, revenue officials, and all those officials whose permissions need to be obtained should be called and the public hearing should be held again.

25) Shri Vajinath Samir Katkari, District-Raigad:-

Such a big project is going to be built. So, the vehicles that will be used for this, trucks and dumpers, will be passing through our agriculture fields and land. No planning has been given regarding it. The farmers here will be from Bhaliwadi, Ambot, all the project

vehicles will pass through our plots. There is no planning regarding whether local land will be acquired for that. Clarification should be given regarding this.

Also, upper and lower reservoir will be constructed for this project. They are saying that no one will be relocated. But if we have to vacate the land after the project is developed, where will we go? Company should provide information about the rates that the farmers will be paid after the farmers are affected.

However, today's public hearing should be canceled, and a public hearing should be organized in Potal or Pali. So that local people can come to report their objections.

26) President, Tanta Mukti, Potal, Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad:-

Has any representative of the Forest Department been called here? Why have they not been called?

Here, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that your objections/remarks will be conveyed to the Department of Environment, Government of India.

President, Tanta mukti, expressed the opinion that the government does not allow snakes and pigs to be killed. But if the livelihood of animals for the project is stopped, how will we live?

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that your objection will be submitted to Government.

27) Shri Manoj Patil, Residence-Vadap, Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad

233 hectares of forest land will be acquired for the project. According to the years of experience of the farmers here, after the water level in the upper part decreases in the summer, all the wild boars come to the lower part for water and food. Also, agriculture and gardens of farmers are damaged. If 233 hectares forest area will be converted to project site, how will the wildlife in the upper areas be rehabilitated?

Also, if the wildlife which will come to the lower areas, if attacks the people and domestic animals in the lower areas, plan regarding this should be informed.

About 4,000-5,000 people from our village visit the temple at Upper Dhakai Mata every year. If the project is implemented, the policy, rehabilitation and planning for that temple should be explained.

Also, if an underground power project is going to be built, how will the waste and soil that will be generated during its development be collected and disposed of?

28)Shri Sunil Mhasane, Residence-Potal,Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad:-

My wife is the Sarpanch of Potal Gram Panchayat. I have submitted a representation to you on behalf of Potal and Pali Gram Panchayats.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed to submit written suggestions, objections if any. Also, it can be submitted within eight days.

29)Lokshahir Ganesh Tamhane, Residence-Gaurkamat, Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad:-

A few years ago, forest department did not allow the construction of a road through thirteen acres near the same gram panchayat. And now there is a proposal before the government to convert 233 hectares of forest land. There is no opposition to the project, we fully support the project and farmers are getting money. The Government should give equal treatment to all projects. Farmers and local people should think about it.

30)Shri Nikesh Patil, Residence-Udakgaon, Taluka-Karjat, District- Raigad:-

I request all the farmers to listen to the presentation by the representative of the project proponent. Thereby every farmer will know details of proposed project.

31)Shri Dilip Shrikhande, Karjat Taluka President, Rashatravadi Congress, Residence-Potal, Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad:-

I request all the farmers that this project is the project's benefits and not for farmers benefits. The farmer of Dhak village sold his land five years ago. The land was purchased by a private individual. Now no one knows land ownership pattern. Even the relatives of the people's representatives here don't know which plots are going to be acquired for the project, so common people will be affected.

If there is a project regarding the forest area, why are the forest officials not present here? However, I am telling all those present to put aside their partisanship. All this is happening for company's benefit, not for your and my benefit.

If a farmer has one or two acres of land, pay him at the government rate and then acquire it. Your project will be welcomed. People from all parties want the locals to get employment in the village itself.

We are here as local citizens. We ourselves do not know whose land is going to be acquired for the project. The local people here want this public hearing to be held in every village affected by the project.

You should publish a list of names of the farmers whose lands you want to acquire, along with the information about total land will be acquired for the project. We are not opposed to the project; our role is to provide employment for the locals.

It is also requested today that this public hearing be adjourned and then rescheduled after 15 days.

32)Shri Kundlik Misal, Residence-Group Grampanchayat, Khandi, Taluka-Maval, District-Pune

The work of Geotech investigation has started in our village, but the gram panchayats have not been consulted about it, and those who own the land have not even been taken into confidence.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee asked Project Proponent to make him available the requisite information.

33)Shri Anant Namdeo Khandagale, Residence-Pali, Taluka-Pen, District-Raigad:-

This project is being carried out in 233 hectares, and the remaining area will be submerged. Out of the 233 hectares, our tribal brothers have land in Dalibhag. Those tribal brothers work hard there. They have planted trees. They have not given any information about their land being taken away.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed them to visit District Collector Office, Raigad, Alibag to discuss with concerned officials.

34)Shri Sandeep Patil, Residence-Vadap, Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad:-

The information is well presented, but it is necessary to inform all the affected farmers in Vadap, Potal, and Pali villages about this project.

I, myself is an affected farmer. My land has been acquired for the pipeline project. However, information should be made available on how much income the affected farmers and affected villages will get.

Here, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed all participants to listen the presentation of the Project Proponent. Even if Environment Public Hearing process is completed, if the Project Proponent does not get EC, the project cannot be commissioned.

35)Shri Sunanda Reddy, an Environmentalist, Telangana State:-

He said that he will give written submission in two days.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee declared in the hearing that those who desire to submit their written suggestions, views or objections can submit upto next Friday, the 12th Septemer, 2025 in office working time. Written suggestions/objections can be submitted at District Collector Office, Raigad, Alibag or Tahsildar, Tahsil Office-Karjat, Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad or Sub Regional Office, Raigad-2, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Bhavan, 6th Floor, Sector-11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai-400614.

All suggestions/objections will be submitted along with minutes of hearing to Central Government.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee directed Project Proponent to show remaining presentation. Project Proponent has shown the presentation.

36) Advocate Sanket Bhase, Residence – Karjat, District – Raigad:-

Advocate Sanket Bhase informed that no matter how much you tell us, we won't understand. We are farmers. We mainly have only two-three demands.

The first demand is that the list of all gat numbers/survey numbers and plot holders/farmers of the lands to be acquired should be published. They should be given proper compensation so that they are happy.

The second demand is regarding the environment. Prior permission from the central government will have to be obtained.

Thirdly, every farmer present here desires this project. This is our demand.

Because the future development of Karjat taluka is an important issue due to the proposed project. Care should be taken to ensure that local farmers are not harmed anywhere. We are ready to co-operate with the project promoters.

While making suggestions regarding the environment, we are expecting to get answers on the conservation of the Dhakai temple, as well as a fort from the time of Shivaji Maharaj here, how it can be protected, conserved, and the rehabilitation of forests/trees after they are cut down.

Project should not be imposed, but a preliminary idea should be given about the project, and those affected by the project, including farmers and other local people, should be given employment opportunities in the project. However, all the Gram Panchayats are supporting this project. Nothing much will be achieved by holding another public hearing.

Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee, clarified that it is important for everyone to note that this public hearing does not mean that the project will be allowed.

Secondly, according to the proposal submitted to the central government by the project promoters, the central government directed to seek the opinions and suggestions of the locals regarding the proposed project. The issues raised by the public will be included in the minutes of the hearing and the minutes will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi along with written suggestions and objections. An Expert Appraisal Committee takes further decisions in this regard. If Central government does not give permission, the project does not take place. And if permission is given, then the next steps, such as land acquisition and compensation, are carefully implemented.

Now this is a private project. Suppose they have bought the land and did not get permission, then the government is not responsible for what to do with the land. However, it is undeniable that if the government orders land acquisition as per the 2013 Act, compensation will have to be paid accordingly. The issues raised by you have been noted.

At that time, Advocate Sanket Bhase informed that acquisition for various projects is underway in Karjat taluka.

Railways has acquired a large acres of land, Tata has acquired it, and now a Torrent company is going to do it. Therefore, we welcome such projects.

Our only demand is that the project should be built by taking the local farmers and locals into confidence. All the people's representatives here should be taken into confidence.

37) Shri Tukaram Kholam, Grampanchayat Khand, Kasur, Vadgaon Maval, District- Pune

You are saying that the work is not going on, but soil testing work is going on in Kasur village. So how is it going on?

Chairman of the Committee answered that this is a public hearing in Raigad district. The public hearing in Pune district will be conducted by the District Collector, Pune. If there is any in Raigad district, a statement should be given regarding it.

38) Shri Yogesh Vijay Mahamuni, Residence-Mumbai, Nature Cares Solution:-

Has the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report of the proposed project been submitted to the Government of India, if so, how many months ago was it submitted?

Project Proponent replied that Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report has not been submitted to the Government of India.

As per the directives of Govt. of India, environmental survey was carried by NABET approved Environmental Consultant in the radius of 10.0 km of the project site in all three seasons i.e. Before monsoon – March, 2025 to May, 2025; After monsoon - October, 2024 to December, 2024 and Winter period – December 2023 to February 2024 – has been completed.

As per directives of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee, Project Proponent completed the Presentation.

39) Shri Kailas Pote, Residence-Vadap, Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad:-

Many villagers in Vadap and Gaurkamat Gram Panchayat areas collect and sell items like Karvande, Jabhanle, wild vegetables, Kokum, and honey from the forest for their livelihood. But due to the new Saidongar Hydro-electric Project, their livelihood will be destroyed. It is requested that the government take measures for this.

Another issue - due to the lack of facilities to travel to and fro Dhak village, many people came to live near the foothills of Dhak village. Some of their houses are dilapidated. Some of their lands were sold at rock-bottom prices.

It is requested that at least people whose houses collapsed should be declared project affected and given employment opportunities in the proposed Saidongar Hydroelectric Project.

40) Shri Haresh Deshmukh, a/p- Potal Pali, Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad:

The Saidongar you are referring to is actually in Pali. There is no settlement in the Saidongar area. I would like to tell Project Proponent that the presentation they made here would have been right, if it would have done in Pali first.

Pali is the main affected village of this project. Many people from Pali village have come, but they have not had a chance to speak.

Here Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee again informed that those who could not get an opportunity for raising suggestions/objections can submit their written suggestions/objections upto Friday, the 12th September, 2025 in office working time. Written suggestions/objections can be submitted at District Collector Office, Raigad, Alibag or Tahsildar, Tahsil Office-Karjat, Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad or Sub Regional Office, Raigad-2, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Bhavan, 6th Floor, Sector-11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai – 400 614. All suggestions/objections will be submitted alongwith minutes of hearing to Central Government.

Shri Haresh Deshmukh demanded that Project Proponent should come to Pali village within the next eight days, organize a hearing and give the entire Marathi presentation

to the Pali villagers. All the project officials should be present in the hearing. All the villagers should be given complete information about the project. So that we can properly present our suggestions and objections.

Here, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee again informed that written suggestions/objections can be submitted in next eight days.

41)Shri Nikhil Gavai, Residence – Saidongar Farmer:-

I am not a villager but I am a farmer. As mentioned in the hearing, the water level will decrease due to the construction of the project. Due to this, the crops grown there will decrease. This was not mentioned in the presentation. It is also important to mention how long it will take for the environment and water levels to recover after the project is established.

Project Proponent said that potential impact of the proposed project was studied during the environmental survey as per the directives of Government of India. On the contrary, the construction of the reservoir will increase the groundwater level there and nearby. Moreover, there will be water recharge, which will not be done in one water year, but will be done in 2-3 years.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee again informed that any participants who desires to submit written suggestions/objections if any can submit in this hearing.

42)Dipali Medhekar:-

How will the debris generated during the development of the project be disposed?

Project Proponent replied that one hundred and ten lakh cubic meters of debris will be generated. However, more than 50% of the debris will be reused in the construction itself. The remaining debris will be disposed of in a scientific manner in a disposal area.

While concluding the hearing, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee again informed that those who could not get an opportunity for raising suggestions/objections can submit their written suggestions/objections up to Friday, the 12th of September 2025 in office working time. Written suggestions/objections can be submitted at District Collector Office, Raigad, Alibag or Tahsildar, Tahsil Office-Karjat, Taluka-Karjat, District-Raigad or Sub Regional Office, Raigad-2, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Raigad Bhavan, 6th Floor, Sector-11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai – 400 614. Receipts will be issued. All suggestions/objections will be submitted along with minutes of hearing to Central Government.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee thanked all for attending the hearing and declared that Environment Public hearing is concluded. The public hearing ended extending thanks to the Chair.

Enclosed herewith letters received regarding support/ suggestions- 64 and letters regarding objections- 17. Also, copy of the submission by the project proponent in response to the points raised in the public hearing, is attached with these minutes.



(Rutuja Bhalerao)

Convener,

Environment Public Hearing Committee
And

Sub Regional Officer, Raigad-2,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Raigad, Raigad Bhavan,
Navi Mumbai



(Sanjay Bhosale)

Member,

Environment Public Hearing Committee
And

Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Raigad, Raigad Bhavan,
Navi Mumbai



(Sandesh Shirke)

Chairman,

Environment Public Hearing Committee
And

Additional District Magistrate,
Raigad, Alibag, District – Raigad