

MoM of Public Hearing in respect of Sand dredging activity (Reti Ghat) at 4 different locations in Vaijapur Tehsil of Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar District.

District Mining officer, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar submitted application along with EIA/EMP report to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, with request to conduct public hearing from Environmental angle for their Sand dredging activity (Reti Ghat) at 4 different locations in Vaijapur Tehsil of Chhatrapati Sambhaji nagar district as below

- a) Shivana River Reti Ghat- Rajura Undirwadi and Lakhani.
- b) Godavari River Reti Ghat- Awalgaon Nagmathan and Wanjargaon..

As per provisions of EIA Notification dtd. 14.09.2006 published by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, It is necessary to conduct public hearing for proposed **Sand dredging activity (Reti Ghat)**. As per Board's Office Order No. E- 71 of 2025 vide letter dated 15-10-2025, the panel for public hearing was constituted & the following Panel members were present during the public hearing.

1. Mr. Arun Jarhad,
Sub District Magistrate, Vaijapur
Chairman.
2. Shri Manish Holkar,
Regional Officer,
MPCB, Chh. Sambhajnagar
Member.
3. Shri Achyut Nandvate,
Sub-Regional Officer,
MPCB, Chh. Sambhajnagar.
Convener.

Shri. Achyut Nandvate, Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Chh. Sambhajnagar and Convener of the Public Hearing Committee welcomed the Hon'ble Chairman of the Public Hearing Panel, officials, public representatives and public who are present. He gave information in brief about Public Hearing on Environment procedure with the permission of the Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee.

Shri. Achyut Nandvate, Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Chh. Sambhajnagar and Convener informed that, as per the EIA Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (i.e. MoEFCC, GoI) dated 14th September, 2006 as amended on 1st December, 2009, it is mandatory to conduct prior public hearing to certain




projects which are covered in the Schedule of the said Notification and this unit comes under the purview of this Notification.

The Project Proponent , District Mining officer, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar submitted application along with EIA/EMP report to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, with request to conduct public hearing from Environmental angle for their Sand dredging activity (Reti Ghat) at 4 different locations in Vaijapur Tehsil of Chhatrapati Sambhaji nagar district at Shivana River Reti Ghat- Rajura Undirwadi and Lakhani & Godavari River Reti Ghat- Awalgaon Nagmathan and Wanjargaon. The venue & date of Public hearing was finalized as 16.10.2025 at 03.30 PM & venue as Tehsil Karyalaya, Vaijapur with the approval of Hon'ble District Collector, Chh. Sambhajnagar. Accordingly, Public notice was published in Daily news paper Times of India (English) & Daily nes paper Sakal (Marathi) on dated 15.09.2025 as per procedure laid down in EIA Notification 2006. The Environmental Impact Management plan Report (EMP Report) & executive summery documents of the project (in English and Marathi) were made available for study to concerned interested persons in the respective government offices as mentioned below

- 1) District Collector office, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar.
- 2) Zilha Parishad office, Opp Amba Apsara Theatre, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar.
- 3) District Industries Centre, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar.
- 4) Tahsil Office, Vaijapur, Dist. Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar.
- 5) Panchayat Samiti Office, Vaijapur, Dist. Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar.
- 6) Grampanchayat Office, Rajura Undirwadi and Lakhani, Awalgaon Nagmathan and Wanjargaon Tal. Vaijapur, Dist. Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar
- 7) Regional Office / Sub-Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Plot No. A-4/1, MIDC Chikalthana ,Chh. Sambhajnagar
- 8) Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 2nd,3rd & 4th Floor, Sion (E), Mumbai – 400 022.
- 9) Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mantralaya, Mumbai-32.
- 10)Regional Office, Ministry Environment, Forest & Climate Change, (WCZ),Ground Floor, East Wing, New Secretariat Building, Civil Lines, Nagpur.

It was submitted by Convenor of Public hearing that appeal was made in news paper to public, affected peoples of project to study project specifications in environmental angle & come forward with suggestions, objections & comments about the proposed project. The written say about project shall be submitted to Sub Regional Office, MPC Board till the date of public hearing & the same can be submitted in public hearing Or can be presented during the course of Hearing. The convener of Public hearing expressed that Sub-Regional Office, M.P.C. Board Chh. Sambhajinagar has received one representation from Lakhani Jambarkheda Grampanchayat about project till the date. Further he made appeal to public present for public hearing to come forward with their views, suggestions, objections about proposed project which will be video recorded as per procedure laid down. Further, proceeding of public hearing including your views, suggestions, objections along with video recording will be Submitted to Environment Department, Govt for Maharashtra for further decision which is their own discretion. He clarified that this public hearing is a platform to express your views, suggestions, objections only. The decision about grant of Environment clearance for the said project will be taken by Environment Department, Govt for Maharashtra.

Thereafter, Chairman of Public Hearing panel instructed project proponent to give a presentation on the proposed project. Accordingly Environmental Consultant, on behalf of Project Proponent gave Power Point Presentation indicating brief about project including locations, mode of sand dredging, traffic management, Road & infrastructure management, environmental measures like tree plantation, Noise & Air pollution control arrangement. It was presented that said sand dredging shall be carried out through tendering process & successful bidders will carry out mining as per rules framed by Govt of Maharashtra. The sand dredging shall be carried out under vigilance of District Environmental Committee headed by District Collector & members like Sub District Magistrate, Tehsildar, Representative from Irrigation Dept, Police & RTO Department. Any violations with respect to framed rules will be viewed accordingly by Committee under Chairmanship of District Magistrate. The public Hearing is being conducted as per Circular issued by Ministry of Environment & Climate Change, Govt of Maharashtra vide letter dated 03/12/2019 & 04/05/2020.



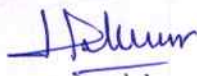
Thereafter, Hon'ble Chairman of Public Hearing Committee informed that power point presentation is done by Project Proponent. Therefore He made appeal to public present for public hearing to come forward with their views, suggestions, objections about proposed project which will be video recorded as per procedure laid down. Further, proceeding of public hearing including your views, suggestions, objections along with video recording will be Submitted to Environment Department, Govt for Maharashtra

1. At the outset, The convener of Public hearing expressed that Sub-Regional Office, M.P.C. Board Chh. Sambhajinagar has received one representation from Lakhani Jambarkheda Grampanchayat about project on dated 09/10/2025. He completely read the representation on behalf of applicants wherein it was mentioned that Sand dredging activity within vicinity of their village will create adverse effect on water table of the said area. The area of Lakhani Jambarkheda Grampanchayat is irrigated area where horticulture crops of sweet lemon is being cultivated. The sand dredging activity will adversely affect on water table which in turn will affect horticulture farming & overall livelihood of farmers. So Grampanchat along with resolution from civic body & representation from 147 citizens was submitted to MPCB opposing the proposed sand dredging activity. Further, The convener of Public hearing expressed that I have read your representation on your behalf. Apart from above, if anyone wants to say something he / she can come forwards with his / her thoughts.
2. **Citizen of Village Lakhani** said that " There is KT cannels / wells near sand dredging point. Is it advisable to carry out sand dredging activity there?. There is KT cannels / wells near survey no 135, 107. So report submitted by technical committee is wrong. It was alleged that sand dredging was carried out last year at the same area & there is no sand available at the said point. Further, he said that we strongly object sand dredging activity adjacent to KT canal / well which will adversely affect ground water table & water supply thereof. Further, he informed that sand dredging is not being done traditionally but it is done mechanically using heavy equipment's like JCB which is objectionable.

Environment consultant replied that sand dredging activity will be carried out 100 Mts away from KT canals / wells. The matter about mining of sand by using mechanical means will be addressed by concerned tehsildar & his team. Necessary instructions will be given to successful bidders.

Hon'ble chairman of public hearing panel intervened the matter and expressed that the matter of technical committee can be stated like the said committee consist of expert from groundwater survey, irrigation department. So the proposed sand dredging points are decided by the committee as per their own discretion. So it is not advisable to talk about scope of their work and associated issues. Government of Maharashtra issued certain guidelines about working protocol of committee appointed for identification of sand dredging points. Apart from above you can submit your representation which will be taken on record and submitted to environment department Government of Maharashtra for their decision

3. **Hon'ble chairman of public hearing panel informed that** " He had received one representation from Grampanchayat Vanjarwadi wherein Wherein villagers are opposing to the proposed sand dredging activity. If anyone from village vandavadi he can come forward and represents say on behalf of their village. Meantime Deputy sarpanch of Shri Javed came forward with his say and submitted that excavation is done at survey number 85,86,87 in 2023 and right now there is no stock of sand available. There is a drinking water well in survey number 88 which will badly affect due to proposed sand dredging project thereby which may create problem of drinking water to vanzawadi village. Further there is a Island of Gangagiri Maharaj where lakhs of pilgrims are regularly visiting. The proposed sand activity will create adverse effect on the holy place of Gagan Giri Maharaj. Therefore we are opposing to Sand dredging activity.
4. **Sri Chaudhary sarpanch of Lakhani** told that groundwater table will be depleted due to proposed sand activity. There was water supply from tanker to our villages in year 2024. There is a school and water supply well near Sand dredging point which might badly affect due to proposed sand dredging activity.
5. **The husband of sarpanch of group Gram Panchayat rahegaon** told that everyone have told adverse effects of proposed sand dredging activity. I would like to submit that our group Gram Panchayat consist of five villages which are badly affected due to water scarcity. The proposed sand dredging activity will be




done with the help of mechanical equipments like JCB and no traditional equipments like phavada, manual work will be done there in proposed sand dredging activity. The road condition in our area will become worst day by day and no one will take care of infrastructure in our area. I have brought return objection letter for proposed sand dredging activity which will be submitted to committee.


6. **Shri Balasaheb gadak ex- Sarpanch** told that very depletion of ground water level which intern will adversely effect on horticulture projects of our area. So I on behalf of all the farmers of area submit that proposed sand dredging activity shall not be carried out Vaijapur Tahsil.
7. **Villager Shree Ganesha Tambe** submitted that we villages are opposing to proposed sand dredging activity and filed Public Interest Litigation in Honorable High Court Aurangabad. Generation of sand takes years on years. So Government have to think use of artificial sand instead of sand dredged from river. There is a drinking water problems in area which will worsen due to sand dredging. In this context, convener of public hearing told them to submit documents of public interest litigation file in honorable High Court so that the said documents will be submitted to environmental department Government of Maharashtra for their consideration.
8. **Shri Jalandhar Ratan belekar villager** told that ground water table is being depleted due to sand activity so it is requested government to think about artificial sand.
9. **The husband of Sarpanch lasurgaon Shri. Ghume** told that water supply well of Lasoor village are adjacent to sand dredging Gat number 216, 219 and 219. So it is request to not to give permission for sand activity at Lasur village. It feels that report given by technical committee about science project is wrong. Therefore we are opposing for sand project in our village and request you to think about farmers.
10. **Shri Sachin Kadam indalwadi** told that I have my well in Gut number 23 and I am taking Horticulture crop of sweet lemon In my Farm. The water table in our area will be depleted due to proposed sand dredging project. Therefore you are requested to cancel sand project in our area
11. **One of the farmer from adjacent villages** came forward and submitted that I have 100 acre of horticulture land in the area. I am taking Horticulture crops of sweet lemon which need a lot of water. The water table in our area will be depleted


due to proposed sand dredging project. There is a Holi island of Sadguru gangagiri Maharaj in Godavari river Basin which needs to be protected. Maharashtra pollution control board have to come forward with thought of environmental protection by planting lots of trees across the river belt. Government have to think about artificial sand instead of sand from river Basin. Therefore I am requesting government to cancel due proposed sand dredging project in the area.

Thereafter Hon'ble chairman informed that public hearing is conducted as per procedure laid down in EIA notification and minutes of public hearing will be submitted to environment department Government of Maharashtra for further necessary decision. Main time some of the participants request for minutes and videography of public hearing. It was told by convener of the public hearing that minutes of public hearing and videography will be made available to applicants under Right Of Information Act 2005. It was brought to the notice of president and member of public hearing panel that total 7 number of representations have been received to MPCB till the time and will be submitted to Environment department Government of Maharashtra along with minutes of public hearing

Thereafter Chairman of public panel concluded that public hearing was conducted as per guideline issued by government of India and your question , suggestion and objections during public hearing will be taken on record. Accordingly convener public hearing panel concluded the meeting with vote of thanks to the Hon'ble chair


(Dr. Manish Holkar)
Member & RO MPCB
Chh. Sambhajinagar


(Shri. Achyut Nandvate)
Convener & SRO MPCB
Chh. Sambhajinagar


(Mr. Arun Jarhad,)
Chairman & Sub Div Officer,
Vaijapur
